

Intro- Last week we began looking at Daniel 8.

At this time, Daniel is about 72, living in the last years of the Babylonian Empire.

- \* Here, God gave Daniel another vision, 2 years after the one he was given in Ch7, which described to him what the final world ruler, the coming antichrist would be like.
- \* In this vision, Daniel saw himself "in the palace of the Persian city of Susa, beside the Ulai Canal". Persia was still 12 years from conquering Babylon, and both the palace and the canal were never built until 30 years after he saw these things.
- \* In all these visions, God had been showing Daniel that as time progressed, the world would be controlled by the 4 Empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and then a revived Roman Empire, that would arise just before Christ returned.
- \* In this vision, God focused on the 2 middle Empires of the 4, Persia and Greece.
- \* Daniel was shown - a **Ram** depicting the **Persian Empire**, being conquered by a **Male Goat** which depicted **the Greek Empire**.
- \* Then as the vision focused on Greece, it showed their first king, Alexander the Great, who came to rule at age 21, and conquered most of the then-known-world in about 10 years.
- \* Alexander then died young, at age 33, and the Greek Empire split into 4 parts ruled by their 4 top Generals.
- \* Then starting with verse 9, the vision turns Daniel's attention to a small horn (a small king), and more detail is given about this king than anything else in the chapter.

### III. A SMALL HORN (king). (We learn about him in- v9-14, 19, 22-25)

@ In the text, the angel Gabriel gave Daniel many details about this coming ruler.

#### A. Daniel learned - WHERE THIS RULER WILL COME FROM. (read 8-9a)

- \* These 2 verses show that after the Greek Empire would split and the 4 generals would each rule 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the kingdom, this king would arise later, to rule 1 of those 4 smaller kingdoms.

**B. Daniel learned- WHEN THIS RULER WOULD COME. (17b, 19, 23a- look)**

- \* The last part of Vs 17 + 19 say- "the vision concerns the appointed time of the end,"
- \* Then in v23 Gabriel interprets- "In the **latter part of their reign**, a stern-faced king, will arise".
- \* This showed Daniel- that this ruler will arise, just before these 4 parts of the Greek Empire are about to pass off the scene, as the Greek empire is coming to its end.
- \* V19 also says- "*this* vision concerns the **later** time of wrath". This focuses on the Jews, and it shows this final ruler at the end of the Greek Empire, will bring his wrath on the Jews.
  
- \* What does history say?      Remember- For Daniel, it's 551 bc. And he's still in Babylon.
- \* About 240 years later, Alexander (Greece) conquered Persia, and then died, in 310 BC.
- \* Then, 373 years after Daniel received this, a man named Antiochus IV came to power in the north division of the Greek Empire (Syria today) and ruled from 178 to 164 b.c. and he perfectly fulfilled what Gabriel tells Daniel about this final ruler.

**C. Gabriel told Daniel - WHAT THIS RULER WILL BE LIKE. (read v23-25)**

**1. He will be vicious.** - Vs 23 says- he will be "sterned faced".

- The Hebrew word refers to a person who is- defiant, shameless, and fierce.

**2. He will be deceitful.** - Vs 25 says- he will "cause deceit to prosper".

- After Antiochus took Palestine, he deceived the Jews in his efforts to destroy them.

**3. Vs 24 says- "He will become **STRONG, but not by his own power.**"**

- Some think this refers to the fact that Antiochus had no real ruling authority because he stole the throne by murdering his own brother, who was the rightful heir.

- But the word for 'power' often refers to- 'control and influence in a supernatural way'.

- This fits with the historical fact that Antiochus became so vicious toward the Jews, that the devout Jews believed he was demon possessed.

- There have been scores of political leaders in history that were heavily influenced by Satan, and many who may have been demon possessed.

