The Most High God
Ruler of Heaven and Earth

Daniel’s Vision
of the Ram and the Goat
Daniel 8
Lesson 8

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
July 20, 2014
The End of the Nation Israel

- Fall of Samaria – 722 B.C.
- Fall of Jerusalem – 586 B.C.
- Fulfillment of God’s Word:
  - Deuteronomy 28:15-68
  - Isaiah 39:5-8
  - Jeremiah 19; 23:14, 39-40
  - Ezekiel 5, 16
An Epic Disaster

▶ The Promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3, 7)
  • A Great Nation (Genesis 17:1-8; 18:17-18)
  • Joseph’s hope (Genesis 50:24-26)
  • The reason for the exodus (Exodus 2:24-25)
  • A new nation under God’s Law (Exodus 19-20)
  • A Kingdom and a King forever (2 Samuel 7:16; 23:5)

▶ The Law of Moses demanded termination
  • Deuteronomy 28-29; Ezekiel 16, 23

▶ How to reconcile the Promise with the Law?
  • The present reality: Israel is no more!
In a time of despair, God speaks!

- World history from now to eternity
- 5 kingdoms (Daniel 2, 7)
  - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, Kingdom of Heaven
  - Awesome splendor (Daniel 2:31)
  - Awful beasts (Daniel 7)
- The Possessor of heaven and earth rules
God Remembers His Promise

- Israel, critical for the work of salvation
  - 70 weeks
  - 2 close-up views of Israel (8, 11)

- How then shall we live?
  - Be holy
  - Trust in the Lord
  - Be devoted to God
  - Hope in God’s grace
Daniel – Outline

- (1) No defilement (Hebrew)
- (2-7) The times of the Gentiles (Aramaic)
- (8-12) The Promise continues (Hebrew)
  - The Beautiful Land in the Promise of God
  - Finish transgression, make atonement, bring in everlasting righteousness
  - Messiah cut off
  - Resurrection to everlasting life or everlasting contempt
Daniel’s Vision – time and place

- 14 years before the fall of Babylon to Cyrus
- Shushan - province of Elam (Jeremiah 49:34-39)
The Ram and Goat

- Ram with 2 horns (8:3-4)
  - Standing in front of the canal
  - One horn came later but longer than the first
  - Butted west, north, south (from Shushan)
  - None could withstand or rescue from his power
  - Sovereign and magnified himself
  - Psalm 34:3 – “Magnify the LORD . . .”
The Ram and the Goat

- Male goat with one horn between his eyes (8:5-8)
  - Came from the west
  - Moved without touching the ground
  - Rushed at the ram and destroyed his horns – none to rescue
  - Magnified himself
  - Horn broken at the height of his power
  - 4 conspicuous horns
  - 4 winds of heaven
One Small Horn (8:9-14)

- From one of the four toward the Beautiful Land
- Grew up to host of heaven
- Caused host and stars to fall – trampled them
- Magnified to be equal to the Commander of the host (Joshua 5:14)
- Removed regular sacrifice and place of His sanctuary
- Host will be given over to him – due to transgression
  - Regular sacrifice given to him – Fling truth the ground
- Perform his will and prosper
- Limitation – 2300 days – vindication
Daniel seeks understanding (8:15-19)

- A man – voice only (? Christ)
- Gabriel – told to give Daniel understanding
- *Pertains to* the time of the end
- At the final period of indignation (wrath)
- Isaiah 66:14; Jeremiah 10:10
The Ram and the Goat (8:20-22)

- Ram with two horns is Media and Persia (538 BC)
  - Isaiah 13:17-19; 45:1-3 – 160 years before the event
  - Now, 14 years before the Medo-Persian empire

- Male goat with horn is Greece and its first king (336 BC)
  - 216 years before Alexander the Great
  - Broken horn and 4 horns
  - Four lesser kingdoms – less power
The king in the latter time (8:23-26)

- Latter time of the 4 kingdoms
- Transgressors reached full measure (Gen 15:16)
- Insolent and skilled in intrigue
- Powerful – not by his own power
- He will destroy to an extraordinary degree
- Destroy the mighty men and the holy people
- Shrewd, deceitful, proud (magnify self)
- Oppose Prince of Princes
- Broken without human agency
Vision of the evenings and mornings

- 2300 days (8:14) – main point of this vision
- It is true – actual history!
- Secret – Matthew 11:25-30 – “learn of Me”
- Pertains to many days in the future (8:19, 26)
Daniel’s Response (8:27)

- Daniel overcome – sick for days
  - 7:15 – my spirit distressed within me . . . my mind kept alarming me
  - 7:28 – my thoughts greatly alarming me and my face grew pale
  - A fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb. 10:31)

- Daniel returned to the king’s business

- Astounded – none to explain
  - Daniel 9 – 70 weeks
  - Daniel 11 – the abomination of desolation
  - Matthew 24-25
Vision of the Evenings and Mornings

- An event in Greek history
- A figure of the “appointed time of the end”
- Climax of the invisible war against Christ
- A solemn word of hope
- 1 Peter 5:8