

Lecture #10

Daniel 8:1-27

GOD GIVES DANIEL A PROPHETIC VISION THAT REVEALS THE SPECIFIC RISE AND FALL OF MAJOR GENTILE POWERS AND PEOPLE INCLUDING THE ANTICHRIST.

Daniel 8:1 – Daniel gives the time of the vision.

This vision occurred in the third year of the reign of Belshazzar (551 B.C.). We may recall that the previous vision was given in the first year of Belshazzar (553 B.C.) in Daniel 7:1. What this means is that this vision comes two years later after the first vision. Visions did not happen weekly. This was not a dream, but a vision. Daniel was awake, not asleep.

In Daniel's first vision (Daniel 7), he saw four world powers that would dominate Israel-Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. In this vision, Daniel receives more information concerning the second and third powers—Medo-Persia and Greece and then he gets more insight into this world leader which had so caught his attention.

Daniel 8:2 – Daniel gives the place of the vision.

Probably when Daniel actually got this vision, he was in Babylon. However, he was transported to Susa, and when he looked in the vision he found himself beside the Ulai Canal. This canal is located very near Susa, some 200 miles east of Babylon, 120 miles north of the Persian Gulf. **At the time Daniel wrote this prophecy, Susa was not the political powerhouse it became under the Persian Empire.** Daniel is projected to a city that would become the home of Esther, Mordecai and Nehemiah and he sees it in its grandeur. **He would have had no way of knowing this at the time other than by revelation of God.**

Daniel 8:3-13 – Daniel gives the details of the vision.

(Sight #1) - Daniel saw a ram with two horns standing in front of the canal. **8:3a**

Two horns, we know represent two political powers, so this was not unusual. Obviously by virtue of the location, this spot, Susa, would be a key place of this power.

(Sight #2) - Daniel saw two horns which were long, but the longer of the two came up last. **8:3b**

This was unusual—one of the two horns grew and became larger than the other one.

(Sight #3) - Daniel saw an unstoppable ram moving west, north and south. **8:4**

Notice he does not move east which is precisely the way Persia moved—three directions not east. The ram is a fitting image because the Persians were nomads and mountaineers. There have been coins found of the Persian Empire with a ram's head.

(Sight #4) - Daniel saw a male goat come out of the west that conquered the world with so much speed his feet did not hit the ground; and the goat had a very unusual horn between its eyes. **8:5**

All interpreters agree this represents the King of Greece (**8:21**). Greece came out of the west and moved eastward.

(Sight #5) - Daniel saw the male goat rush wrathfully at the ram with two horns. **8:6**

It is emphasized that this male goat went at this ram with incredible speed; his feet didn't even touch the ground (**8:5**) and he came with a "rush" (**8:6**).

(Sight #6) - Daniel saw the male goat smash, shatter and destroy the ram with two horns. **8:7**

With absolutely no help, the he goat demolishes the ram. Both horns, both powers were shattered by this one power. The first battle fought against Persia was May 334 B.C. and the final one was 331 B.C. at Nineveh. This goat shattered the ram in a little over three years.

(Sight #7) - Daniel saw the male goat glorify himself and be quickly broken and replaced by four other horns. **8:8**

There is shocking news given here—at the height of his power, he is broken off and he is replaced.

(Sight #8) - Daniel saw another horn come out of the four who specifically focused on Israel. **8:9**

A "small horn" (**8:9**), not the "little horn" of Daniel 7:8 arose. The horn grows to become great and he wants to conquer land to the south, land to the east and "the beautiful land" which is the Promised Land of Israel.

(Sight #9) - Daniel saw this other horn become a terrible enemy of God, Israel and the Temple. **8:10-11**

The idea of "trampling down the stars" is trampling Abraham's people (Gen. 15:5; 22:17). The thing that stands out about this rising power is that he becomes so arrogant that he magnifies himself to a level of God and goes on a rampage against Israel and the Temple. He removes the sacred sacrifices of the Temple. According to I Maccabees, he stopped the sacrifices and the offerings and he built idolatrous idols and sacrificed swine and unclean animals.

