

OT-OV

Lesson 121

1. Earlier I began an overview of the Book of Daniel. We are going to review some of that learned and then pick up with new material at point 9 below.
2. Daniel was written by Daniel from Babylon in about 534. Daniel from Babylon tells of the struggles of the exile while providing remarkable prophecies of five world empires and their relationship to Israel.
3. So far I have given you an expanded translation of chapters one, two, three, four, five, six and seven where we found a history of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being taken hostage by Nebuchadnezzar, adjusting to their new surroundings and prospering as young men under various trials and triumphs.
4. Chapter one recall tells of the exile of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, their training and acceptance as men of outstanding character.
5. Chapter two tells of Nebuchadnezzar's dream where he saw a giant statue; Daniel not only tells the King what he dreamed but the meaning of that dream.
6. Chapter three tells of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being tested and placed in a fiery furnace.
7. Chapter four tells of Nebuchadnezzar's zoanthropy, his recovery and salvation testimony.
8. Chapter five tells of the writing on the wall, Daniel's explanation and the demise of Babylon; the Medes and Persians are seen replacing Babylon as an empire just as Daniel predicted in chapter two.
9. Chapter six tells of Daniel being tested in the lion's den and Darius' positive reaction.
10. Chapter seven tells of Daniel's vision of the sea creatures which provide further information about the five gentile empires to come.
11. We are now ready for Daniel chapter eight - Daniel sees a conquering Persia conquered by Greece

Dan 8:1 In the third year of Prince Belshazzar's reign over Babylon, I, Daniel, had another vision. The year was approximately 550.

Dan 8:2 In my vision, I saw myself being transported both in space and time to a large palace in the city of Suza, in the province of Elam. In the vision, I was standing beside the Ulai Canal.

Dan 8:3 I, Daniel, looked up, and there before me was a ram (Medo-Persia) with two horns. The horns of the ram were long, but one of the horns (Persia) was much longer than the other. Somehow I knew the longer horn grew up out of the ram's head after the shorter horn (Medes).

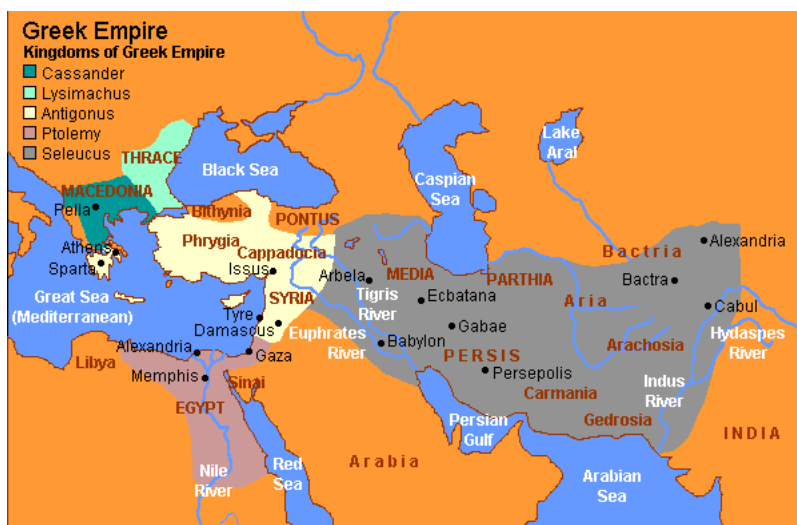
Dan 8:4 I watched as the ram charged first toward the west, then the north and finally to the south. Strangely, the animal did not charge to the east. The ram was extremely powerful and dominant. There was nothing that could stand before him. All that got in his way succumbed to the ram's power. The dominant ram did as he pleased and became great.

Dan 8:5 As I was pondering what I had seen, a large male goat (Grecian Empire) suddenly appeared, with a prominent horn (Alexander) between his eyes. The goat had come from the west; I could see him bounding quickly across the whole earth. The goat moved with purpose and alacrity; so quick was his pace that his feet did not touch the ground.

Dan 8:6 The two-horned ram was still standing beside the canal outside the city of Suza. The goat, without breaking stride, suddenly charged in a fit of rage.

Dan 8:7 The large male goat attacked the ram, shattering the ram's two horns. The defenseless ram was powerless to stand against the goat. The ram tried to fight back, but the goat repeatedly knocked him to the ground. No one could rescue the ram from the power of the goat.

Dan 8:8 The male goat became the leader of a formidable empire, but at the height of his power, on a return trip from conquering Pakistan, the large horn, representing Alexander the Great, was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up. These four horns represented four generals who took over from Alexander. The goat's kingdom was divided among the four. The four were Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus.



Dan 8:9 From one of the horns, the horn of Seleucus, came an infamous horn, Antiochus Epiphanes. He started small but grew in power to the south, to the east and toward the land of Israel. Antiochus reigned from c. 175 B.C. to 164 B.C.

Dan 8:10 The horn grew until it reached the heavens, representing the meteoric rise to power of Epiphanes. The horn soon began a systematic persecution of God's people in the land that God had given Israel.

Dan 8:11 The horn, Antiochus Epiphanes from the line of Seleucus, thought of himself as the Lord God. In Israel he stopped all worship in the Temple. He even stopped the daily sacrifices and desecrated the Temple with, first, the blood of pigs and later the blood of Jewish children. Antiochus Epiphanes was a type of Antichrist to come.

Dan 8:12 Under the permissive will of God, Antiochus dominated Israel. He took complete charge of the Temple liturgy, demanding Israel worship the Greek pantheon. For a time, he prospered in everything he did. His ultimate demeaning of Israel and Jehovah God came when he had pig blood smeared in the Holy of Holies.

Dan 8:13 I heard one of the angels say to an angel standing nearby, "How long will it take for this awful vision to be fulfilled? When will the vision concerning the cessation of the daily sacrifice, the desolation of the Temple and the surrender of the sanctuary to foreigners come to pass?"

Dan 8:14 The angel turned to me, as though I had asked the question. "It will take twenty-three hundred days from the desecration of the Temple until its cleansing. "I, Daniel, thought long and hard as to the meaning of the twenty-three hundred days.

Dan 8:15 While I was trying to understand the meaning of the vision, I suddenly saw the figure of a man standing in front of me. He looked like a man, although he could have been an angel, or a Theophany.

Dan 8:16 I heard another man call from across the river, "Gabriel, tell Daniel the meaning of the vision."

Dan 8:17 Gabriel walked toward me. As he approached, I was too frightened to stand. I fell flat on my face. "Son of man," he said, "you must understand that the events you have seen in your vision will not take place until the last days."

Dan 8:18 Strangely enough, while on the ground I passed out. Gabriel revived me with a touch. He assisted me to my feet.

Dan 8:19 "I am here," he said, "to tell you what is going to happen during the Great Tribulation. What you saw pertains to the final events of planet earth." Dan 8:20 I was told the two-horned ram represented the kings of Media and Persia.

Dan 8:21 The goat, with the large horn, was said to represent the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes represented the first king, Alexander the Great.

Dan 8:22 The four horns that replaced the one broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from Alexander's Greece; the four, will not, however, be as powerful as Alexander.

Dan 8:23 Now at the end of the reign of the four Greek kings, when the gentile world has become particularly morally rotten, a very angry king shall rise to power. His name historically is Antiochus Epiphanes, a type of Antichrist; he will be very shrewd, cruel and intelligent, just as will his final gentile successor, the Antichrist of the Tribulation.

Dan 8:24 Both Antiochus and the Antichrist will become very strong, but not by their own power. Each will be indwelt by Satan. Both will cause terrible devastation and will succeed for a short time. They will attempt to destroy God's people, Israel.

Dan 8:25 Each will cause deceit to prosper, and both will consider themselves superior, not only to other men, but each will think himself greater than God. They will destroy many and take a stand against God Himself. Yet both will fail. Antiochus will be defeated by the Maccabees and the Antichrist will be destroyed by Christ at His Second Advent.

Dan 8:26 "The vision given you is true, but keep it to yourself, for it concerns the distant future."

Dan 8:27 I, Daniel, was absolutely exhausted, and for several days I retired to my bed, too sick to perform my duties. After I recovered, I went back to work as the king's chief administrator; however, I continued to anxiously ponder the vision. The whole prophecy was beyond my understanding.

Daniel, Chapter Nine – Daniel prays asking when will we be permitted to return to the land.

Dan 9:1 It was the first year of the reign of King Darius, about 538. Darius, a son of the king of Media, was made king of Babylon at the promulgation of Cyrus, king of Persia.

Dan 9:2 In the first year of Darius's reign, I was pleased to read from the scroll of Jeremiah. In the scroll it clearly taught that our exile into Babylonia would last for only 70 years. I and 69 others were deported in 606. We were therefore in our 68th year of captivity. The time of our return was surely drawing near. Jeremiah also said our return would not occur until after the king of Babylon had been punished. Given the fact that Babylon had just been captured by the Medo-Persians, I felt it appropriate to beseech the Lord to do what He had promised to Jeremiah in His Word.

Dan 9:3 I gave myself totally over to the Lord God and prayed. I also fasted in order not to be distracted, wore sack cloths and covered my body with ashes to demonstrate my state of abject humility and reliance on His grace.

Dan 9:4 I began, "O Lord, You are great and awesome, for You always fulfill Your promises of uncompromising love to those who keep Your protocol.