(Hitler- was heavily into the occult, and it's obvious that Satan highly influenced him in his massive effort to try to destroy the Jews)

## C. Daniel learned- WHAT THIS RULER WILL DO. (read 9-12) ( basics/ description)

### 1. He will take over Palestine.

- Vs 9 says Antiochus- " started small but grew to great power to the south, the east, and toward the Beautiful Land".
- Daniel and Ezekiel called Israel- "the beautiful land". (Dan 11:16, 41, Ezek. 20:6, 15)

### 2. He will attack the saints-

- Vs 10 says- "he threw some of the starry host to the earth and trampled them".
  - In Daniel 12:3 Daniel refers to the stars as God's saints.
- Vs 24 says - He will destroy the mighty men (Israel's leaders) and the holy people (Jews).
- In Antiochus' reign, he especially occupied Israel and destroyed many of the Jews.

### 3. He will attack God's Sanctuary.

- Vs 11-12 say- ' he will take away the daily sacrifice and bring the sanctuary low, and the host of the saints and their sacrifices were given over to him'

### 4. He will attack God and His truth.

- Vs 11, 12, 25 say - 'he will throw truth to the ground', 'will set himself up to be as great as the Prince of the host'; 'and will take his stand against the Prince of princes.'

## @ Now, These historical facts about Antiochus, give details to what Gabriel told Daniel.

Q- "Antiochus came to power by murdering his brother, the rightful heir to the throne.

- \* Once he became ruler, soon, he captured Palestine away from another Greek king who ruled the area of Egypt and Israel. He desired to unify his kingdom religiously under Greek idolatry, so he banned any other religious practices.
- \* In time, he came to Jerusalem, replaced the Jews godly High Priest with a compromiser, built a Greek Gym at the Holy place to promote nudity and immorality, and made the Temple chambers a brothel for prostitutes.
- \* He set up statues of Zeus and Apollo in the Temple, outlawed Jewish worship of any kind, and killed anyone who observed a feast or Sabbath day, offered sacrifices, circumcised their children, or were found with a copy of the law. (He burned them all)

- \* He also had coins made with the inscription- "Theos Antiochus, Epiphanies", 'Theos' means God, 'Epiphanies' means 'manifest'.
- \* And then he demanded to be called by the name "Epiphanies"- meaning 'God made manifest'. But the devoted Jews renamed him - 'Epimanyes' which means- 'the mad man'.
- \* Over many decades, before and during Antiochus' reign, many younger and wealthy Jews followed Greek paganism, but the Jews dedicated to God, began mounting an army to oppose his blasphemy of God and His Temple.
- \* When Antiochus discovered the rebellion, He sent a Tax collector to Jerusalem who told the people that Antiochus had peaceful intentions toward them.
- \* When the Jews relaxed, Antiochus viciously attacked the city, killing 80,000- enslaved 40,000 more, and murdered all the circumcised babies and their mothers, in unspeakable ways.
- \* He then went into the Temple, offered pigs on the altar (ceremonially unclean for Jews), he made the priests eat pork, and he spread the remains all over the Temple.
- \* This was known as- "The Abomination of Desolation" "the rebellion that causes desolation". (v13) "Abomination" refers to something detestable, "desolation" refers to destruction.
- \* So this act was literally- The detestable destruction of Temple worship. (more later)

#### **D. Daniel learned- HOW LONG ANTIOCHUS WOULD LAST. (13-14- READ)**

- \* In these Vs, within the vision, Daniel heard 1 angel ask another, how long this small horn (Antiochus) will be allowed to desecrate the Temple worship, and harm the Jews.
- \* The angel revealed it would last "2300 evenings and mornings" (2300 days), (about 6 1/3<sup>rd</sup> yrs)
- \* Antiochus ruled from 178-164, but history says he didn't harass the Jews much from 178 to 171.
- \* But in the fall of 171 BC (history isn't sure of the exact date), Antiochus became enraged at the committed Jews, and took forces to the Temple and severely desecrated its worship.
- \* And just like the prophecy says- 6 1/3<sup>rd</sup> years later, right after Antiochus died in Babylon--- , --- his forces were driven out of the Jerusalem and the Temple by Jewish armies led by Judas Maccabees, and the Temple was cleansed and worship was restored.
- \* That historical victory took place on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 165 BC, and that event has been celebrated by the Jews since that time, as **Hanukkah**.

