

Keys to Prophecy



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#5 - The Time of the End

Daniel 8

In a prior presentation we looked at Daniel 7 - Where we saw a progression of four kings - Just like Daniel 2
 Babylon - Medo-Persia - Greece - Rome - which divided into 10 horns - 10 kingdoms
 Then came a Little Horn - which uprooted 3 of the 10 - Had eyes like a man - Spoke boastful words against God
 Warred against the saints - Claimed the power to change God's law -
 And reigned for 3 ½ times - or 1260 years of symbolic time

This Little Horn - as we discovered - was the great pretender - Christianity gone bad - The medieval apostasy -
 The Church Christ established degenerated into anti-Christ - Working against, not for God any longer
 Saying monstrous things about God - Warring against those who remained faithful to God
 Daniel 7's focus was on the rise of the Little Horn from the ruins of Iron Rome -
 To replace Rome's political world rule over the nations of Europe for the next 1260 years
 When the Church grabbed the arm of the state to enforce its views on the world

And that is truly Anti-Christ - For Jesus Christ would never do that - Jesus never uses Force - Only LOVE
 Even if the church were correct in every doctrinal area - It is anti-Christ to use civil force in spiritual matters
 All the power of all the kingdoms that ever reigned - Can not change one heart - or produce one conversion
Conversion is not coercion - And coercion can never produce conversion
 God gave His church the power of the Holy Spirit - Not of the political state
 And to turn to the political state to enforce the teaching of the church - de-legitimizes both

God never uses physical force - Only the force of love - **God is in control, but never controlling**
 Jesus could have stopped Judas from betraying him - or the Jews and Romans from crucifying Him
 But LOVE never uses coercion - even if it has the power to coerce
 Love protects freedom - Even the freedom to make wrong choices and suffer the consequences
 We will explore that in depth in sessions ahead

Tonight we are going to cover Daniel 8 - Tomorrow night at Daniel 9 - Two chapters that are inseparably linked
 Daniel 8 contains the longest time prophecy in the Bible - Daniel 9 contains the key to that time prophecy
 Following the principle of repetition and expansion - These chapters again deal with this Little Horn
 But from a different perspective -
 Specifically addressing how and when God will move to put right what the Little Horn has done wrong so long
 After 1260 years of misrepresentation of God's character - of the Gospel
 Will God let the world die under this great delusion - or will God bring the truth back to light for all to see?

After all - Jesus said...

☐ Matthew 24:14 (960) *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

No matter how much delusion has been foisted on the people of the world
 God declares that the true witness of the truth of the Gospel of His Kingdom must and will be presented
 to all nations before his return.
 So what does prophecy say about the restoration of truth in the end time?

☐ In Daniel 8 (866) - Daniel has another vision -

Daniel 8:1 *In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.*

This Daniel's 2nd vision - About 2 years after the vision in Daniel 7
 And Daniel remarks about this connection with the earlier vision

Daniel 8:2 *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.*

Daniel recognizes his surroundings - By a river just north of the Persian Gulf
 He had probably been to this location before on the King's business

Daniel 8:3 *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.*

☐ Ram Daniel sees a Ram - Two horns - Both high - Higher comes up last

What does this ram represent? - No need to speculate - look at verse 20

Daniel 8:20 *The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia.*

☐ The Ram represents the kings of Media and Persia - a coalition of two powers
 Same as the silver chest and arms - 2 arms - and the Bear raised up on one side
 Note the accuracy of the added detail -
 Two horns - Both high - Both strong: Two strong nations came together - The Medes and the Persians
 Higher came up last: Medes were stronger at first - Persians came to dominate the coalition
 Such that - in history - we simply hear of the Persian kingdom

Daniel 8:4 *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.*

Pushing west, north and south - Therefore came from the east - Media and Persia are east of Babylon
 If Babylon is Iraq - then Media and Persia are Iran
 No one could withstand - Conquered the known world

Did according to his will - and became GREAT - He grew - or expanded
 An Active verb - not passive - Something he does himself or to himself
 - Not what someone else did to or for him

☐ Therefore - He "greated" himself - GREW HIMSELF GREAT - expanded - magnified - made himself great
 An ATTITUDE of self exaltation and self expansion - of expanding CONTROL

Daniel 8:5-7 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.*

- Goat Came from the west
Had a single notable horn - Like a unicorn
Furious at the ram - Moved with rage - A motive of anger or revenge
Broke the goat's two horns - Trampled - Completely destroys the Ram

Daniel 8:8 *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.*

- Grew very great - Again active - He "greated" or magnified himself - grew himself - expanded his control
With an added modifier - very - much
Seems to suggest a wider control than Medo-Persia - Which is accurate - Extending further west and east
And a much greater legacy on the world to come
Large horn broken - Four replace it

