

Daniel 8

1 A second great vision. Daniel was such a powerful instrument of God and yet he only had a limited number of visions and those in the later years of his ministry. We often think we should be experiencing these things daily. You should be in prayer daily, and hear from God daily, but these powerful revelations are few and far between. Look at the limited times the Patriarchs had revelations. Look at the few times the Apostle Paul had genuine earthshaking revelations. If it were a daily thing we would not value it as much and would take less out of it. Greatly valuable things are valuable because of their importance but also because of their rarity.

2 Is he having an out of body experience? Body in Babylon and spirit in Shushan. Shushan is the capital of the coming empire so he is seeing it from that location.

3 We have already been told that beasts represent kingdoms. Verse 20 says this is Media and Persia. The horns are significant. The larger one grows up later. In Scripture the horn is a symbol of power.

4 From JFB: ram pushing westward -- Persia conquered westward Babylon, Mesopotamia, Syria, Asia Minor.

northward -- Colchis, Armenia, Iberia, and the dwellers on the Caspian Sea.

southward -- Judea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya; also India, under Darius. He does not say eastward, for the Persians themselves came from the east (Isa 46:11).

'did according to his will' -- (Da 11:3, 16; compare Da 5:19).

5 Same as the leopard of 7:6. Without touching the ground implies incredible speed. Alexander the Great conquered the world in 12 years.

6 Up till this time it was unchallenged but suddenly it is met with great force.

JFB: standing before the river -- Ulai. It was at the "river" Granicus that Alexander fought his first victorious battle against Darius, 334 B.C.

7 The horns of the ram are shattered - power broken. Alexander vented his fury because Darius attempted to recruit his soldiers with bribes. in 331 He defeated Darius Codomanus and in 330 burned Persepolis. The army of Persia was many times larger but it could not stop Greece.

8 The large power is replaced by four powers. Alexander died of a fever at Babylon at the height of his power. JFB: Seleucus, in the east, obtained Syria, Babylonia, Media, &c.; Cassander, in the west, Macedon Thessaly, Greece; PTOLEMY, in the south, Egypt, Cyprus, &c.; Lysimachus, in the north, Thrace, Cappadocia, and the north parts of Asia Minor.

9 One that comes up out of one of the four, that starts small but grows in power begins to expand his territory. Some think this is the same horn as the little horn in 7 while others do not. Some see this as Antiochus Epiphanes. Interesting that the Chinese characters for America are Beautiful Land.

10 Is this a parallel verse to Rev 12:4? Could this be the Satanically inspired anti-Christ. Most commentators say this is Rome or Antiochus Epiphanes, the son of Alexander the Great (175BC). He did cause the sacrifice to cease and made the Temple desolate. He may foreshadow the same type of acts the final Antichrist

will do. If this is the fall of a third of the angels then it seems to be happening in the end time, not the beginning of creation. Notice he tramples on them. Is this the defeat of some of the angelic forces?

Most commentators say the stars are the levitical priests? I can't see why.

11 It claims it is as great as the Prince of the angels. He causes sacrifice to cease. Is this already fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes or is it yet to be fulfilled by the anti-Christ? OR Both! If it is both, the the temple must be rebuilt and sacrifice be resumed?

12 The saints and the daily sacrifice are given over to it. Because of his rebellion or because of our rebellion? In the past the patriarchs prospered in all they did. In that day evil will prosper in all it does, and truth will be thrown to the ground. Man must see what the world would be like without the influence of the godly. We haven't seen anything as dark as it is going to become. "Evil men and seducers will wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."

13 One angel asks another how long it will go on. How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled? The vision includes daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, surrender of the sanctuary, the trampling of the host.

14 A specific period of time is given until the reconsecration of the sanctuary, around 6 years and four months. This is a strange number and doesn't seem to match all the other periods.

Seventh Day Adventists used the day year theory to peg the return of Christ to 1843. If it was days from the prophecy forward it there is no correlation with history. Many are baffled by this figure and numerous theories have been presented, none that are convincing. Here is the one I like. I think we have gone from talking about Antiochus to talking of the Antichrist. The same moving from one person who foreshadowed Christ to speaking of Christ happens in Scripture. See prophecies of Solomon, son of David into The Son of David, and those concerning Judah. If that is the case and we are speaking of the Anti Christ then after he confirms the covenant to rebuild the Temple, there is a 255-257 day building period. The sacrifice begins and so does this 2300 day clock. 'Then the holy place will be restored.' NASB The temple comes down from heaven. I maybe just as wrong as the 7th Day Adventist. As the time approaches these things will be made clear.

15,16 Calling from the river Ulai or "my leaders". This is the first reference to the Archangel Gabriel.

17 These mighty arch-angels have that affect on man. Their magnificence and glory causes people to fall on their face. He uses a term that Jesus will apply to Himself. I wonder if Jesus got use to the term because in the flesh the angels called Him that? I doubt they could. I would think it was more from His humility and reading Ezekiel and possibly here in Daniel. Jesus does quote Daniel.

The main point is that Gabriel tells Daniel this is a vision for the time of the end.

18 We find this in other places too, where a touch from the angel raises them up to stand in their presence. see Rev 1:17

19 This only mean the end of the world. Judah is captive and though you may look to the end of the restored nation and 70AD as the wrath, it can only be an intermediate fulfillment.

20 Plain and clear interpretation. Media and Persia were a cooperative world conquering team.

21 Alexander the Great? Today people try to say Daniel was written after these things happened, but in Israel at the Shrine of the book is a 300BC ? copy of Daniel discovered in the Qumran Caves.

22 The four generals of Alexander divided up the kingdom. see verse 8

23 You would have a hard time making this fit Antiochus era. It easily fits with other predictions of the end. Wickedness/lawlessness will increase as mankind throws off the boundaries or morality and the Word of God. Someone will rise up that embodies the mindset of that time. He will be stern-faced and very mysterious.

24 Antiochus was an incredibly evil butcher. V McGee suggests he was demon possessed - as bad as Hitler, and therefore a clear picture of the AC that is coming.

25 craft - Rev 13:17 is this witchcraft or trade. The AC makes cash a thing of the past and sets up an electronic world currency that can be scanned on your hand or forehead.

Rev 13:5 talks about the mouth of the little horn of Daniel 7. He is the ultimate braggart and people believe him. Like Satan he is filled with pride. The AC once established over the earth will declare himself to be against Jesus. He is the end of the governments of man and as we saw in chapter 2, the stone destroys the image and fills the earth.

26 Don't worry Daniel, this is not in your lifetime. Compare Revelation 22:10.

27 When the spiritual so powerfully overlaps the physical - our earthly bodies can't take it. That is why we need to be transformed at the coming of Christ.

Our earthly bodies are made for here and not the spiritual realm. Daniel marveled at the vision with all its details, but since it was not for his day, he could not understand it. God usually gave him understanding, but there was no need since it was for the future. In the coming days John would confirm all this as it had to be established in the mouth of two or more witnesses.