## **E. Finally, Daniel learned - WHO ANTIOCHUS WOULD BE LIKE. (Key to the vision)**

- \* In Prophecy, God often gave future info. together, that would be divided by long periods of time.
  - Isa. 9:6-8 (unto us a child is born) Luke 1:31-33, refer to both Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
- \* Previously, in his Ch. 7 vision, Daniel was shown the final world ruler, the antichrist.
- \* But here in Ch. 8, much of what is said about Antiochus, matches the future antichrist as well.
- \* Just like the prophecies of Christ's coming, The Ch. 8 vision has a near and a far fulfillment.
- \* Antiochus fulfilled these details in a limited way, but antichrist will completely fulfill them.

### **@ Here are several details that show Antiochus would be much like the antichrist.**

#### **1. Both leaders arise out of obscurity.**

- Antiochus started as a small king out of 1 quarter section of the Greek Empire.
- Antichrist will start as a small king in the final Roman Empire, and then rise to prominence.

#### **2. Both leaders come at the end of a significant time period.**

- Antiochus came- "at the appointed time of the end," -- the end of the Greek Empire.
- Antichrist will come after the church age, at the end of the final Roman Empire, and, he comes when life on earth as we know it is about to end, because of Christ's return.

#### **3. Ch. 8 and Revelation show that- both leaders come in a time of wrath.**

- Antiochus brought his wrath on the Jews, and so will antichrist.
- But also, antichrist will arise and rule during the 7 year tribulation period, where God will consistently bring His wrath on a sinful world with 3 sets of judgments.

#### **4. 8:23a says- Antiochus comes- "when rebels have become completely wicked".**

- Antiochus was God's judgment on the Jews because most of them remained in their paganism, and then turned to Greek paganism, later, when that empire arose.
- When antichrist arises, Christians and their moral influence will be gone from the world because of the rapture, and antichrist will bring wickedness to its fullest.

#### **5. Both leaders- " become strong but not by their own power". (24a)**

- Antiochus' strength and wickedness made the Jews believe he was demon possessed.
- Rev. 13, 2 Ths. 2 tell us that antichrist will be Satan's man, empowered by him.

## **6. Both leaders are highly deceptive.**

- Dan. 8:25 says "when they (the Jews) feel secure, *Antiochus* will destroy many".
- Antiochus deceived the Jews, and when they let down their guard, he destroyed many of them.
- Antichrist will favor the Jews and allow their worship, but later, will turn on them completely.

## **7. Both leaders perform the detestable desolation of Temple worship. (13)**

- Antiochus took over the Temple and disgraced the it's worship in many ungodly ways.  
Antichrist will do the same.
- In Mat 24- Jesus warned the NT Jews that the coming antichrist would do this,  
just as Daniel wrote.

## **8. Both leaders will "take *their* stand against the prince of princes". (8:25c)**

- Antiochus named himself - "Epiphanies"- 'God made manifest'.
- And when Antiochus defiled God's Temple worship, he was defying Christ, because everything about the Temple pictured Christ, and His coming to die for sin.
- For antichrist, Rev 13:6 says- "he will open his mouth to blaspheme God,  
and slander his name, his dwelling place and those in heaven." (2 Thess. 2:4)

## **9. Dan 8:25 says- "*Antiochus* will be destroyed but not by human power".**

- Antiochus didn't die in battle, but from complications from ulcers and worms.
- Rev 19, 2 Ths. 2 say Antichrist will die by being thrown into the lake of fire by Jesus Himself.  
(Good riddance to both of them)

**Sum-** This vision, showed Daniel 2 men that would be earlier replicas of the future antichrist.

\* The large horn - was Alexander the Great, who showed how quickly antichrist will conquer.