Again - No need to speculate - Look at verses 21 and 22

Daniel 8:21-22 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.*

- The Goat = Greece - Same as belly and thighs of bronze - Leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads
The notable horn = 1st king - or premier king - Alexander the Great -
He conquered known world in 7 years - From Greece to India - Incredible speed - On foot
Died drunk near ancient Babylon - At age 33

The horn was broken - And four horns came up in its place

- Map When the dust settled - four kingdoms carried on the legacy of Greece - Under four of Alexander's generals
- West — Macedonia and Greece - under Cassander
- East — Thrace and Asia Minor - under Lysimachus
- North — Syria - Babylonia - Mesopotamia - under Seleucus I
- South — Egypt - under Ptolemy II

So far - we are in very familiar territory

Daniel 8:9-12 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 by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.*
¹²*Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.*

- A Little Horn - Sounds familiar - from Daniel 7
- v.9 He "greated" himself exceedingly
- Toward the south - east - and Glorious
This power would evidently come from the west - Gaining control over...
The south - Egypt; The east - Babylon-Mesopotamia; The Glorious land - Palestine - Daniel's homeland
- v.10 He greated himself - to the host of heaven - Cast down host and star - trampled them
- v.11 He even greated himself - to the Captain of the host - Took away the daily sacrifice? -
Cast down the the place of HIS Sanctuary - The dwelling place of the Captain of the Host
- v.12 - On account of transgression - A host will be given over - along with the daily sacrifice -
Cast down truth - Prosper

How does this Little Horn "great" himself? - By pulling others down - By casting things down

First - Notice the progression -

The Ram grows himself

The Goat grows himself much - Over the Ram

The Little Horn grows himself exceedingly - And that growth is defined - on three dimensions

1 - To south - east - Glorious land - DOWN - Physical territory

2 - To host of heaven - Cast down some of host and stars - OVER beings - Earthly or heavenly

3 - To Prince (Commander) of the host - UP to the top - Casting down the place of His sanctuary

Blasted thru the Host - And sacked the Commander's headquarters

A progression of self-aggrandizement -

Increasing domination - aspiration - control - desire for supremacy - ascendancy - All the way to the very top

Pulling down anything - everything - and everybody in his way

From kingdom to kingdom - Until this Little Horn is the ultimate Controller

Expands not only horizontally on earth - But vertically against God

And what is heaven's response to this progression? - Look at verse 13

Daniel 8:13-14 ¹³Then 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?"

¹⁴And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days' then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.

In v.13 - Daniel listens in on a heavenly conversation - Two angels discussion back and forth

One asks a question - How long...? - Literally: UNTIL WHEN...?

The vision...?

Specifically noting: the daily sacrifice?

The transgression that makes desolate?

The giving of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?

These are evidently very important terms to understand in deciphering this prophecy

And v.14 gives the answer - At the end of a time period of 2300 days - Literally: Until evening-morning 2300

An evening and a morning equals a day (Genesis 1:5,8,13) - So most translations say "2300 days"

THEN the sanctuary will be cleansed

The word "cleansed" refers not to just wiping the dust off or taking out the trash

But to be restored - refurbished - returned to its rightful or original condition

The focus is not so much on what the how long the Little Horn will do his devastating work

Of casting down the sanctuary and taking away the daily sacrifice

Not on how long the little horn will rule - That is settled in Daniel 7 - 1260 years - 538 to 1798

But how long until the results of his desolating rule will be reversed? - When will things be put right again?

When will what was cast down be restored - or built back up - to its original - rightful condition

The Effect outlasts the Cause

If someone attacks you - is beating on you - The police arrive - apprehend the attacker - Stopping the beating

The beating is over - But it will take some time before you are back to normal - The healing takes time

When Hitler was defeated - and dead - It took years to bring Europe back from the destruction he caused

United States task in Europe was not finished with the defeat of Hitler - We now had to help rebuild the ruins

That took years - Incredible resources - Hard work - Dedicated effort - Long after Hitler was gone

In the same way - The Little Horn of Daniel 7 rules for 1260 years -

Christianity did monstrous things against God and His faithful

When the political system of medieval Christianity was knocked down - imprisoned - ended

When the transgression that desolated God's people - God's truth - God's character - had been exiled

Now Christianity has to be rebuilt - What was destroyed must be restored -

Truth needs to be re-discovered - and re-proclaimed - Truth will triumph over error

That is the focus of Daniel 8 - How long until the restoration? - And a delineation of what needs to be restored

But what is the meaning of the wording in this passage? - The sanctuary being cast down - The daily being taken away
Put yourself in Daniel's shoes - In the context of his upbringing and world view

- A vision with a Ram and a Goat -
- An attack on the Glorious Land
- An assault on the Host of Heaven - And on the Prince or Commander of the Host
- The removal of the Daily Sacrifice - And destruction of the Sanctuary -
- Transgression - Casting Truth cast down

All these terms come directly out of what part of Daniel's heritage? - of Daniel's context?

