

Daniel 8 –31 July 2025

“Always Closer To Satan’s Man”

Introduction

*Book’s Outline: 2 halves (historical chronology chap 1-6 & more detailed prophetic visions in chap 7-12)

*1st half foreshadows the overall End Times Timeline & the 2nd half digs deeper into the specifics

*Dan 7 set up the 2nd half of the book by focusing on how Jesus will put an end to the powers of this world

*But we have work to do in the meantime

*Dan 8 now digs deeper into how Satan is always trying to bring him man on the scene

*Satan wants to rule this world; he spiritually influences people & yet wants to materially reign also

Today, we’ll learn of 3 people by which Satan tries to bring about his rule on earth

#1 – Alexander the Great: Does Satan’s work in that he conquers and unites the world (Vs 1-8)

Read Vs 1-2

1. This is 2 years after chap 7; all of chap 7-12 happen in the final few years before Israel’s return
2. This particular palace, Shushan, will be the Medo-Persians (M-P) main palace (ie Esther 1:2)
3. An apt place for this vision, b/c its substance talks about the Medo-Persians, then the Greeks

Read Vs 3-4

1. Vs 20 says ram is the Medo-Persians Kingdom
2. Persians are the higher more powerful ‘horn’ that came to dominance later than the Medes
3. M-P from the east began to dominate toward Scythian north, Egyptian south & the Greek west
4. In that the M-P are seen as a ram but in chap 7 they were seen as a bear; it focuses us on the meaning of the symbols & not symbols themselves

Read Vs 5

1. Alexander the Great is that Greek horn that led conquests against the M-P starting at 25 years old
2. He swept quickly thru Modern Turkey & stubborn Tyre to do it

Read Vs 6-7

1. All started to turn in Greeks favor at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC
 - a. Greeks under Spartan Leonidas lured the Persians into a mountain pass to pinch them in
 - b. Power exchanged from Athens & Sparta
2. Alex's father King Philip of Macedon united the Greek city-states & focused again outwardly
3. Upon Philip's death, Alex attacked Persia

Read Vs 8

1. Josephus recorded (Ant. 11.8.5) Alex met High Priest Jaddua who told him of Daniel's prophecy (332 BC)

- a. Hearing the Jews prophesied his victory, he allows them to observe the Mosaic Law & not pay tribute on Sabbath years
2. Alex conquered fully to India & return to Babylon when his men refused to fight more simpletons
3. *As soon as he became strong, he was broken* – Consider the contrast: Alex & our Lord Jesus
 - a. Alex conquered world by shedding other's blood & died age 33 hopeless in drunken fog
 - b. Jesus conquered world by shedding His own blood & died age 33 giving the world hope
4. *4 conspicuous horns* that came are Alex's 4 generals that succeeded him upon his death
 - a. Macedonia, Asia Minor, Syria & Egypt
 - b. Ptolemies of Egypt treated Israel well
 - i. Ptolemy II Philadelphus commissioned 72 Jewish scholars to translate OT into Greek
 - ii. This is known as the Septuagint

#2 – Antiochus IV Epiphanes: Does Satan’s work in that he blasphemes God as if he’s God (Vs 9-14)

Read Vs 9-12

1. This is such a vivid pic of history, skeptics can’t believe Daniel wrote this BEFORE it occurred
2. *Little horn* is Antiochus IV Epiphanes of Syria
 - a. As vs 9 says, he expanded his influence into the beautiful/pleasant land, i.e., Israel (171 BC)
 - b. As vs 10 says, he destroyed other rulers & many in Israel as well
 - c. As vs 11 says, he thought of himself as God
 - d. As vs 11-12 says, he stopped true temple sacrifice and desecrated the temple w/ a statue of Jupiter & sacrificing a pig on the altar

Read Vs 13-14

1. We know that the Temple was cleansed with the Maccabees revolt against Antiochus 164 BC
 - a. Jesus recognized this; (Read) John 10:22
 - i. At the very feast celebrating getting rid of a false God, Jesus shows Himself to be God

- b. Counting backward 2300 days is just when Antiochus first invaded Israel in 171 BC
- 2. So in 164 BC Judas Maccabee led the revolt to cleanse the temple & restore worship
 - a. This rededication took 8 days (Hanukkah)
 - b. With enough sacred oil for 1 day, it miraculously lasted for 8 days
 - c. Antiochus was in Persia at the time & died w/i months of the temple's cleansing (ironic)
- 3. Christian cults have arisen from an erroneous interpretation of 2300 day actually being years
 - a. William Miller took 2300 years from 457 BC, Cyrus says to rebuild Jerusalem until 1844
 - b. Millerites said God would cleanse earth
 - c. Once it didn't happen, 7th Day Adventist, J.W. & others began to reinterpret it differently
 - d. Ellen G White (7th Day) said, "Oh that's the day Jesus "spiritually" cleansing the temple in heaven"

#3 – Anti-Christ the Man of Sin: Does Satan’s work in that he takes all worldly power to himself (Vs 15-27)

Read Vs 15-19

1. This Gabriel was awe-inspiring
 - a. This was no flying baby in a diaper
 - b. Gabriel is 1 of 3 named angels in the Bible
 - c. Seems to be the announcing diplomat angel
 - i. Announces John & Jesus’ arrival (Luke 1)
 - ii. He’s here in Dan 8 and also Dan 9
2. *The vision is about the time of the end*
 - a. Interpretation: I’m giving you this info b/c it will be necessary during the time of the end
 - b. Idea is; This isn’t for Daniel or his lifetime
 - c. Things of Antiochus Epiphanes foreshadows what will happen in the end with Anti-Christ

Read Vs 20-22

1. Just as we explained in vss 5-8
2. 4 generals were Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus & Ptolemy

Read Vs 23-26

1. So these things are not only true of Antiochus but also of Anti-Christ to come
 - a. Vs 23 – *Insolent* – a harsh presence
 - b. Vs 23 – *skilled in intrigue* – knows how to strike deals with people to get what he wants
 - c. Vs 24 – He receives great power from Satan
 - d. Vs 25 – He's cunning for gain, but he's a two-faced deceiver w/ peace before destroying
 - e. Vs 25 – When he comes against God that's it
 - i. Antiochus died by disease & Anti-Christ dies by being taken to the Lake of Fire

Read Vs 27

1. Daniel's overall reaction is that this will be hard against many people including his people
2. Daniel couldn't understand this & he's told the same thing about the vision in (Read) Dan 12:4
 - a. Yet for us prophecy isn't sealed up
 - b. Read Rev 1:3 & 22:10

Conclusion

So, Satan is always trying to literally take the world

- 1. Alexander the Great – Conquers the world**
- 2. Antiochus IV Epiphanes – Blasphemes God**
- 3. Anti-Christ the Man of Sin – Takes all power**

...among others

Yet, God writes in prophecy what becomes history so that we may be strengthen as we learn His Word

Let that strengthen our trust in His sovereign plan

Let that strengthen our trust in the Word of God

Let that strengthen our will to refuse wicked rulers