(Sight #10) - Daniel saw that this horn was given permission to prosper and dominate Israel because of Israel's transgression. **8:12**

Verse 12 explains why God, in His sovereignty, permitted all of this to happen to Israel. The reason this political power is permitted to do terrible things is because of the transgressions of Israel (Ezekiel 39:21-24).

(Sight #11) - Daniel learned from Heaven that the domination would continue for 2,300 evenings and mornings and then the Temple would be restored. **8:13-14**

These are very specific prophetic numbers given by God to Daniel. Something connected to the Temple would exist for 2300 days, which is just 220 days less than seven years.

Daniel 8:15-19 – Daniel desires to know the interpretation of the vision.

Gabriel is given an order to reveal this to Daniel and as John Calvin said the order came from Jesus Christ. Notice from verses **17** and **19** that prophecy has to do with end times and it relates to Israel. The word “indignation” (**v. 19**) refers to the Tribulation.

Gabriel is a name that means “the mighty one.” He is what the name implies. He is never said to be an archangel. He appears four times in the Bible and always as a messenger or revealer of divine prophetic information:

- 1) He appears to Daniel to give him interpretation of this vision pertaining to “the time of the end” (**8:17**).
- 2) He appears to Daniel again to give him an understanding of Jeremiah’s prophecy pertaining to seventy years of captivity (Daniel 9:20-27).
- 3) He appears to Zacharias to inform him his wife Elizabeth will give birth to John, the forerunner of Jesus (Luke 1:18-19).
- 4) He appears to Mary with the greatest of all revelation that she would give a virgin birth to the Savior and King (Luke 1:26-38).

When Gabriel went to where Daniel was to give him an interpretation, Daniel fell down on his face. Now this is the most godly man alive. No one on earth has a better relationship with God and better understanding of the Word of God. In fact, this chapter ends basically saying that (**Daniel 8:27**). Notice the reverence Daniel has for God. **Whenever you truly have the presence of God in a place, there will be a reverence for God. God’s real presence is never found in a light, fluffy atmosphere. It is found with people who are bowed before Him in reverent worship.**

Daniel 8:20-26 – Daniel is given an interpretation of the vision.

(Interpretation #1) - The ram with two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia. **8:20**

Media was the first major power to arise against Babylon; however, Persia under Cyrus soon gained control as the larger of the two horns and went on to conquer kingdoms to the west, north and south. In fact, it has been said that Cyrus and his son Cambyses II, “were invincible and established the largest empire the world had seen to that day” (Campbell, p. 121).

(Interpretation #2) - The goat represents the kingdom of Greece. **8:21a**

This power came against Medo-Persia with lightning speed. Without any help of any other power (except of course God), Greece brought down the Medo-Persian world.

(Interpretation #3) - The large horn between his eyes is the first king from Greece. **8:21b**

The first king was Alexander the Great. In 334 B.C. he came specifically from the west (**8:5**). He crossed the Hellespont and defeated the Persian armies under Darius III. He freed all the Grecian cities of Asia Minor from the Persians and he confronted Darius himself at the Cilician Gates of Syria where he won a decisive victory near Antioch in 333 B.C. Darius wanted to negotiate a peace treaty, but Alexander wouldn’t do it. He went south into Egypt. He took Tyre and Gaza and in 331 B.C. he had stamped out the power. From there he went east and took the key cities of Persia such as Susa and Persepolis and he went all the way to India.

In 323 B.C. he returned to Babylon, and at age thirty-three he died in the peak of his power which is exactly what Daniel saw in Daniel **8:8**. Alexander had completely destroyed Persia as a world power faster than any in history. Before he died he 1) Built roads; 2) United the east and west; 3) Brought the common Greek language to the people.

(Interpretation #4) - The four horns represent the four kingdoms that will replace the large broken horn. **8:22**

When Alexander died, the power of Greece was turned over to Alexander's four main generals: 1) Cassander ruled over Macedonia and Greece; 2) Lysimachus ruled over Thrace and most of Asia Minor; 3) Seleucus ruled over Syria and the vast territory to the east; 4) Ptolemy ruled over Egypt and the Promised Land.