From Daniel's religious context - His worship system - His spiritual world - The Jewish Temple
The Sanctuary is where the Daily Sacrifices take place - It was located in the Glorious Land of Israel
It dealt with the transgression and truth
It had been destroyed by Babylon some 40 years prior to this vision

In fact - This whole chapter changes the type of terminology from that used in Daniel 7

From wild animals to domestic beasts - From unclean beasts to clean animals - Sacrificial animals -
From the context of politics and nations - to the symbols of spirituality and religious understandings
From a focus on the physical domination over God's people - To the spiritual effects of that domination
From the language of nations conquering and ruling territories and people -
To the language of the spiritual perspective and religious system of ancient Israel - of Daniel

Let me ask you a question: What is the gospel? - in a few words

What if I asked you to share the gospel with someone without mentioning Jesus Christ - or the cross...

Without referring to Jesus life, death or resurrection - How would you do it? - Is it possible?

How many years of this world's history passed - according to the Biblical narrative - before Jesus was born?

Was the Gospel communicated to the world in any way prior to the time of Jesus? - If so, HOW?

- Hebrews 4:2 (1150) *For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.*

Speaking of the Israelites - At the time just after they left Egypt and camped at Mt. Sinai

The Gospel was preached to them - Then - Old Testament - Israel

As well as to us - Now - New Testament - Church

So for at least 4000 years - before the Cross - The gospel was preached - How?

The moment Adam and Eve sinned - God instituted the sacrifices - We will talk about this more on night #6

Designed to teach the consequences of sin - and what it would take to save us - What God would do to save us
Sacrifices were offered from Adam down to Moses

These sacrifices were designed to teach the Gospel - How people are saved from the condemnation of sin

God formalized the sacrificial system in the Hebrew Sanctuary

Which is simply a sand-box illustration of the Gospel

- And all these terms in Daniel 8 are straight out of the HEBREW SANCTUARY system

HEBREW SANCTUARY

One of the Greatest Keys to Bible Prophecy - is an understanding of the Hebrew Sanctuary and religious system

The Sanctuary was the context from which book of Daniel was written

The entire book of Revelation is set in this "sanctuary" language and imagery

If a Protestant walks into a Catholic Church - What is going on will be unintelligible until...

he learns something about the ritual - imagery - history - context of Catholic Christianity and worship

If a Catholic walks into a Protestant Church - He will run into the same problem

If a Christian walks into a Synagogue - Or the Jewish Temple (if it existed) - Orientation would be required
to understand the meaning of the rituals - sacrifices - and various activities

If a Christian walks into a Mosque - It will take some contextual education to understand what is going on

So - We must orient ourselves to Daniel's context - His religious understanding - What these terms meant to him

The Daily Sacrifice - The Sanctuary - The Host - The Prince of the Host

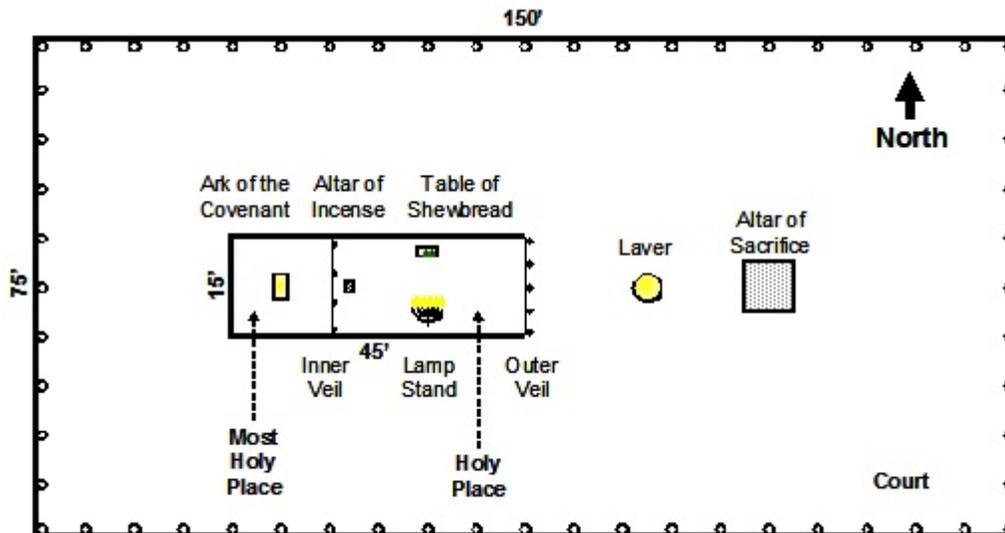
And we must pick up that understanding right here - before we can move on in decoding this prophecy - or others

