

Antiochus and the Antichrist

Lesson Nine: Daniel Eight

Introduction

- A. Daniel's second vision, recorded in Daniel eight, is arranged around the lives of three characters. In the previous chapter, we discovered the prophecies concerning one of history's greatest generals – Alexander the Great. There are further details concerning him in this chapter and then the remaining portion of chapter eight is devoted to two of history's most evil dictators – Antiochus and the antichrist.
- B. We can understand the vision more fully today because God has revealed it to us in three ways: (1) Gabriel speaking to Daniel, (2) other prophecies on this same subject and (3) historical fulfillment.
- C. Chapter eight changes our focus to help us understand how the Times of the Gentiles will affect Israel during the Tribulation period.
- D. Studying prophecy, as we find it in Daniel and Revelation, etc., shows not only how God works out His purpose in humanity and the world, but that the invisible world of spiritual reality is more real than the world we see. As a result, it encourages holy living as much as it informs us how end-time events fit together.
 - 1. Life is more spiritual than physical.
 - 2. Life is more invisible than visible.
 - 3. Life is more intangible than tangible.
 - 4. Life is more eternal than temporal.
- E. Most of this vision has already been fulfilled.
 - 1. Three hundred years after Daniel uttered these words, they were mostly fulfilled.
 - 2. Understanding "**double fulfillment**"!

THE VISION OF THE RAM AND THE GOAT

- A. Daniel 8:1-2.
 - 1. Time and locale.
 - 2. Daniel is about to witness the flow of power from Persia to Greece.
- B. Daniel 8:3-4.
 - 1. There is no need for us wonder what this meant.

2. Suggestive phrases that reveal more is to come.

- “The time of the end.”
- “The latter time of the indignation.”

C. Daniel 8:5-8.

1. The interpreting angel clears this up for us in verses 21-22.
2. History has adequately recorded the fulfillment of this prophecy.
3. Two hundred years after Daniel’s prophecy – the accuracy of Scripture.

LITTLE HORNS

A. Daniel 8:9-14

1. The large broken horn represents Alexander’s untimely death and the division of his kingdom.
2. In the apocryphal book of 1 Maccabees, we have a description of the transition between Alexander and Antiochus.
3. The eighth king in the dynasty of the Seleucids was a man named Antiochus Epiphanes.
4. In the year 169 BC he marched his army into Jerusalem.

B. Description of his depravity.

1. First person in history to persecute a people exclusively for their religious faith.
2. Daniel prophesied that he would do three things:
 - Daniel 8:10 “**Defeat the saints.**”
 - Daniel 8:11 “**Defile the sanctuary.**”
 - Daniel 8:12 “**Destroy the Scripture.**”

Jewish history records that Antiochus Epiphanes fulfilled most of this prophecy, but not completely. Beginning with verse twenty-three it is obvious that Daniel is prophesying a much later evil dictator, and a much worse abomination of desolation that will take place at the end of the age just before the return of Jesus Christ. God has allowed Antiochus to live out his ignoble career in order to prepare people for the coming of the latter-day antichrist.

TWO FACTORS MARK THE TIME OF FULFILLMENT

A. The angel says that it shall be “**at the latter end of their rule**” (v.23).

1. This is the rulers who will control the country once dominated by Antiochus.
 2. This suggests the reappearance of the nation of Syria. (1944)
- B. The angel says it would be a time ***“when the transgressors had reached their full measure”*** (v.23) ***“When rebels have become completely wicked.”***
1. **“Transgression”** is described in other places as corruption and violence, lawlessness, etc.
 2. **“The Indignation”** refers to God’s displeasure with his people.

EXPLAINING DANIEL EIGHT AND VERSE THIRTEEN

- A. The angels responds that it will continue for a period of 2,300 evenings and mornings.
- B. Historical fulfilled in Antiochus.
- C. Prophesied for the Tribulation.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANTICHRIST

- A. Verses 1-22 refers to men and empires that have come and gone. We read about them in secular history.
- B. Verses 23-27 have to do with ***“a king of fierce countenance”*** who shall appear ***“in the latter time”*** (v.23).
 1. The men of whom the first twenty-two verses speak of were shadows of the coming ***“man of sin”*** who is fuller described in the closing verses of this chapter.
 2. There are more than 100 scriptures that describe the antichrist.
- C. Characteristics!
 1. Bold in appearance. V.23
 2. Highly knowledgeable. V.23
 3. His power is great, but not with his own power. V.24
 4. He targets Christ and His people. V.24
 5. He controls others by deceitful propaganda. V.25
 6. He is defiant even against Christ. V.25
 7. He shall be broken without human means. V.25
 8. He is destined to be punished. V.25

Conclusion:

