

UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

... the just shall live by his faith Habakkuk 2:4



DANIEL

Faith In His Sovereignty

The Coming Conquest

Daniel 8:1-27

Lesson 14

Background Information

Belshazzar's third year is likely either 550 or 547 B.C. The Ulai Canal is in the vicinity of Susa, the capital of the territory of Elam, some two hundred miles from Babylon. When this vision was given, Babylon was securely in power. Though the vision will deal with the emergence and destiny of the Greek Empire, the Greek Empire was not much of anything at the time the prophecy came to Daniel. This vision came to Daniel before the fateful banquet described in chapter five. This explains why the Babylonian Empire isn't mentioned, for within a dozen years Babylon would be taken by Cyrus, who would usher in the rule of the Medes and Persians.

As in the rest of Daniel, the prophecy chronicles history, along with prophesying what will happen in the future. It helps us see that Satan is always ready to put his plan into action, but God alone is in control of the final timing of the end of the age. No one was able to understand the vision in Daniel's time. The reason why **no one understood it** was because the vision was sealed until the time of its future fulfillment.

From chapter eight to the end of the book of Daniel, the text is written in Hebrew, for the major emphasis of these chapters is God's plan for the nation of Israel in the end times. Worshipping false gods and listening to false prophets had led to Israel's spiritual decay and ultimate collapse as a nation. The people hadn't obeyed what the prophets commanded, so Israel was exiled in Babylon; and there they learned to take the prophetic word very seriously, because it was the only hope they possessed. The church today needs to heed the word of prophecy because it's the light of certainty in a world of darkness and uncertainty.

Treasures of the Heart

"Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be.

Daniel 8:15



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Daniel 8:1-12

1 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel--after the one that appeared to me the first time. 2 I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I [was] in Shushan, the citadel, which [is] in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the river Ulai. 3 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns [were] high; but one [was] higher than the other, and the higher [one] came up last. 4 I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor [was there any] that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.

5 And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat [had] a notable horn between his eyes. 6 Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power. 7 And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand. 8 Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.

9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious [Land]. 10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down [some] of the host and [some] of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. 11 He even exalted [himself] as high as the Prince of the host; and

Daniel 8:13-19

13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and [another] holy one said to that certain [one] who was speaking, "How long [will] the vision [be, concerning] the daily [sacrifices] and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?" 14 And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."

15 Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice between [the banks of] the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this [man] understand the vision." 17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision [refers] to the time of the end." 18 Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. 19 And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end [shall be]."



Daniel 8:20-27

20 "The ram which you saw, having the two horns--[they are] the kings of Media and Persia. 21 "And the male goat [is] the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that [is] between its eyes [is] the first king. 22 "As for the broken [horn] and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

23 "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. 24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and [also] the holy people. 25 "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt [himself] in his heart. He shall destroy many in [their] prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without [human] means. 26 "And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; therefore seal up the vision, For [it refers] to many days [in the future]."

27 And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.



What does it mean?



What lesson can I draw from my observations? Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?” Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Daniel 8:1-12 _____

Daniel 8:13-19 _____

Daniel 8:20-27 _____

How can I apply it?



Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 *words* or less)

Daniel 8:1-12 _____

Daniel 8:13-19 _____

Daniel 8:20-27 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

What **D**id **G**od **S**ay?

God's Words to us reveal what He wants us to understand Who He is and know His ways. **See if you can discover God's sovereign rule behind the scenes – and how He expects His people to act in the midst of difficult circumstances. Simply state what God is trying to communicate about Himself and how it can help you trust Him when you can't see Him working.**

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

Define three words: does it supply any added meaning to the text?



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Daniel 8:1-12 _____

Daniel 8:13-19 _____

Daniel 8:20-27 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth...

Daniels vision teaches us a consistent pattern of satanic opposition to the work of God among His people in a threefold manner: take the daily sacrifices away, cast down the Lord's sanctuary and cast truth to the ground. These illustrate three areas that satan consistently attacks in the Lord's people.