Now it was predicted in Daniel **8:9** that one would arise out of these four powers who would particularly set his sights on demolishing Israel. **The eighth person to arise in the family of Seleucus was a man named Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who was born in 221 B.C.** Seleucus reigned in 301 B.C. and Antiochus officially reigned from 175 to 164 B.C., although he had been conducting military raids as early as 171 B.C. Antiochus Epiphanes came to power in the time period between the O.T. and the N.T. He was a hateful man who specifically targeted his hatred toward the Jews. He demanded that Greek culture and religion be imposed on Israel. He made it unlawful to read the Torah, observe the Sabbath, practice circumcision and those who disobeyed were killed. In one attack on Jerusalem, he massacred more than forty thousand Jews, which fulfills Daniel **8:10**.

He "systematically looted" the Temple and then demanded that the sacrifices offered there cease (**Daniel 8:11**). He put an idol in the Temple and according to Josephus, he offered a pig on the altar. How long did his power last? Antiochus died in 164 B.C.

Judas Maccabeus restored worship to the Temple on December 25, 165 B.C. In 171 B.C. "Onias III, the legitimate High Priest was murdered and a pseudo-line of priests assumed power" (Walvoord, p. 190). If we backtrack to the date when Antiochus sanctioned this until worship was restored, the date was September 6, 171 B.C. or 2,300 days, just exactly what is stated in Daniel **8:14**.

(Interpretation #5) - There will arise another ruler after these who will be very unusual. **8:23-25**

Now in **verse 17**, Gabriel tells Daniel he is seeing things until the "time of the end." That phrase refers to the time of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ when the Ancient of Days will set up His Kingdom. There is another individual predicted to arise, who will have qualities similar to Antiochus Epiphanes, but he will have other qualities. This was a world leader that Daniel kept seeing who was yet to come.

Trait #1 - He will be insolent. **8:23b**—He will be a fierce person, one who loves fighting and war.

Trait #2 - He will be skilled in intrigue. **8:23c**—He will have a brilliant mind, capable of solving very difficult problems.

Trait #3 - He will have unusual power not his own. **8:24a**—He will be satanically empowered (Revelation 13:2).

Trait #4 - He will be unusually destructive. **8:24b**—He will destroy things at a very unusual level.

Trait #5 - He will be very prosperous in all he does. **8:24c**—He will appear to be a worldly success.

Trait #6 - He will destroy God's people. **8:24d**—Jesus said if these days were not time regulated none of God's people would be saved (Matthew 24:22).

Trait #7 - He will be a skilled liar who can deceive the world. **8:25a**—He will convince the world he is after peace and safety, when that is not his real ambition.

Trait #8 - He will elevate himself in his own heart. **8:25b**—People will not initially see this, but eventually they will because he will sit in the Temple and demand people worship him.

Trait #9 - He will destroy many who think they are secure. **8:25c**—Israel will initially think she has a friend in this person, but he is her worst nightmare. Destruction will come suddenly from the one many thought was their friend (I Thessalonians 5:3).

Trait #10 - He will oppose the Prince of Princes. **8:25d**—He will oppose the Son of God, Jesus Christ. His name is fitting—the Antichrist.

Trait #11 - He will be destroyed not by any human means. **8:25e**—Antiochus Epiphanes died in Babylon in the aftermath of a defeat suffered by his army. The Antichrist will not be destroyed by any human thing—but by Christ Himself, who will cast him into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20-21).

(Interpretation #6) - The interpretation of the evening and morning vision is true. **8:26**

God says everything you saw is factual and futuristic.

Daniel 8:27 – Daniel is left completely physically and emotionally drained.

There was no one to whom he could speak with about this vision. No one knew prophecy at his level. I like something Dr. Donald Campbell said—Daniel took these prophecies very seriously and so should we.

We are living at a time when it is ripe for a world leader to surface who can solve an energy crisis, solve a job crisis, solve war crisis and bring peace to the Middle East. The time is ripe for the surfacing of this man of sin.

