

"Daniel's Second Vision"

Part 2

Daniel 8

Introduction/review: It has been several weeks since we have been in our study of Daniel and for that reason, I need to walk us through a review to get our minds set on what we shall see tonight. The last time we were together we had started into Daniel 8. This chapter marks a change in the book of Daniel. The first 7 chapters were written in Aramaic, and the chapters 8-12 are written in Hebrew. There is a reason for this. Starting in chapter 2 and going through chapter 7 we have been looking at the Gentile world powers that would rise up starting with the Babylonian Kingdom. Then there was the Medo - Persian Empire, the Grecian Empire, the Roman Empire, and the revived Roman Empire. After this would come the final 5th Kingdom which is the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Getting back to the Gentile kingdoms we must understand that all of this would have raised a question in the mind of Daniel. The question would have been, "What about my people, what is going to happen to the Jews during the reign of these Gentile powers?" The answer is found in Daniel 8-12. In these chapters we have God demonstrating His sovereign control over the Jewish people. This is why it is written in Hebrew because God wanted to be sure that Daniel's people knew what was coming.

➤ Two Programs

Notice Daniel 8:19

I want you to notice closely the phrase "THE INDIGNATION" because this is very important to understand. The words "THE INDIGNATION" refer to a specific period of time. This verse speaks of the "end of the indignation" which tells us there are different parts to this. But what is the indignation? The word "indignation" means "wrath or displeasure" and what we need to know is that during the Times of the Gentiles there is also a Time of Indignation for the people of Israel. In other words, while the Times of the Gentiles are being fulfilled God is chastening Israel because of their disobedience. They are in THE INDIGNATION. So, God has two programs running at this time in the world. This INDIGNATION

started with the Babylonian captivity. But why is it called the last end of the indignation? The first part started with the Babylonian captivity and would end when the captivity was over. The second half would begin with the Medo Persian Empire and continue until the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the tribulation. What we are going to see in Daniel 8 is what happens in the last part of the indignation.

Daniel 11:36

³⁶ And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

This verse is speaking of the Anti-Christ, and he shall prosper until he is destroyed at the end of the Great Tribulation. So, at this present time God has two programs going; first He is chastening Israel because of their unbelief and second, He is working with the Gentile nations because He has a plan for them.

When we were together the last time, we looked at Daniel 8:1-8. I do not want to go into detail to review these verses, but we do need to see them.

Notice Daniel 8:1-8

In this second vision Daniel sees a ram with 2 horns, and one is larger than the other. This is the Medo Persian Empire. Then Daniel saw a goat with one large horn and this goat did not touch the ground and he ran into the ram. He then smote the ram and broke his two horns. The goat then became very great. When he was at the pinnacle of his strength the goat's horn was broken and 4 other horns came up on the head of the goat. This goat is Greece and the powerful horn was Alexander the Great. He died in the prime of his life at the age of 32 and his kingdom was divided among 4 of his generals. This is where we stopped the last time. Before we move on let us notice 2 other verses that interpret this.

Notice Daniel 8:21-22

This supports what we have considered.

➤ **The Little Horn**

Notice Daniel 8:9

We need to notice very closely that this little horn rises out of the Grecian Empire to be more specific it rises out of the Grecian Empire after Alexander the Great dies. The other little horn that we noticed in chapter 7 will rise from the revived Roman Empire.

Notice Daniel 7:7-8

Here we see that this horn comes out of the ten kings of the revived Roman Empire.

Notice Daniel 8:9 again.

We see that this horn will wax great toward the south and toward the east and toward the pleasant land which is Israel. Now as we move on in verses 10-14 this little horn will be described. We also need to know that Daniel 8:23-25 also addresses this same little horn.

I want to take some time and consider the characteristics of this little horn. From these we can understand more about what would happen to the Jews under this little horn.

➤ **The Timing**

Notice Daniel 8:22-23

Here in verse 23, we see when this little horn would rise to power. It would be when the "transgressors come to the full." The questions now arise, "Who are the transgressors and what did they do?" When the Grecians conquered the Persians, they brought with them their Hellenistic practices. This was the worship of the Grecian gods such as Zeus, and the study of the Grecian philosophies. There were a great group of Jews who wanted to cast away the worship of their God, Jehovah, and become part of the Grecian culture by worshipping their gods and following their philosophies. They wanted to be fully accepted by the Grecian rulers. These

were the transgressors. God allowed this to go on for a while, but when it reached a pinnacle God brought this man Antiochus Epiphanes into power.