So here goes - A really fast - basic - introduction to the Daniel's "church" - The Hebrew Sanctuary

- ☐ Exodus 25:8-9 (75) *⁸And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. ⁹According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.*

God gave a specific pattern - Exact detail - The next 15 chapter of Exodus explain this detail - Twice His Sanctuary - Where He would dwell with His people - A tent for God Himself within the camp of Israel
 The word for "Sanctuary" here is the same as in Daniel 8
 This word applies to the Hebrew Temple throughout the Old Testament

- ☐ Diagram - Here is a diagram of the original sanctuary - Also know as the Tabernacle in the Wilderness



History - The Israelites built it while camped at Mount Sinai - just after God gave the 10 Commandments
 Originally it was portable - A tent - The walls were Curtains
 Could be taken down - transported - setup wherever they camped
 400 years later - Solomon built the permanent temple in Jerusalem - After the same pattern -
 Double the size - Built of polished stones and carved cedar wood - Literally plated with Gold
 That Sanctuary was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon in 586 BC
 Rebuilding began in about 537 - Under order of Cyrus - Medo-Persian king - As predicted in Isaiah 44-45
 Building the Second Temple took many years to complete
 500 years later - King Herod - who tried to kill Jesus as a baby - Refurbished that temple
 That is the temple in which Jesus walked and taught
 The Romans destroyed the 2nd Temple in AD 70 - And it has never been rebuilt

Layout of the Sanctuary

- ☐ Large courtyard - About 150' x 75' - Enclosed by a curtain hung on 60 pillars -
 The entrance gate was on the east end
 This court contained two pieces of furniture - And a Tent
- ☐ Bronze Altar of Sacrifice - Where sacrificial lambs were slain and burned - Representing Pardon for sin
 Pointing forward to the Cross of Calvary where Jesus - the true Lamb of God - would die for our sins
- ☐ Bronze Laver - For washing - Representing cleansing from sin - Baptism - Transformation
- ☐ Tent - Called the tabernacle - about 45' long - 15' wide - x 15' tall - It was a flat roofed tent
 The front of the tent was at the center of the courtyard
 There was a curtain over the entrance
- ☐ Divided into two rooms - by the Veil
- ☐ The first room - Called the Holy Place - about 30' long
- ☐ The second Room - Called the Most Holy Place - about 15' long

The Holy Place contained three pieces of furniture -

- Golden Table of Shewbread - Representing Jesus - Bread of Life - Our Daily bread - Spiritual food
- Golden Lampstand - Representing Jesus - Light of the World - Fueled by the oil of the Holy Spirit
Our light for direction and inspiration - Through a dark world of sin
- Golden Altar of Incense - The smoke of burning incense representing Prayer - Communication
Our prayers - mingled with the perfection of Jesus Christ - Rising up before God's throne

The Most Holy Place - Contained just ONE piece of furniture

- Golden Ark of the Covenant - Small chest with a solid gold lid - With two cherubim on the top
Inside the Ark was the 10 commandments - Written on stone by God's finger - On Mt. Sinai
Representing God's Throne - God's presence resided there as a bright light between the Cherubim
Called the "shekina" - Brighter than the sun -

This sanctuary structure and its services are a life-size illustration of salvation

Think about it - How would you communicate the Gospel without the story of the Cross of Christ?

Without being able to refer back to Jesus' life - death - resurrection?

So God put together a dramatized illustration so that people who lived before Calvary could see it acted out

The Court represents this world - Where God would come to bear the penalty of sin for us - And wash us clean

Altar - God is not only able to pardon us for our sins - Because he bore the death-consequences Himself

Laver - God is also able to cleanse us from sin - To transform us into new creations - Like Jesus

The Most Holy Place represents Heaven - Where God resides - on His throne - With the angels

This room was 15' wide - 15' long - 15' high - A perfect cube

With the throne of God in the center - The Ark of the Covenant

Just like the New Jerusalem is described in Revelation 21

The Holy Place represents the connection between heaven and earth

Where redeemed sinners like us - Can experience God's heavenly presence while still living here on earth

Where we have spiritual light - spiritual food - and open communication with God - called Prayer

God is pure light (1 John 1:5) - Our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29)

Sin is darkness - What happens when light comes in contact with darkness? - Which wins? Light? Dark?

