

Doing hard things well

Daniel 8:13-27

- Daniel is in the middle of explaining his vision of human history both presently and for the future to his readers, and as we'll see it involves more than what meets the natural eye. For God is in control of all that is happening on earth, and although we often become confused and perplexed nothing will surprise Him, for oops is not in His vocabulary, so take comfort in knowing The Lord plans are better than our plans.

V13-27

- **V13-14** after seeing the sacrifices to The Lord halted, the sanctuary defiled, the perpetrator exalting himself as god, a question is asked by a holy one which chapter four verse seventeen had said were angels of “how long will this continue”.
- Two thousand three hundred days before this madness will stop, we went over the account of Antiochus Epiphanes and how he hated the Jews, so much so that he began a relentless persecution of them in 171 B.C. that included him coming into the temple, placing an idol of Zeus and of himself in there, slaughtering a pig on the altar and spreading pigs blood on the walls of the temple and altar, then forcing the priests to drink pigs blood, this infuriated the Jews and led to the Maccabean revolt.
- In Dec 25th of 165 B.C. Judas Maccabeus led a restoration of cleansing the sanctuary for the evening and morning sacrifices. This shows how the spiritual realm is curious about what happens here on earth, for it was them who asked the question of how long will this blasphemy continue not Daniel, it also points to > **1Pet 1:12** how the angels see the grace and mercy shown to us when it comes to the gospel and salvation and they want to look into it being curious about it amazing!
- Something similarly happened in A.D. 70 when the Roman general Titus after conquering Jerusalem entered into the temple sanctuary and brought his soldiers with their Roman banners inside, sacrificed on the altar to their false gods, then flew their Roman banners upon the Eastern gate signifying that this now belonged to Rome. Afterward they set it on fire while taking out of it anything of value.

- **V15-19** Daniel is still in the midst of the vision when he finds himself by this Persian river, he hears someone instruct Gabriel the angel to explain the vision to Daniel. The ram with two horns, the goat with the single horn, and the little horn rising up from the ten horns spoke not only of Antiochus, but of later events that have yet to come, so Antiochus was a foreshadow of antichrist. Notice The Lord wants us to understand certain things, but that doesn't mean we'll understand everything.
- **V20-25** large horn is Alexander the great, the four kingdoms are his generals who divided his empire after his death, after that a lot of imitators will arise causing much transgression until the strong little horn takes his place on the throne of man. He has fierce features, he understands schemes, his power will be mighty, but not by his own power, as Satan will be behind this man, he will destroy all who oppose him and persecute all who are called holy, to destroy fearfully, meaning devastation.
- **V25** only the deceitful will be able to prosper during his reign, and as he grows in power so does the pride in his heart, so much so that he will think that he can prevail against the Prince of princes > **2 Thess 2:4, 9-10**, he shall exalt himself in his heart, Antiochus inscribed coins with the title: Theos Epiphanes meaning "God manifest". The coming Antichrist will sit as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is god to the people, and with all unrighteous deception he will gain their support.
- **V26-27** Daniel after seeing this faints and is sick for days thinking of the future of man being so bleak. Afterward he goes about his daily duties unable to speak about what he was shown knowing that no one would understand, as he's struggling with it himself. If we look at our current circumstances, and what's on the horizon, coming down the pike with our future leadership we'd faint to and be sick for days also.
- But what Daniel needed to focus on was at the end of **V25** we win, God prevails, for in the end this man will be broken without human means, so no man will be able to kill him or prevail against him, but it will be by The Hand of Jesus Christ that will strike him down > **Rev 19:20**- this is why we always need to read the end of the book we have overcome because Jesus overcame amen!