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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**“I SAW IN A VISION;**

**AND IT CAME TO PASS,”**

**Daniel 8:1-27**

***Daniel 8:1 "In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, [even unto] me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first."***

Daniel’s prophetic vision in chapter 8 is incredibly accurate in its historical fulfillment. This is one of the reasons why biblical critics, who dismiss the possibility of predictive prophecy, insist that this must have been written in the second century BC rather than in the sixth century. For believers, this is further evidence of the inspiration and inerrancy of God’s Word. Daniel had another vision during King Belshazzar’s reign. This is another vision. It is not the same as the vision in chapter 7. The last vision was of the end times. This vision deals with Media, Persia, and Greece leading up to the end times.

***Daniel 8:2 "And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I [was] at Shushan [in] the palace, which [is] in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai."***

***Daniel 8:3 "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had [two] horns: and the[two] horns [were] high; but one [was] higher than the other, and the higher came up last."***

***Daniel 8:4 "I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither [was there any] that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great."***

***Daniel 8:5 "And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat [had] a notable horn between his eyes."***

***Daniel 8:6 "And he came to the ram that had [two] horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power."***

***Daniel 8:7 "And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand."***

Shushan was one of the capitals of the Persian Empire. It was the capitol of the land of Elam. Elam was named for the first son of Shem. There is very little known about the river Ulai. Verse 20 of this chapter tells us the two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. It appears, that Persia was the more prominent of the two. The fact there was just one animal, shows the unity of Media, and Persia. The two horns show they were of two peoples. We do know from history, there was a great conquest of nations who surrounded them. They were so powerful; they had conquered even the Babylonians. This is speaking of Greece, and the horn {symbolizing power} is speaking of Alexander the great. This is just explaining that Alexander the great fought against the Medes and the Persians. This powerful ruler {Alexander the Great} fought with the Medes and Persians and defeated them in battle. "Choler" means bitter. The Medes and the Persians were no match for Alexander. In this dream, he saw a ram with two horns standing in the fortress city of Susa, which was in the eastern part of the Medo-Persian Empire. The ram was charging to the west north south, and no other power was able to stop him. But then, a male goat appeared, coming from the west without touching the ground, a detail symbolizing lightning speed of movement and conquest. This goat had great power, a conspicuous horn. As Daniel watched, the goat smashed the ram to the ground and became the new world power.

***Daniel 8:8 "Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven."***

***Daniel 8:9 "And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant [land]."***

***Daniel 8:10 "And it waxed great, [even] to the host of heaven; and it cast down [some] of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them."***

Alexander was thought of as great. When he died, 4 of his generals took over in his place. Macedonia and Greece were under the rule of Cassander; Asia Minor under the rule of Lysimachus; Syria and the east ruled by Seleucus; and Cyrene under Ptolemy. This is, possibly, speaking of Antiochus. This is all leading up to the persecution of the Jews by Epiphanes. The "pleasant land" was, probably, Palestine.

***Revelation 6:13 "And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind."***

The fig tree symbolizes the house of Israel. The "host of heaven" could be speaking of Israel. The "stars" could be speaking of their leaders. We do know that the Jews were persecuted. This particular Scripture could have two messages. One would be to the time very near to when Daniel lived, and the other could reach to the end of time. This is another picture of the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great, the “third king / kingdom” of the earlier visions in the book (2:39; 7:6). But, at the height of its power, the goat’s large horn was broken, and out of it came four other horns. Indeed, when Alexander died, his kingdom was divided among four other men. Daniel’s attention was directed to a little horn. It emerged from the four, became great, and turned its fury against Israel, even trying to make itself as great as the Prince of the heavenly army, God himself.

***Daniel 8:11 "Yea, he magnified [himself] even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily [sacrifice] was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down."***

***Daniel 12:11 "And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days."***

***Daniel 8:12 "And an host was given [him] against the daily [sacrifice] by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered."***

The "Prince of the host" would have been the Lord. In 70 A.D., the temple was destroyed, and the sacrifice stopped.

***Daniel 11:31 "And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily [sacrifice], and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate."***

These last two Scriptures have to do with the time of the antichrist. The transgressions would have made the sacrifice unacceptable to God. There was no truth prevailing. They seemed to prosper, even though they were evil.

***Daniel 8:13 "Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain [saint] which spake, How long [shall be] the vision [concerning] the daily [sacrifice], and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?"***

***Daniel 8:14 "And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."***

There is something sitting, even today, where the temple of God should sit. The city will be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

***Mark 13:14 "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:"***

These 2300 days would figure out to 6 years and 110 days, figuring a 365 day year. It is interesting to note that Judas Maccabaeus cleansed the temple on December 25th 165 B.C. Antiochus Epiphanes invaded Israel with the purpose of “Hellenizing” the Jews, trying to force them to accept Greek dress, customs, and religion. He stopped the sacrifices from 168-165 BC 2,300 evenings and mornings or 1,150 days. He also slaughtered thousands of Jews and desecrated the temple in Jerusalem by erecting a statue of the Greek god Zeus and sacrificing a pig on the altar. Eventually, a band of Jews led by Judas Maccabeus defeated the Seleucid forces and cleansed the temple (as described in the Jewish book of 1 Maccabees). The rededication of the temple is still celebrated by Jews today during the Jewish festival of Hanukkah (meaning, “dedication”). Antiochus appears here not only because he was a prominent figure in Israel’s prophetic future, but because he was also a mirror image of the still-future little horn of Daniel 7, the Antichrist.

