

Daniel 44 – Parable of Days

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Daniel 8:9-14

Prologue: Hellenism's Success: Failure

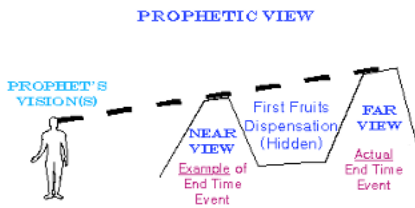
- Hellenism's influence extended well beyond its limited borders
- Hellenism laid the foundation facilitating Roman expansionism
- Hellenism-Romanism actively preparing World for Antichrist
- Rome, borrowing from Etruscan, Persian and Hellenism influences the world for global socialism
- Daniel's vision an overview of how Alexander suppresses all cultures and embraces sin



Prologue: Understand the Vision – Understanding Prophetic Future

- Jewish Captivity foreshadows Jewish Diaspora for rejecting Messiah which continues today; Zionism is Satanic, atheistic socialism (Ro 9:30-33; 11:1-11)
 - Understanding this vision requires not just enthusiasm and biblical knowledge; one needs correct hermeneutics with cultural and historical knowledge
 - True extent of Hellenistic influence escapes modern intellectuals consumed with their own superiority; a gift from Hellenism {Barbarian} (Jn 19:7-16; Ro 10:18-21; 1Co 2:6-10)
 - Failed Hellenistic philosophies continue failing today, giving way to internal-external strife and tyranny packaged in Romanism
 - Today's marriage of paganism {Luciferianism} and intellectualism devolves into fragmented scientisms contrary to empirical observations {Science} (Ro 11:7-10)
 - Vision requires the reader to grasp Hebraic worship practices, idioms and Old Testament Bible knowledge; believers of Daniel's day could understand this vision

Understanding Prophetic Viewpoint(s)



- Prophetic views often have a *Near View* and a *Far View*
- Hellenism's *little horn* near view of Antichrist's Romanesque small horn; far view
- Near view illustrates far view's fulfillment; often future to us also
- First Fruits Dispensation hidden from prophet's view (He 11:39-40; 1Pe 1:10-12)
- These are our examples to study and realize God's grace (1Co 10:11)

Little Horn: Hellenism; Not Romanism

- Alexander lack of control indicative of Hellenism's marriage of paganism and philosophy (Lsn 43)
- Four subsequent kingdoms continued Hellenism's internecine city-state type wars; constantly fought each other
- Forerunner of Romanesque *little horn* as Rome absorbed Hellenism's issues
- This *little horn* is not the *small horn* of Daniel Chapter Seven: Not Antichrist
- This *small horn* continues Alexander's legacy: Superiority over everyone; esp. God and his believers (Satan) (Jn 8:44)



Near View: Warning of Coming Far View Judgment

- What Daniel does not realize is that he receives *near view* vision explaining the why of his previous vision: *far view* of Antichrist's *little horn* {The fourth beast that terrified him } (Da 7)
 - This Captivity, *near view*, is a forerunner of the Jew's coming Diaspora, *far view*, for the same reason: Rejecting God (Christ); Highlights Jacob's Trouble – Great Tribulation of Antichrist (De 28:64-68; Je 30:4-11)
 - We know those who returned to Jerusalem rebuilt the Temple but fell into indifference to God; idolatry to Law; Self-righteousness (Embraced Hellenism) (De 32:17; Malachi 1:10; Ac 7; Ro 1:18-20; 1Co 10:20; Jo 4:1-4)
 - Daniel's subsequent chapters specifically detail what is to come warning the Jews so when they face these challenges they will be without excuse (Is 48:1-11)
 - Also warning to us: Antichrist's leadership and kingdom does not come suddenly but has been millenniums in the making: We are without excuse also (Ec 1:9-11)

Little Horn Grows Out of One Horn: Imitates Alexander

- Little horn grows out of one of the four horns, kingdoms, that arises from Alexander's failed administration policies: Greek *superiority* and paganism
 - This horn, ruler, started small but grew great, especially in his own eyes following Alexander's example: Illusion (Lack) of Control
 - He *pushes*, wars, toward the South (Egypt); East (Persia) and the *glorious land*, metaphor for Judah; they were glorious in God's eye because of His plans for them, not because of their faithfulness or accomplishments (Jeh 3:19-20; Ez 20:6)
 - He grows great, vicious, toward *host of heaven*; i.e., God's people, Jews (Ez 12:41)
 - Both these images harken back to God bringing Hebrews out of captivity despite their unfaithfulness which continues (Even today)
 - Also recalls Judges' period when Israel was unfaithful and God *allowed* Satan to oppress them, driving them back to Himself; this foreshadows their current history