THE ANTICHRIST IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel 7:7-11, 19-26

There is no question that the book in the O.T. that gives us the most detail about the Antichrist is Daniel. He is a key feature of Daniel 7, 8, 9 and 11. In Daniel 7, there are at least 23 facts brought out about the Antichrist. Some facts in these four chapters seem redundant, but in all reality they are facts God keeps repeating because He wants the data clearly known.

Fact #1 - He is a dreadful, terrifying, extremely strong beast. **7:7a**

According to Brown, Driver and Briggs, the noun “beast” is used to describe a living, wild, unclean, relatively young, strong beast who is evil and viciously destroys even other beasts (*Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 312). This is a fitting noun for him, because this is exactly who he is and exactly what he does.

Fact #2 - He is a beast who has iron teeth. **7:7d**

Fact #3 - He is a beast who devours, crushes and tramples with his feet. **7:7c**

What is described in these first facts is a vicious beast who will tear people to shreds and crush them.

Fact #4 - He is a beast different from all others who have ever existed. **7:7d**

In fact, he is so different that the entire world will acknowledge that none have ever been like him (Revelation 13:4). When one thinks about some of the terrible beasts who have ruled in history - Caligula, Nero, Domitian, Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin and then realizes this one will be worse than all of these combined, we must admit the world has never seen any who will compare to him.

Fact #5 - He is a beast who has ten horns. **7:7e/23-24**

According to Daniel 2:43-45, these are ten political powers are also ten toes who stand side by side as a united force. This Antichrist will unite ten European powers and ultimately he will have total control of them.

Fact #6 - He will initially surface as one of the ten kings. **7:8a**

This is a critical key to spotting him. He will be one of the ten world leaders who unite together. When he first surfaces, he appears to be one of the ten, but he is not just one of the ten, he will end up the leader of the world. The Roman Empire, at its zenith of power in the first century A.D. included, generally speaking, what is now England. Spain was in the Empire; West Germany was in it, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, France, Italy, Belgium and Holland.

On April 4, 1949, NATO was established which originally featured twelve nations (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States). In 1952, Greece and Turkey were added. In 1955, the Republic of Germany was added. In 1982, Spain was added. So by 1982, all of the players are in place to revive the Roman Empire and produce this world leader. Then, in 1989, the Berlin Wall fell and Germany was reunified and a new European economy emerged and a common currency called the Euro was introduced and right now is in the process of reuniting European nations. More than likely, ten of these nations will strongly unite together and the Antichrist will be one of the ten leaders.

Fact #7 - He will initially surface as a dictator who took control of three nations. **7:8b**

This point is stressed three times in this chapter which means this is a critical key to his identity; he will surface by taking over three nations (Daniel 7:8, 20, 24). We do not know specifically which three nations he will control, but something fascinating happened in 1958; there was a rise of Arab nationalism in which ironically three countries united together to form an Arab federation, thus distancing themselves from NATO—Syria, Egypt and Iraq. Just recently there seems to be an alliance forming between Russia, Syria and Iran because of the Middle East tension. Sooner or later three major political players will unite behind one man.

Fact #8 - He will possess the look of a normal man, but he is not a normal man. **7:8c**

He will be intelligent, charismatic and persuasive. He will be a wonderful politician who can talk peace, prosperity and plenty. He will appear to be a tremendous humanitarian. However, he is a vicious, satanic, ruthless monster.

Fact #9 - He will boast about great things. **7:8d**

He will speak arrogantly even against God. He will take credit for things God does. He will make impressive claims, which are all arrogant lies.

Fact #10 - He will be eventually judged and cast into the Lake of Fire, body and all. **7:11**

God wants all to know that He will destroy him Personally.

Fact #11 - He is a different beast more dreadful and devouring than any other. **7:19**

There have been some dreadful, beastly humans who have lived in this world—Ted Bundy, John Gacy. The Antichrist will make them look like nice school boys.

Fact #12 - He will exist at the same time the other ten key nations exist. **7:20a**

This is a key point; the Roman Empire will be revived, and there will be ten European nations who will band together. It is interesting that one of the main purposes of NATO is military defense.