Light always overpowers - destroys - annihilates darkness

God desires to be present with us - But knows that His presence is too much for us - So for now...

God safely separates us from His physical presence - While opening up full spiritual communication

The veil - Which also represents Jesus (Hebrews 10:20) - Provides open communication - conversation

While maintaining safe visual separation

We can see the presence of God's glory leaking around the edges of the curtain

We know He is there - He can hear us - And we can hear Him - But we cannot see Him

For no sinful person can see God's face and live (Exodus 33:18-23)

Redemption from sin is found in the path through the Sanctuary

- We must first go to the altar - Accepting Jesus' death on our behalf - Believing in the sacrifice of Calvary
Recognizing that the result of sin is death - That we cannot pay for our own sins and live -
We cannot save ourselves - So Jesus died in our place
- We next go to the Laver - To be washed - Where Jesus cleanses us from sin - Represented by Baptism
Making us holy - Transforming us into the likeness of Jesus Christ - A new creation in Him

- 1 John 1:9 (1054) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- Forgiveness is at the ALTAR

- Cleansing is at the LAVER

- We then enter into the Holy place - through the Outer Veil

There we find light for our way - food to sustain us - and open conversation with God through prayer

Safe visual separation from God - But open verbal communication with God

There we remain in God's presence - Until the 2nd Coming when God will come to take us home

Where we will live face to face in His presence forever

DAILY

- ☐ We need to focus on one basic concept about the Sanctuary - I want to define this as the “Daily”
There were certain events that took place every day in this Sanctuary
- ☐ They were to happen daily - continually - constantly - The Hebrew word is “tamid”
Every day - without fail - you could count on these things taking place in the Sanctuary
- ☐ 1. Morning and Evening Sacrifice - Exodus 29:38-42 (80); Numbers 28:1-8 (156)
Jesus the sacrifice for our sins - God himself, in human flesh, taking death in our place
Jesus’ death on Calvary - for the sins of the whole world (Isaiah 53:5-6; 1 Peter 2:24)
God took upon Himself the sins of the whole world - Every sin ever committed - Paid in full
Every morning and evening that sacrifice was pre-figured at the altar -
- ☐ 2. Lamps - Exodus 27:20 (78); Leviticus 24:2-4 (117) - These lamps were to be kept burning day and night
Jesus - the light of the world - Fueled by the oil of the Holy Spirit
He is always there to light our way through this dark world
- ☐ 3. Showbread - Numbers 4:7 (127); Leviticus 24:8 (117) - The 12 loaves of bread were always there
Set out fresh each Sabbath
Jesus - the bread of life - Ever present to provide the spiritual food we need for daily and eternal life
- ☐ 4. Incense - Exodus 30:7,8 (80) - Burning on the Golden Altar in front of the Inner Veil
Jesus’ intercession on our behalf - His prayer, mingled with ours, ascending before God’s throne
- ☐ 5. Priestly Mediation - Exodus 28:29,30,38 (79) - The Priest representing the people before God
Jesus, our high priest and intercessor - Always stands in God’s presence as my representative in Heaven
He is one of us - And he speaks for us - 1 John 2:1 (1168)
- ☐ These daily events taught the truth of PERSONAL SALVATION by GRACE
Revealed how God saves individual sinners from sin - And sustains us for Him in a world of sin
Sacrifice - Light - Food - Communication - Representation - Jesus is truly all we need for salvation
Pointing forward to all the Jesus would accomplish for us and in us
Daniel’s religious context is one of GRACE - Not of bondage to an impossible and restrictive law
The whole Old Testament is about Grace - God has always and only extended GRACE to all people

There is a lot more to learn about the Sanctuary

But we know enough now to go back to Daniel 8 and apply what we have learned

v.11 - *He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host:*

And by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down

He - the Little Horn - would take away the “daily”

The Hebrew word for “daily” here is - *tamid* - Referring to those daily events in the sanctuary

The word “sacrifice” is not in the Hebrew - The translators put it there to try to make grammatical sense

But literally is simply says - *The Little Horn would take away the daily*

So what does it mean that the Little Horn would take away the “daily”?

