

## Daniel Chapter 8 – 24 Mar 2013

### 1. Intro

- a. This chapter will give us great detail about the Medo-Persian and Greek Empires.
- b. Why study a chapter of prophecy dealing with stuff that has already been fulfilled? **We're gonna need a little P.E.P. to get thru this chapter.**
  - i. **(People)** To learn from how the good guys and bad guys in the story interacted with God.
    1. Antiochus Euphianes ends up being a type of Anti-Christ.
    2. Alexander is a splendid picture of gaining the whole world but losing your own soul.
    3. Daniel's humility in light of the spiritual reality around him is stunning.
  - ii. **(Events)** To understand how the events spoken of have shaped history.
    1. Some of these events led to the Greek language coming into world-wide use, just before Jesus' day.
    2. Some of these events led to the Festival of Lights.
  - iii. **(Promise)** To understand that if God fulfilled this with such vivid detail, He WILL fulfill the other prophecies too!

**Today, God will enable us to know the identity of the four main players in this Daniel chapter 8 vision.**

1. Vs 1-2

- a. This is 2 years after chapter 7 and during the reign of Belshazzar of Babylon.
- b. Babylon had lots of palaces and Shushan was just one.
- c. Shushan would later be the capitol of the Medo-Persian Empire.
- d. Elam – This is another name for Persia, modern-day Iran.

2. Vs 3-4

- a. **The ram is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the four main players in Daniel's vision. This is the Medo-Persian Empire.**
- b. Vs 3 – Horns – represent the Medes and the Persians.
- c. Vs 4 – Notice he came from the east and went everywhere.

3. Vs 5

- a. **The goat is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the four main players in Daniel's vision. This is the Greek Empire.**
  - i. This is the Greek Empire coming from the west.
  - ii. Touched not the ground – a quick take-over.
- b. **The goat's notable horn is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the four main players in Daniel's vision. This is Alexander the Great.**
  - i. Alexander conquered stubborn Tyre on his way to Israel.
  - ii. Jewish Legend has it that Alexander was met by the High Priest Jaddua who told him on the Daniel 8 prophecy that the Greeks would be victorious.

- iii. Alex treated the Jews kindly, letting them observe the Law and not paying tribute money on Sabbath years.

#### 4. Vs 6-7

- a. August of 480BC – The battle of Thermopylae – Greeks persuaded the Medo-Persians into a mountain pass.
  - i. This was the first great victory for the Greeks.
  - ii. Under King Philip of Macedon, this was the turning point

#### 5. Vs 8

##### a. **Again the great horn is Alexander the Great.**

- i. Alexander conquered the whole world in a few years by shedding the blood of others then he died around age 33...hopeless in a drunken fog.
- ii. Jesus conquered the whole world in a few years by shedding His own blood at age 33 giving the whole world hope.
- iii. “When he was strong, he was broken” – the epitome of the best man, in the end can achieve nothing of eternal value apart from Christ.
  - 1. When all in life is done and passed, only what’s done for Christ will last.
- iv. Suicide demographic in the Air Force is: male, 22-28 yrs old, divorced or separated with financial problems. Tom asked why is this the case?
  - 1. They achieved or attempted to achieve everything in their heart and either failed or achieved it, just to find it empty.

2. Consider Peter attaining all only to forsake it.

a. [Luk 5:8-11](#) When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: And so *was* also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, **Fear not; from hence forth thou shalt catch men.** And when they had brought their ships to land, they ***forsook all***, and followed him.

b. Also in verse 8 – “four notable ones”

- i. This refers to Alexander’s four generals that took over at his death.
- ii. The Greek Empire was then afterward known by its four parts Macedonia, Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt.
- iii. The Ptolemies of Egypt treated Israel well having many of them settle in Alexandria where the Greek translation of the OT was made at this time called the Septuagint.

6. Vs 9

a. **This little horn is the 4<sup>th</sup> of the four main players in Daniel’s vision. This is a Greek Seleucid ruler named Antiochus IV, better known as Antiochus Epiphanes.**

- i. “Toward the pleasant land” – toward Jerusalem.
- ii. This reference is also used in Dan 11:16, 41 (glorious)

## 7. Vs 10-14

- a. Vs 10 – “Waxed great even to the host of heaven” – He took control of the Jews economy and religion.
- b. Vs 11 – “Magnified himself even to the prince” – Made himself like God to them. He was now appointing High Priests for them.
- c. Vs 12 – “a host was given to him” – Many Jews followed him for the power that he gave to them.
- d. Vs 13-14 – “The daily sacrifice”
  - i. Two factions of Jews began to fight (1 loyal to the king, 1 loyal to the Lord)
  - ii. Antiochus marched on Jerusalem in 171BC and stopped the daily sacrifice
    1. He offered a pig on the altar.
    2. He set up a statue of Jupiter in the Temple on the altar of Burnt Offering.
  - iii. Judas Maccabeus was the Jewish leader that emerged to repel Antiochus finally on Dec 25, 165 BC.
    1. Thus restoring Temple worship.
    2. Hanukkah or The Festival of Lights stems from these events.
    3. It was at this very feast (that celebrated getting rid of a false god) that Jesus showed Himself to be God.
      - a. Read John 10:22-31

## 8. Vs 15-22

- a. This angel is no flying baby in a diaper....this was awe inspiring.
- b. Vs 17 – “At the time of the end shall be the vision”
  - i. This could simply mean that the prophecy will be fulfilled after Daniel’s life is over.
  - ii. This could just mean that the prophecy is here for the End Days Christians no understand it.

## 9. Vs 23-25

- a. This is more detail about Antiochus Epiphanes.
- b. Antiochus is where the expression “A line in the sand” comes from.
- c. “By peace shall destroy many”
  - i. The Anti-christ is also known for doing this.
  - ii. Do you think Satan is doing this today with Christians?
  - iii. Is someone expecting you to go along just to get along by:
    - 1. ...going to a party with beer?
    - 2. ...not bring up spiritual things when the opportunity arises?
    - 3. What spiritual things are we compromising just for the sake of being “at peace” with the world?
    - 4. We cannot sacrifice spiritual advances in our life on the altar of “being at peace with the world”.
  - iv. A compromised, carnal follower of Christianity is worse than an unbeliever.

## 1. Read Mat 23:15

d. “Broken without hand” – He got a disease and died.

## 10. Vs 26-27

a. Daniel obeyed God in passing on this prophecy to us.

b. Daniel did things for the Lord even if they didn't benefit him.

c. Does God ask us to do things...

i. just b/c it's the right thing to do?

ii. just b/c it will bring Himself glory?

iii. just /c it will benefit someone somewhere do the road?

d. Sometimes we're so focused on, 'well I'll do it if I see the benefit directly', but we don't do the rest for the Lord.

e. Remember the intro: God is shaping People thru the Events of history to show us how He fulfills His Promises.

i. Example: A lady had an abortion, later became a Christian. Now she can minister to people considering abortion.

ii. Example: A man went thru a divorce later became a Christian. Now he can minister to people considering divorce.

iii. You give me another example.

## 11. Conclusion

a. **Today, God has enabled us to know the identity of the four main players in this Daniel chapter 8 vision.**

i. **Ram – Medo-Persian Empire**

ii. **Goat – Greek Empire**

iii. **The Goat's Notable Horn – Alexander the Great**

iv. **The Little horn – Antiochus Epiphanes**

b. Learn of God and let Him use you...even when you don't see why.