Fact #13 - He will rise when three nations fall. **7:20b**

The specific nations are not stated, but they will be eventually.

Fact #14 - He will look like a normal man. **7:20c**

Nothing about his look will initially give the impression he is the Antichrist. He will be a suit and tie man, not a satanic worshipper dressed in a black robe.

Fact #15 - He will make arrogant boasts. **7:20d**

He will exalt himself above every so called god or object of worship (II Thessalonians 2:4).

Fact #16 - He will be larger than the other horns. **7:20e**

No world leader has ever come close to the magnitude of this one. He starts as a “little” horn (**7:8**) and ends as the largest horn to have ever existed in world history.

Fact #17 - He will wage war with God’s people and overpower them . **7:21**

During the first half of the Tribulation, after the Rapture, he will kill any believer (Revelation 6:9) and during the second half of the Tribulation he will try to destroy every single Jew all over the world (Revelation 12:17). Zechariah predicts that only one-third of the Jews will survive (Zechariah 13:8-9).

Fact #18 - He will devour the whole world. **7:23**

He will have unlimited geographical power and resources. Carefully observe in **Daniel 7:17** he is identified as a king. This is critical because he is a dictatorial king of the world, not an elected president who is interested in some form of democracy.

Fact #19 - He will arise by subduing three kings. **7:24**

We come back to this point because God wants His people to realize that this will mark his initial rise to power. He starts out as a dictator over three countries and ends up a dictator of the whole world.

Fact #20 - He will speak out against God. **7:25**

Fact #21 - He will stamp out God's people. **7:25b**

Fact #22 - He will be the law of the world for 3 ½ years. **7:25c**

For 1260 days, 42 months or 3 ½ years he has his power (Rev. 12:6; 11:2; 13:5). He is the law.

Fact #23 - God will judge him and destroy him. **7:26**

His power and his existence will all be brought down by God.

Daniel 8:23-25

From this chapter we glean eleven more facts:

Fact #1 - He will be insolent. **8:23b**

Most people do not like fights, this one will love fights. He will be a fierce fighter who is a power crazed maniac.

Fact #2 - He will be skilled in intrigue. **8:23c**

He will have a very high I.Q. During WWI psychological tests became important to try to determine the emotional stability of a soldier. In 1943, the MMPI (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory) was developed and by the late 1980's, 700 true/false questions were developed to try and measure I.Q. Colleges use an SAT test with a maximum of 2400 points and the ACT test with a maximum of 36 points, to determine whether one has the scholastic aptitude to make it in college. **The Antichrist will have an I.Q. which is off the charts.** In fact, his number 666 is just shy of the Divine number for the Trinity 777. He will be the smartest man the world has ever seen. He will have a brilliant mind capable of solving difficult crisis problems, such as the Mid-East mess.

Fact #3 - He will have unusual power, not his own. **8:24a**

He will be empowered directly by Satan himself (Revelation 13:2; II Thessalonians 2:9).

Fact #4 - He will be unusually destructive. **8:24b**

He will destroy things and people at a very unusual level. We gasp at destructive people and destructive programs. The Antichrist will glory in destruction. He will love it.

Fact #5 - He will be very prosperous. **8:24c**

He will prosper with everything he has and in everything he does. None can stop his prosperity.

Fact #6 - He will destroy God's people. **8:24d**

The Scriptures teach us that if he were not time regulated by God, all of God's people would die by his hand (Matthew 24:22).

Fact #7 - He will be a skilled liar who can deceive the whole world. **8:25a**

He will be able to look cameras and people in the face and say he is a caring man who wants peace and safety and prosperity for all, when nothing could be further from the truth. When the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped and killed back in 1932, before Richard Hauptman was convicted and executed in 1936, 200 people came forward and confessed they did it. Police said they knew most of them were lying. The Antichrist will be such a skilled liar, that no one will have any idea that he is lying.

Fact #8 - He will elevate himself in his own heart. **8:25b**

People will not initially be able to see or detect this.