➤ **The Characteristics of the Little Horn**

Notice Daniel 8:23

1. We see that he is a king of fierce countenance.

This means that this king will be hard, unyielding, determined, and very stern. What would he be determined to do? He was determined that all Jews would reject the worship of the True God. He will not back down, and he will be set on fulfilling his agenda.

2. We see that he will have understanding of dark sentences.

This means that he would be skilled in dealing with the Jews in a deceitful manner. This man was very crafty in his trickery. He was a man who would say things to coverup his true purposes.

Notice Daniel 8:24

3. His power would be mighty.

But his might would not be by his power. He would be empowered by Satan. He was used by Satan to try to destroy all the Jews so as to stop the promise of Genesis 3:15. I had made mention the last time we were together that Antiochus would kill 40,000 Jews in 3 days.

Notice Daniel 8:10, 24

4. He shall destroy wonderfully. He shall destroy the mighty and holy people.

When Antiochus demanded that the Jews stop worshipping God many of the Jews refused and so they rebelled against his commands. The Jews who sacrificed to Jehovah were ordered to be put to death. The Jews who circumcised their children were also killed. He had the circumcised child put to death, and they were hung around the neck of the parent and then the parent was executed. Antiochus desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem. He had a pig sacrificed on the altar and he

then forced many of the Jews to eat the flesh of the pig. He also had an image of the Greek god Zeus erected in the Temple and forced the people to worship the image. Those who refused were put to death.

5. He would prosper and practice.

This means that Antiochus would accomplish much of what he desired to do and in this he was carrying out his will. I need to also add that he was carrying out the will of Satan.

Notice Daniel 8:11, 25

6. He would magnify himself to the point of defying God.

He did this when he desecrated the Temple, set up the image, and refused to allow the Jews to sacrifice to God.

Notice Daniel 8:12

7. He cast down the Truth to the ground.

He forbids the Jews to read the Word of God and to follow the Word of God. In doing this he tried his best to completely abolish the Word of God.

Notice Daniel 8:25

8. He would destroy many by peace.

This man was so crafty and so cold hearted that he took advantage of the Jews are their commitment to the Law. Antiochus knew that on the Sabbath the Jews would follow the Law so he attacked many of them on the Sabbath knowing full well that they would not fight back on the Sabbath and he then would slaughter great numbers on these Sabbath day attacks.

9. He would be broken without hand.

This means that no one would kill Antiochus. He would die of insanity. He would pass away from madness. What a terrible way to die and then to be plunged into hell.

All of this then raises a question, "How long would this man reign?"

Notice Daniel 8:14

He would reign for 2,300 days which would be a little over 6 years. It needs to be noted that his reign started in 171 BC, and it ended in 165 BC which is 6 years. Keep in mind that God gave this prophecy to Daniel in 551 BC. I point this out so that we are reminded of the accuracy of the Word of God. Almost 400 years in advance God foretold of Antiochus in great detail.

There is yet more that we need to see.

Notice Daniel 8:14 again.

After this man was gone the Temple would be cleansed. How did this happen?

There was a Jew by the name of Mattathias who lived in Jerusalem but in the midst of the persecution he and his family moved to Modein. The king sent officers to Modein to be sure the proper sacrifices were being offered. The officers tried their best to bribe the Jews. Notice the words from 1 Maccabees 2.

¹⁷ Then the officers of the king addressed Mattathias in these words: "You are a leader in this town, respected and influential, and you have the support of your sons and brothers. ¹⁸ Now be the first to come forward and obey the decree of the king, as all the Gentiles have done, as well as the citizens of Judah and the people who remain in Jerusalem. Then you and your sons will be counted among the Friends of the King, and you and your sons will be honored with gold and silver and many other gifts."

Mattathias refused and another Jew stepped forward to make the sacrifice, and Mattathias killed the Jew and the officer. This started the rebellion of the Maccabees which eventually led to the cleansing of the Temple.

Conclusion:

Next week we will move on to chapter 9 where we will see more of what Israel will face in the INDIGNATION.