***Daniel 8:15 "And it came to pass, when I, [even] I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man."***

***Daniel 8:16 "And I heard a man's voice between [the banks of] Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this [man] to understand the vision."***

***Daniel 8:17 "So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end [shall be] the vision."***

Daniel had a powerful interpreter to help him understand the meaning of his vision, an angel named Gabriel. Notice, this was not a man. He appeared to be a man. Daniel was seeking an interpretation of this dream, or vision, from God. This is the first time in Scripture that an angel is mentioned by name. Gabriel appears again in the Gospel of Luke, where he announces to the priest Zechariah the coming of John the Baptist, and to Mary the coming of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:19, 26). Gabriel was told to explain the vision to Daniel, who was terrified. In fact, humans in Scripture are frequently filled with awe and fear when knowingly in the presence of angels (Daniel 10:8-9; Luke 1:12; Revelation 19:10; 22:8). The word "Ulai" is speaking of a river in Persia, possibly the Eulaeus. The man's voice was the voice of God. Gabriel is under direct orders of the Father. Gabriel in an archangel. He is to explain the vision to Daniel. This vision, even though it had near fulfillments, also was set for the end times. This would be a frightening experience, to be this close to Gabriel. The worst fear would be the fact that God sent him and told him what to say. He opens Daniel's understanding to the vision. The name "Gabriel" means hero of God.

***Daniel 8:18 Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.***

***Daniel 8:19 "And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end [shall be]."***

This is very similar to being overcome by the Spirit. Being in the presence of heavenly beings, brings this type of reaction. At the mount of transfiguration, Peter, James, and John went into a deep sleep. This is a special privilege to be in the presence of heavenly beings. The time for the end of the world has been set since the foundation of the earth. This is speaking, however, of a nearer time, as well. The end of the indignation could be speaking of the end of the indignation for those specific people. The near meaning speaks of the Jews struggle against Epiphanes.

***Daniel 8:20 "The ram which thou sawest having [two] horns [are] the kings of Media and Persia."***

***Daniel 8:21 "And the rough goat [is] the king of Grecia: and the great horn that [is] between his eyes [is] the first king."***

***Daniel 8:22 "Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power."***

***Daniel 8:23 "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up."***

***Daniel 8:24 "And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people."***

The key to the vision’s interpretation is that it was for the conclusion of the time of wrath, because it refers to the appointed time of the end. Thus, this is the span of time opening with the entry of the times of the Gentiles and ending with Christ’s second coming. The two-horned ram represents the kings of Media and Persia, while the shaggy goat represents the king of Greece (Alexander the Great). Theirs are the second and third empires revealed in the book of Daniel. The four horns represent the four leaders, including Antiochus Epiphanes, who divided Alexander’s kingdom. The two horns are because Media and Persia are two. The rough goat is Alexander the great of Greece. The four that stood up were 4 generals. This has jumped to an entirely different time element. Notice, it does not say in their later time, it says in the latter day of their kingdom. It is the kingdom's latter day. This king is evil. He is using things of Satan to make him understand. Dark sentences have no light of God in them. His strength is not his own. He is operating under the influence of Satan. He is totally opposed to God's people. God has allowed this, because of the unfaithfulness of His people.

***Daniel 8:25 "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify [himself] in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand."***

***Daniel 8:26 "And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told [is] true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it [shall be] for many days."***

***Daniel 8:27 "And I Daniel fainted, and was sick [certain] days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood [it]."***

The Prince of princes is speaking of Jesus. Destroying by peace is a trick of the antichrist. If this is not speaking of him, it is certainly speaking of a type of antichrist. This is speaking of a spiritual battle. Jesus does defeat Satan and all of his fellows. This appears to be real days, because it uses the expression evening and morning, which is generally speaking of a 24 hour period of time. We must remember that God's time and our time are not the same. He lives in one eternal day. Just as 70 weeks is speaking of 70 years, this could be speaking of months or years. In 24 hour days {figuring the 365 day year, this would be 6 years and 110 days. This could be a hidden indication of how long the earth will remain before the 1000 year day of Sabbath begins. There is no proof of this, just speculation. It could, also, symbolize the 7 years of tribulation. God could have used a different number of days for a year. Anything we might say about this is pure speculation. Gods knows. God does not reveal this to man, because it is His secret. There are some things not intended to be understood.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Where was Daniel in this vision?

Shushan

1. How many horns did the ram have?

Two

1. What did they symbolize?

Lightning speed of movement and conquest

1. The horn symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Power

1. What does "choler" mean?

Bitter

1. Macedonia and Greece were under which of the 4 Generals?

Alexander The Great

1. Who ruled Syria?

Seleucus

1. Cyrene was ruled by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Ptolemy

1. What was the "pleasant land" speaking of?

Palestine

1. Who does the "fig tree" symbolize?

House of Israel

1. Who is the "host of heaven", possibly?

Israel

1. Who is the Prince of the host?

God himself

1. What would have made the sacrifices unacceptable to God?

The transgressions

1. How long will the city be trodden down of the Gentiles?

Until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled

1. The man's voice, in verse 16, was whose?

God

1. Who had God sent with the message to Daniel?

Gabriel

1. What does the name "Gabriel" mean?

Hero of God

1. The sleep, in verse 18, is very similar to what?

Being overwhelmed by the Spirit

1. How long has the time for the end of the world been set?

Since the foundation of the earth

1. Dark sentences have no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_ in them.

Light, God

1. This evil one is operating under the influence of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Satan

1. The Prince of princes is speaking of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus

1. Destroying by peace is a trick of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Antichrist

1. What are some of the things the vision of evening and morning could be?

24 hour period of time

1. Who understood Daniel's vision?

God does not reveal this to man, because it is His secret