He would interrupt the temple worship system given by God to communicate the way of salvation

He would destroy that by which fallen human beings are shown how to move from death into life

He would stop the sacrifices - End the mediation - Destroy the spiritual light and food

Remove its availability - Deny access to it - “take away the daily *services*”

He would cast down the place of His SANCTUARY - What is this sanctuary? - The Hebrew temple

Which God repeatedly refers to as “MY sanctuary” - The temple was the Sanctuary of the God of Heaven

It was the place of residence for His name and His glory

In this verse it is identified as the Sanctuary of the Prince of the Host - whom the Horn exalts himself against

Therefore - The “Prince of the Host” must refer to God himself

Does any of this begin to sound familiar? - The boastful words spoken against the Most High in Daniel 7

v.12 - Because of transgression - What is transgression? - Sin - Evil - Deceit - Wrongdoing
 The Sanctuary is designed to teach us how God deals with transgression and sin - How God saves...
 Transgression is based on principles opposite of those taught in the Sanctuary - Evil - Wrongdoing
 The Little horn would move a host of people against the "daily" - From evil intent
 And the result - Truth would be cast to the ground - What truth? - Context - The truth of the "daily"
 The truth about salvation - how lost man can be reconciled to God - would be cast down and trampled
 And the Little Horn would prosper at this dastardly activity

Once again - Put yourself in Daniel's shoes - What does all this sound like to you?
 Nebuchadnezzar brought his pagan, idol-worshipping army against Jerusalem in 586 BC - Some 40 years past
 They literally knocked the temple-sanctuary to the ground - Ending the daily services
 They slaughtered tens of thousands of the "host" of God's people - Carried thousands off into captivity
 And Babylon - who had done all this - was prospering - While God's people were languishing in captivity
 If you were Daniel - What would you assume this was talking about? - The current desolations of Jerusalem!
 As we shall see - Daniel indeed did believe at first that this was referring to current desolations of Jerusalem

But WE know differently - This Little Horn comes after Greece - And even after Rome
 This Little Horn reigns for 1260 years from 538 to 1798 AD

- So this desolation of the sanctuary - Removal of the daily - Casting truth to the Ground - by the Little Horn must have a symbolic meaning - In fact - the whole chapter is symbolic - So this part must be also
- And that symbolic meaning is - The casting down of the truth of the Gospel - Distorting the message of salvation

How did the Little Horn of medieval Christianity take away the daily - and cast down the sanctuary? -
 How did medieval Christianity come to distort the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
 As Christianity lost it's way - Two major factors play into the apostasy of the middle ages

1. Beginning with the political alliance of the Christian church in Rome with Emperor Constantine - around 313 AD
 Christianity began to use the arm of political power to enforce its religious teachings and institutions
 Church leaders discovered that a little coercion could greatly increase the number of conversions
 And when religion and politics join forces - Both are corrupted
 How could a church say anything more monstrous against the God of heaven
 Than to use threat and coercion to MAKE people accept the Gospel of salvation
 This method alone so distorts the gospel -
 Of a God who gave his life to save people - all people -
 And to guarantee us the freedom to choose whether or not we want to accept that salvation
 Using state coercion to enforce religious persuasion casts the very heart of the Gospel to the ground -
 Tramples all over it
 The purpose of the state is to maintain justice between people -
 And the best basis for justice is that which we learn from God's Word
 But the state is powerless to regulate how the people relate towards God - in Worship
 And is illegitimate in ever trying to do so
 The heart of the Gospel is - That God is LOVE - That His kingdom is based on LOVE -
 LOVE always gives choice - protects choice - preserves choice! - There is no love without choice
 More on that in a couple nights
- So when Christianity began to use Roman political power to enforce its religious agenda -
 The Gospel was perverted - The DAILY was taken away - Truth was cast down
2. The second factor in the decay Christianity into apostasy - involved the introduction of false teaching
 The role of the Church IS to teach the truth about God - our relationship with God - and with each other
 The Roman world was largely GREEK in its religious philosophy
 And many of the beliefs and customs of Greco-Roman paganism began to infiltrate Christian teachings
 Christianity took on Greek dualistic teachings about the nature of man - and God - and salvation -
 Ideas that reflected paganism more than Biblical truth
 Christianity took on the festivals and customs of the Greek-influenced pagan society
 We will be looking several of those on upcoming nights
 Any historical study of medieval Christianity...
 Clearly reveals the Greek philosophical basis of medieval theology
 Dark-ages Christianity was steeped in Platonic and Aristotelian philosophy

- ❑ So when Christianity began to mix Greek pagan religious philosophy with Biblical truth
The Gospel was further perverted - The DAILY was taken away - Truth was cast down
You add these two aspects together - Civil power and false doctrine
And the truths of the Gospel as shown in the Sanctuary were destroyed - Cast down - Trampled upon

This helps us with the one major discrepancy of identifying the Little Horn of Daniel 8 as the same as Daniel 7