Antiochus Epiphanes: Alexander His Role Model

- Historical knowledge of Antiochus Epiphanes (215-164 B.C.) comes primarily from I & II Maccabees and Josephus' *Antiquities*
 - Antiochus sought to force Hellenism, *cultural uniformity in the hope of creating more socioeconomic stability*; so much for Persia's unity through diversity
 - After his ignoble capitulation in Egypt by Rome, Antiochus sought to demonstrate his power over the Levant; especially the Jews who rejected Hellenism
 - Sadducees and wealthy Jews ingratiated themselves to Antiochus with bribes, but many resisted this cultural imposition though not from faithfulness to God; they viewed their culture-The Law—as superior (Not humility to God but prideful)
 - Their success in this rebellion gave them false hope of throwing off Roman rule during and after Christ's time; they failed to understand Scripture and their sin
 - This pride led them to reject Christ, rebel against Rome and enter Diaspora

Same Error as with the Ark: God Not in Earthly Shadows



- Just as the Jews believed that bringing the Ark to battle would force God to give them victory, which it did not, they continued this same error with the First and Second Temples (Isa 4; 1Kj 8:27-30, 33-34, 46-51; Heb 8:3-5; 10:1-4)
 - They forgot David's warning: God desires *broken and contrite heart*, not sacrifices which do not cleanse sin; they only point to Christ (Ps 51:16-17; Heb 10:1-11)
 - Antiochus invaded Jerusalem, put idols in the Temple area and sacrificed pigs, unclean animal, on the altar to Zeus while slaughtering the Jews who rebelled
- Epiphanes, means *great*, his title as he claimed to be Zeus' son like Alexander; grasping for historic justification after his Roman humiliation
 - He imitated Alexander, and Satan whom he rejected, to make himself greater than Messiah whom he also rejected; like coming Antichrist (Is 14; 12-14; Ez 28:16-18; 2Th 2:3-12)



Antiochus Takes Away the Regular: Temple Ascending Offerings of Christ

- Satan, Antiochus, and Antichrist(s) focus on removing outward displays but ignore that God desires *broken and contrite heart*: Salvation (1Sa 16:7)
 - God instituted the *regular* {Ascending Offerings} pointing people to Christ alone as the true sin offering; lambs substituted for Christ who substituted for us (Ex 29:38-46; He 10:12-18)
 - Morning Regular – About 0900
 - Evening Regular – About 1500
 - When Antiochus forbade these, he interrupted the *regular*; God allowed this due to their sin and rebellion, they were in fact worshipping Satan {Worship} (1Sa 15:23)
 - This an affront to *False Jews* rather than to God who stated He would rather the Jews stop their sacrifices than do them hypocritically (Mat 1:10-12; 23:9, 17; 3:1-5)
 - The *regulars* were interrupted for several years; Maccabean Revolt reinstated the *regular* and became basis for Hannukah, a celebration of their rebellion



How Long? Answer Depends on Your Hermeneutics

- As in Daniel's previous vision, he is not alone; there are two heavenly *watchers*, angels, not previously revealed to the reader(s)
 - One *watcher* asks the other, "How long...;" referencing the interruption of the *regular*, the desolation and giving over the sanctuary and believers to be trampled by non-believers?
 - Antiochus tramples the Jews just as Alexander trampled the Persians; out of control without mercy, showing both were driven by Satan, allowed by God
 - The other *watcher* answers, 2300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be cleansed, restored to its rightful purpose: Proper worship of Christ (Mt 24:22)
 - Evenings-Mornings simply Hebrew idiom for 24-hour days and denotes long time; the number as parable: less than seven years showing Satan believes he will achieve his goal then fail {God speaks in parables to rebellious people} (Mt 13:10-17)
Also: Short of Seven Years Great Tribulation per Christ's Promise lest no one be saved (Later Lesson)



Assumptions Determine Conclusions: Right Assumptions

- Most commentators assume:
 - Evenings-days to be actual number, 2300, with endless calculations resulting in strange machinations and interpretations
 - They believe God concerned with Temple cultic rituals over faithfulness; promotes rebellious Judaism and current Zionism – Ignores Bible {Eisegesis}
 - God despised worship of most Jews, Malachi; restoration of sacrifices would not achieve appropriate cleansing, faithfulness in a *broken, contrite heart* over sin
 - Later, the *watchers* interpret Daniel's vision but ignore this number; therefore, its meaning must be obvious to Daniel and immediate believers {Parable}
- God warning Jews that when they return to Jerusalem they will again become unfaithful (they do); Antiochus is God's whip, Satan's tool, reproving them for rejecting Him, which majority will ignore (Malachi; Mt 7:7-11; He 12:3-8)