Fact #9 - He will destroy many who think they are secure. **8:25c**

Many will believe this person is their friend, especially Israel, when in all reality he is their worst nightmare who will destroy them suddenly (I Thessalonians 5:3).

Fact #10 - He will oppose the Prince of Princes. **8:25d**

He will oppose Jesus Christ which gives him the fitting title "Antichrist."

Fact #11 - He will be destroyed, but not by any human means. **8:25e**

God, Himself, in the Person of Jesus Christ, will destroy him by casting him alive into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20-21). No human can bring him down.

Daniel 9:27

There are two very important facts revealed here about the Antichrist:

Fact #1 - He will make a covenant with Israel at the beginning of the seven year Tribulation, which sanctions her worship of God. **9:27b**

He pretends to have a caring interest for Israel, but it is a big lie.

Fact #2 - He will break the covenant with Israel in the middle of the seven year Tribulation and demand that he be worshipped. **9:27c**

Daniel 11:36-45

From this passage we learn ten facts about the Antichrist:

Fact #1 - He will do as he pleases all over the world. **11:36**

A. Concerning himself—no restraints.

B. Concerning God—blaspheme the true God.

C. Concerning prosperity—he will take all he wants and flourish.

Fact #2 - He will show no regard for any but himself . **11:37**

- A. No regard for religious heritage—probably raised to respect religion.
- B. No regard for women—will kill Jewish pregnant women (Matthew 24:19); possibly he is a homosexual.
- C. He will magnify himself—he will deify himself as God and demand to be worshipped.

Fact #3 - He will worship war . **11:38**

The Antichrist will actually worship war. This is his “god”—he loves war, worships war.

Fact #4 - He will go to war against the strongest of military powers. **11:39**

He will honor those who follow him and support him and redivide and restructure the whole world, giving them various parts of the world.

Fact #5 - He will be attacked from a king of the south and the north. **11:40**

To the south of the Promised Land is Egypt and to the north is Syria. More than likely these two will move against Israel because the Antichrist entered a peace treaty with her.

Fact #6 - He will ultimately move into the Promised Land of Israel. **11:41**

When the Antichrist learns of this movement, he will make Israel’s land his European base of operations. Because he has entered into a peace agreement with Israel, she will probably welcome him into her land as a base of operations. Last couple of weeks it has been eerie to see UN vehicles in the Middle East, trying to stop the problem between Israel and Lebanon.

Fact #7 - He will go to war against other countries but will be based in Israel . **11:42**

Fact #8 - He will gain control over the treasuries of many Arab nations. **11:43**

Such countries as Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia.

Fact #9 - He will learn of rumors of major powers moving against him. **11:44**

Probably powers from the East.

Fact #10 - He will pitch his tents in Israel’s sacred land places and eventually come to his end . **11:45**

He will set himself up in Jerusalem in the Temple and demand to be worshipped as God.

Now one logical question we must ask is why would God allow this power crazed, satanic mad man to even exist? The answer to this question is found in Ezekiel 39:21-29. God has decreed that He will permit horrific things to happen to His own people because of her iniquity and specifically for acting treacherously against Him when they killed His own Son, Israel’s Messiah and King. The Antichrist fulfills a role in that he is part of filling up the indignation and anger of God.

If you enjoy freedom, you will not want to be on earth when the Antichrist reigns. There is a way of escape. Those who believe on Jesus Christ never have to worry about even seeing the Antichrist. Those who believe on Jesus Christ are the freest, most secure people in the world.

STUDY QUESTIONS – LECTURE #10

(Daniel 8:1-27)

1. Explain the reason why the ram with two horns has one larger than the other.

Persia was the larger power than the Medes.

2. Who was the first King of Greece, who is the large horn?

Alexander the Great

3. Who are the four kingdoms that arose after Alexander the Great?

The kingdoms of his four generals.

4. Who was the one who came through Alexander's general Seleucus who demolished Israel?

Antiochus Epiphanes

5. What does it mean that a ruler will arise who will not die of any human means?

It means the Antichrist will be destroyed by Jesus Christ, Himself.