

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