Dan 9:5 Clearly, we have sinned. We have rebelled against You and scorned Your commands.

Dan 9:6 We have refused to listen to Your servants the prophets, whom You sent again and again with messages to our kings and princes and to all the people.

Dan 9:7 "O Lord, You are righteous, but as for us, we are stained with sin. Yes, all of us, the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem and all Israel. You have scattered us from Assyria to Persia. You have driven us out of the promised land because of our rebellion against You.

Dan 9:8 "O Lord, we, our kings and princes and families are weighed down with shame because of our sins.

Dan 9:9 But we know You are full of uncompromising love and pardon, even to the worst of us.

Dan 9:10 “Lord God, we have disobeyed You; we have disregarded and hated the laws Your priests and prophets gave us.

Dan 9:11 All Israel has disobeyed; we have turned away from You and haven't listened to Your voice. And now Your ultimate curse has crushed us. The last cycle of discipline described by Moses, Your servant, has come to pass.

Dan 9:12 “You have done exactly as You warned us You would do. Never, in all of history, has there been a disaster like that which took place in Jerusalem. The walls, the houses and the Temple have been destroyed and the people removed to a foreign gentile land.

Dan 9:13 Every curse written in the law of Moses has come upon us. Although You gave us ample warning discipline, we still refused to humble ourselves and turn from our wicked ways.

Dan 9:14 You have deliberately crushed us. You did not hesitate to chasten us as wayward children. Your judgments were righteous, yet we remained prodigals, wasting the love of our Father.

Dan 9:15 “O Sovereign Lord our God, You once brought lasting honor to Your name by removing Your people from Egypt. The exodus was a clear demonstration of Your power and love. Lord, I ask that You do it again. Deliver us, even though we have sinned and done wrong.

Dan 9:16 Show us Your uncompromising love. The gentiles mock you because of our sins, and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem, Your city, and Your holy mountain objects of scorn.

Dan 9:17 “O Sovereign Lord, hear Your servant's prayer! Listen as I plead! Let Your face shine again with peace and joy upon Your desolate sanctuary. If for no other reason, do it for Your own glory!

Dan 9:18 O my Sovereign God, bend down Your ear and listen to me. Open Your eyes and see the ruins of the city and the Temple. Everyone knows that Jerusalem and all that is located therein is Yours. We don't ask because we merit help, but because You are merciful.

Dan 9:19 “O Sovereign Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen to me and act! Don't delay! For Your sake, Lord, do it now for Your people and the city that bears Your name.”

Dan 9:20 While I was confessing my personal sins and the sins of the nation, and pleading to the Lord God in prayer and, yes, even while petitioning on behalf of the holy city Jerusalem,

Dan 9:21 the angel Gabriel, whom I had earlier met, was on his way. He had been sent from the third heaven in time for the evening sacrifice.

Dan 9:22 Gabriel had been sent with special instructions. “Daniel, I am here to help you understand God's plans.

Dan 9:23 I want you to know that just as soon as your prayer was uttered, I was commanded to leave heaven. I was ordered: ‘Go now to the man whom God loves and answer his prayer, tell him the answer and explain to Daniel that the 70th week prophecy is complicated. Urge him to ponder the message and to meditate thereon.’

Dan 9:24 Gabriel continued, "Daniel I have heard your prayer; 490 years have been cut out for your people. I have not forgotten my beloved Israel. It is within this 490 year period that I will: anoint the Temple, make an end of sins, bring in everlasting righteousness and fulfill the Messianic promise by establishing the Messiah as Israel's King.

Dan 9:25 "I want you to understand that from the commandment to rebuild the city of Jerusalem (a command which will occur only once) until the day the Messiah arrives in Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday shall be 483 years. The streets of Jerusalem and its inner and outer walls shall be restored, even in dangerous times. Nehemiah and his people will work on the city walls with a trowel in one hand and sword and spear in the other.

Dan 9:26 After the 49 years it will take to complete Nehemiah's construction work will be another 434 years, and after that (49+434=483) the Messiah will be crucified, not on behalf of Himself but as a substitute for the sins of the world. Later the Romans, as a precursor of the Antichrist, will come and destroy the city and the Temple. The traumatic destruction in A.D. 70 is but a representation of what the future will hold for Israel. The destruction of the Temple and the city by Titus in A.D. 70 will begin an uncertain time gap in the 490 years." (Many will later style the interruption as the Church Age.)

Dan 9:27 He continued, "After the removal of the church from the planet, the Antichrist will make a treaty with Israel guaranteeing freedom to worship Jehovah God in an ersatz temple for seven years. Be aware, however, that in the middle of those seven years the Antichrist will break the treaty, erect an image of himself in a wing of the temple and cause all worship to cease. He will continue to reign until the Messiah returns to destroy him."

End Lesson