\* The small horn (Antiochus IV) portrayed how ruthless and blasphemous antichrist will be.

@ And the key item in the vision is Antiochus, who showed Daniel that before the final empire produced the antichrist, God will send another king much sooner,  
to persecute the Jews for their long-term disobedience to God.

**CONCLUSION; (Vs 26-27) Note 3 things.**

**1. (read vs 26) Daniel is given a command to "seal up the vision".**

- Daniel was shown things hundreds of years away, and things that haven't yet arrived, so he is to "seal them up", Literally, seal them with wax to care for and preserve them.
- Daniel wrote and protected them, and the Lord used faithful Jews to preserve His Word. (Our job- we are to preserve God's Word, by believing, defending, and spreading it).

**2. (read vs 27) This vision made Daniel sick. Why? Here are 2 main reasons.**

- a. The text says "he was appalled (astonished)", because "it was beyond understanding".
- John MacArthur says the NKJV gives the best understanding of this phrase. It says--  
"I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it".
  - Daniel saw the vision and Gabriel explained it, so it wasn't that Daniel couldn't grasp it.
  - He was so astonished and upset because he did grasp the future danger for the Jews.
  - When he was told to "seal it up" to preserve it, he did, and then he shared it with all the Jews he could, but apparently most paid little attention, and didn't grasp the seriousness of it.
- b. Daniel loved Israel, so he was upset at the thought of their ongoing sin and judgment.
- , Moses said God would judge Israel for their sin, but bless them if they repented.
  - , The 10 northern tribes were taken 175 years earlier; Judah 50 years earlier, all for their sin.
  - , In 15 yrs, the Persians will let Israel return to their land, but being comfortable and complacent in their sin, only 50,000 did. The rest stayed in pagan Babylon, and later, many who returned to Israel, openly embraced Greek paganism.
  - , Daniel yearned for the Jews to remember their godly heritage, and repent, but he now knows they will continue to sin and suffer God's judgment, long into the future. (why he's sick)

**Sum-** Israel is a lesson on how easy it is for God's people to get caught up in sin and failure.  
Jesus- "Watch and pray so you don't fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, the flesh is weak."

**Also,** Israel is a lesson about God's restraint of a nation. When sin reaches a certain point and God is thoroughly offended, He may finally 'give a nation over' to the sin they have proven they love. He has done so many times. (Rom 1)

### **3. Antiochus' demonstrated how Satan attacks God and His people.**

\* Dan 8:11-12 show the Satanic leader Antiochus did 3 things- "He took away the daily **sacrifice**, overthrew God's **sanctuary**, and threw **truth** to the ground".

#### **1<sup>st</sup>- Satan attacks the daily sacrifices.**

- The sacrifices pictured Christ's death for our sin, but they also demonstrated how the Jews were to serve and follow God daily.
- Today, we are called to sacrifice our life as believers, to present our bodies as living **sacrifices** to be holy, and deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Christ.
- Satan will do all he can to stop us from a life of sacrifice to obey and follow Christ.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup>- Satan attacks the sanctuary.**

- That place pictured God's fellowship with His people. It was where God's glory rested, and the Jews sensed God's presence and communion with them.
- Satan tries to keep us from our sanctuary, which is our time to commune with God.
- He knows that time brings changed hearts and inner righteousness, so he hates and fights it.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup>- Satan attacks the truth.** (He threw truth to the ground- trying to destroy it)

- Satan is the father of lies, so he hates God's truth, tries to hide it, twist it, and destroy it.
- If he can keep our mind clouded and preoccupied with wrong and twisted thinking he can steal our righteousness, because the Word is our spiritual food, to purify us.

1 Pet 5:8-9- Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 Thess 5:5-6 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.