- ❑ In Daniel 2 - Progression of Gold - Silver - Bronze - Iron - 10 toes of Iron and Clay - Stone Kingdom
- ❑ In Daniel 7 - Progression of - Lion - Bear - Leopard - 4th Beast - 10 Horns - Little Horn - Judgment - K of God
- ❑ Historically - These fit perfectly with - Babylon - Medo-Persia - Greece - Rome - Division - Little Horn
The Little Horn of Medieval Christianity is founded on the beast of Rome - Coming up among its divisions
- ❑ But In Daniel 8 - We have the progression of - Medo-Persia - Greece - Little Horn
- ❑ The glaring question of Daniel 8 - relating to the Little Horn is... WHAT Happened to ROME?
Everything else about the Little Horn overlaps between these two chapters
Same prophet - Same context - Same name - Doing the same things - Going up against God and His people
The symbolic language used is different - But the concepts are the same
Daniel is the one describing what he saw -
He chose to use the same terms for what he saw in Daniel 7 and Daniel 8
It certainly appears HE thought he was seeing the same "Little Horn" in both visions

BUT - WHAT Happened to ROME? - How can the Little Horn in Daniel 7 be the same as in Daniel 8...?

- When the Little Horn of Daniel 7 comes out of Rome - Yet in Daniel 8 the Little Horn comes AFTER Greece
- The Little Horn in Daniel 8 does not necessarily come OUT of Greece - If we look carefully at the Hebrew in v.9
The phrase "out of one of *them*" - The gender and number of the pronoun "them" is masculine-plural
The gender and number of the pronoun must match the gender and number of the noun it refers back to
"Winds" and "horns" are feminine-plural - The number matches, but the gender does not
"Heaven" is masculine-singular - The gender matches but the number does not
"Four" is masculine and obviously plural in number - Matches "them"
"Four" is also attached to both "winds" and "horns"
So the Little Horn comes out of one of the "four" - Referring back to either the "four horns" or "four winds"
If "them" refers back to the "four horns"- Then the Little Horn comes out of Greece
If "them" refers back to the "four winds" - then the Little Horn comes sometime AFTER Greece -
out of one of the four points of the compass

That is a little help - But still... - WHAT Happened to ROME in the progression of Daniel 8?

- ❑ In Daniel 4 (859) - Nebuchadnezzar had another dream - You can go home and read about it later
- ❑ He dreamed of a great tree - Branches spread over the whole earth - Providing food and shelter for all the world
- ❑ Then a heavenly being commanded the tree to be cut down - But leave the stump in the ground
Twice it states that the stump was to be left in the ground - with a band of iron and bronze
Then the language changes from "it" to "him" -
Let him be driven from men and graze with the beasts of the field
Until 7 times pass over him - That the living may know that the Most High God rules in the affairs of men

Daniel is called in to interpret the dream - Which is bad news for Nebuchadnezzar

You are that tree - Your kingdom covers the whole world - All find food and shelter under your rule
BUT - You will be cut down - Lose your mind - Be driven from your home - from your friends -
out to the fields - where you will live like an animal

For seven times - Which is where we get the strong hint that a "time" = a year - As we applied it in Daniel 7
However - The stump was to be preserved - And Daniel interprets that to mean...
Nebuchadnezzar's throne would be preserved - After 7 years he would get his mind back - And his throne

Daniel called on Nebuchadnezzar to repent -

- Recognizing that any prophecy that involves human response is always conditional
Nebuchadnezzar did not listen - or repent - Continued to exalt himself and boast about his own greatness
- So what happened? - A year later - Nebuchadnezzar lost his mind - And spent 7 years in the fields
His hair grew and nails grew long - He ate grass like an ox
But finally he looked up to heaven - And God gave him his mind back - And he was restored to full power

Why do I take the time to tell you that story - Remember the stump -

It was preserved with a band of IRON and BRONZE

- Where do those two metals take you - In light of the previous stories in the book of Daniel?
To the dream of the Image of Daniel 2 - Iron = Rome; Bronze = Greece

Now - Don't miss this...

