

PURPOSE OF STUDY: To show how the Antichrist has put himself in the place of Christ, instituted a false system of salvation and worship, and has prospered; and that prophecy foretells the overthrow of the Antichrist and the restoration and exaltation of the priestly ministry of Jesus Christ.

TEXTS:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. DA 8:1-8 (7:17, 23) | 7. 2TH 2:3-4 |
| 2. DA 8:20-21 | 8. DA 8:25 |
| 3. DA 8:9 | 9. DA 8:13-14 |
| 4. DA 8:10, 24 (12:3) | 10. LEV 16:29-30, 33 |
| 5. DA 8:11-12 (7:25) | 11. DA 8:17, 25-26 |
| 6. HEB 9:24 (8:1-2) | |

THE STUDY:

- 1. What two beasts does Daniel see in this vision, and what do they represent? DA 8:1-8 (7:17, 23)**
A ram and a goat. Just as in the prophecy of Daniel 7, a beast represents a kingdom.
- 2. Who does the angel Gabriel explain that the ram and goat represent? DA 8:20-21**
Daniel 8 is a perfect parallel to Daniel 2 and 7. The vision starts with Medo-Persian empire as the Babylonian empire is about to pass off the stage. The ram represents the kingdom of Medo-Persia, and the goat represents the kingdom of Greece. These animals represent world powers, as “no one” can deliver from them. The large horn represents the king that led Greece to world dominion, Alexander the Great. The four horns that came up in his place are the four generals that divided Alexander’s empire, Lysimachus, Cassander, Seleucus and Ptolemy. We can assume without much question that the next power to come will be Rome.
- 3. How does the Bible describe the conquests of the next “little horn” kingdom? DA 8:9**
*It is important to note that the ram was described as “great” (v. 4), the goat as “very great” (v. 8), and the little horn as “exceedingly great” (v. 9). This, too, must be describing a world empire. The growth of the empire is toward the south, east and Palestine – the territories gained over the existing realm of Greece. This description fits the conquest of the Roman Empire “perfectly as it picked off the four main pieces of the Greek Empire – Macedonia and Pergamum to the east in 168 and 133 B.C., the ‘Beautiful Land’ of Judea in 60 B.C., and Egypt to the south in 33 B.C.” – William H. Shea, *The Bible Amplifier Series: Daniel 7-12*, p. 39.*
- 4. How does the vision foretell the rise of Papal Rome? DA 8:10, 24 (12:3)**
*The horn grows “up to the host of heaven...” This points to Rome’s attempted conquest in the spiritual realm. The Bible says this power would cast down some of the host and stars and trample them. This verse is demonstrating Rome’s metamorphosis from pagan Rome into papal Rome. The word “host,” from the Hebrew word *tsaba*, means “that which goes forth; an army.” This refers to the civil powers overthrown by Imperial Rome. The stars, on the other hand, refer to God’s people (Da. 12:3; Ge. 15:5), and the throwing down of the stars represents religious persecution. This is also seen in the angel’s interpretation, referring to the “host and stars” as “the mighty [civil leaders] **and also** the holy [religious leaders] people.” This horn depicts Rome in its imperial and papal stages.*
- 5. How does the Bible describe the work of Papal Rome? DA 8:11-12 (7:25)**
*Here Rome is described as exalting itself as high as the Prince of the Host (Prince of Princes – v. 25), taking away the daily sacrifices (Heb. *tamid*), casting down the place of the Prince’s sanctuary, and casting truth to the ground. The truth includes the truth of Christ’s mediatorial work of Atonement, the Bible Sabbath, and other Bible truths that we will discover have been obscured by human philosophy and tradition. The term “daily sacrifices” refers to the “continual” (*tamid*) work of the temple (see Ex. 29:38-42; 27:20; 25:30; 30:8). The Prince of Princes refers to Jesus.*

6. Where is the sanctuary, or temple, of Jesus located? HEB 9:24 (8:1-2)

In heaven, where Jesus is working continually for us.

7. How would papal Rome “cast down” a temple in heaven? 2TH 2:3-4

He would “sit as God in the temple of God...” The prophecy says that papal Rome would actually take the place of Christ and His truth by substituting a man-made temple and priesthood, with altars, incense, priests, and sacrifices. This is only a further explanation of the blasphemy of Rome revealed in Daniel 7.

“By placing human intercession into the hands of priests, the use of the confessional and by sacrificing Christ anew in every Mass, the papacy has eclipsed Christ’s heavenly ministry in the minds of the worshipers. Believers no longer approach Christ directly; instead they go to the priest, to the saints, or to Mary. By substituting the priest’s service here on earth for Christ’s role in the heavenly sanctuary the little horn has symbolically ‘cast down the place of His sanctuary’ to the earth and thereby defiled it.” – G. Pfandl, Daniel, the Seer of Babylon, p. 80.

8. What would prosper in the place of truth during the reign of the little horn? DA 8:25

Deceit, or lies. This was effectively accomplished by keeping the Bible away from the common people, and allowing only interpretations of Scripture made by the priests. During this time, the errors of pagan worship were brought into the church to make it more appealing to the pagan culture, while Biblical teachings were almost completely lost sight of. Thus it was that tradition took the place of the Bible.

9. When would God restore the truth about Jesus’ priestly ministry, and by what means? DA 8:13-14

At the end of the 2300 days. The Bible gives two time periods here, one definite (2300 days), and one indefinite (the cleansing of the sanctuary). God said that at the end of the 2300 days, He would begin a work that would restore His downtrodden truth; restore the priestly ministry of Christ in the minds of His followers; vindicate His people; overthrow the errors of superstition and tradition that had made their home in the Christian church; and begin a work of cleansing that would break the power of the little horn for good.

10. What does the expression “cleansing of the sanctuary” refer to? LEV 16:29-30, 33

The cleansing of the sanctuary refers to the Day of Atonement, the Hebrew Day of Judgment. We will study this further in an upcoming lesson.

11. When would all these things come to pass? DA 8:17, 25-26

For well over a thousand years, through the period of the Dark Ages and beyond, the truth of God and the salvation ministry of Christ has been buried under the traditions and errors of the Papacy. The little horn was to be broken “without human means,” or literally “without hand”. This is the very same expression used in Daniel 2 to describe the cutting out of the stone that represented the second coming of Christ and the reign of His eternal kingdom. In the last days, at the time of the end, God will put an end to the work of the antichrist power and restore His downtrodden truth in preparation for His return in glory. “The vision... is true...”

APPEAL:

The precious truths about Jesus’ ministry and teaching are essential to God’s true followers at the end of time. In order to prepare people for His coming by, it was essential that Jesus restore the downtrodden truths of His word. This He proposed to do at the end of the 2300 days. In our next lesson, we will study the time prophecy of the 2300 days to discover exactly when, not just in theory, but in His people. Just now, Jesus is doing a work of preparation. It is His final work, and He invites us take our stand with the truth and let that truth become a part of our lives. Won’t you choose to commit yourself to Him today?