In Bible prophecy - **Babylon** - Starting with the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 (9)
Becomes the symbolic city of rebellion against God

While **Jerusalem** - Becomes the symbolic city of salvation and loyalty to God

In Revelation it is the fall of Babylon in the end time which makes way for the coming of the New Jerusalem
We will look at the rise of Babylon - how this symbolic identification came to be - next weekend

Daniel does not make any interpretation of the band of Iron and Bronze on the stump of Babylon in Daniel 4
when he applies this dream to the king

Yet this Iron-Bronze band is mentioned twice in Daniel 4 - It must have some importance

I believe that this dream not only refers to Nebuchadnezzar - But by extension to his kingdom of Babylon
Just like the Head of Gold in chapter 2 refers to both Nebuchadnezzar and his Kingdom

Babylon - as a nation came to an end - Was cut down - Destroyed

Yet Babylon as a principle of rebellion predates and outlives Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon

The tower of Babel was the original rebellion against God after the flood

And Babylon is the name given to rebellion against God just before Jesus comes

I believe that Iron-Bronze band tells us something very important - Another KEY to Bible Prophecy

The stump and roots of Babylon will be preserved down through time through the Iron/Bronze band

Babylon's legacy will live on to the end of time (seven times) through the legacy of Rome and Greece

And what Daniel calls the Little Horn - Revelation identifies as BABYLON

That identity would not have made sense in Daniel's time - When Babylon ruled the world

To call the Little Horn "Babylon" while Babylon was a literal ruling kingdom - would be confusing

So there God called that rebellious apostasy the Little Horn - While Revelation calls it Babylon

Now watch how Bible prophecy pulls things together -

When, knowing the details, we step back and view the bigger picture

- When we look at the Little Horn - and the medieval Christian apostasy
- Daniel 7 (864) - Traces the lineage of the Little Horn back to Iron Rome - The band of Iron
The Little Horn got its Political Power from Rome - The Iron legs of Daniel 2 - The "beast" of Daniel 7
Politically- the Little Horn rises out of Rome to rule over the divisions of Rome
The political-civil roots and reign of the Little Horn come from the Iron of Rome
- Daniel 8 (866) - Traces the lineage of the Little Horn back to Bronze Greece - The band of Bronze
The Little Horn got its Religious Philosophy from Greece - The Bronze belly and thighs of Daniel 2
Philosophically and spiritually - The Little Horn connects back to Greece
The Band of Iron and Bronze - preserving the rebellious stump of Babylon - to the end of time

The apostasy of medieval Christianity was two-pronged

The mingling of Greek spiritual influence and Roman political power with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

And what came from that was a monstrous misrepresentation of God which still effects our thinking today

Resulting in a mixture of lies and coercion - Both of which are contrary to God who is truth and love

With this solved - We can make quick work of the balance of Daniel 8

- v.13 - Back to the heavenly conversation - Two angels talking back and forth - Listen to the question - Hear the answer
- Angel #1 says - How long - Literally "until when" - will this little horn do these awful things?
Concerning the daily - its sinful activities which bring desolation to the sanctuary and the host
The spiritual desolations to the gospel - the persecution of God's faithful people
We already know how long the Little Horn will rule politically - 1260 years - 538-1798
But once he is removed politically - What will be done to reverse the devastation caused during that reign?
That is the question of Angel #1

v.14 - Angel #2 answers back - "And he said to me" - Who does this 2nd angel address? - Daniel
 The 1st angel asks the question he wants Daniel to hear the answer to
 Then the 2nd angel responds directly to Daniel

- Unto two thousand three hundred days - Then the sanctuary will be cleansed
 Literally - For evening-morning two-thousand three hundred - then-will-be-restored sanctuary
- We have a **TIME** frame: "*unto evening-morning 2300*" - Evening-morning is singular
 The time frame answers the question of "until when" -
 The results of the Little Horn will continue until the end of this duration
 Our Biblical clue to Evening-morning is Genesis 1 - An evening and a morning equal one day
 So this time period would reach to day 2300 - or the 2300th day - From some starting point
 Do we have a starting point yet? - Given by God in the vision? - NO
 Is this a literal day or a symbolic day? What do you think? Based on the context?
 The whole chapter is symbolic. So would the time frame be literal or symbolic?
- THEN - There will be an **ACTION**
 The Hebrew has a sequential concept to it - So following the 2300 - We can expect some action
 The 2300 points to a time of restoration - for the sanctuary and all it implies - including the "daily"
 As we have seen - Not a literal restoration of a physical building and accompanying services
 But restoration of the spiritual desolations caused by the Little Horn apostasy
 To restore what has been desolated by the evil actions of the Little Horn for so long

Let's read on

Daniel 8:15-16 *¹⁵Then 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.
¹⁶And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."*

Daniel wants to know what this all means - And he sees a heavenly being that looks like a man
 He hears what sounds like a human voice from somewhere between the banks of the river - Out over the water
 That voice asks Gabriel to make Daniel understand the vision - To interpret the vision for Daniel

- So let's listen in on GABRIEL'S INTERPRETATION

Daniel 8:17 *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."*

The angel comes over by where Daniel is - Daniel fell on his face - Afraid
 Gabriel speaks - 1st point - I want you to understand this vision is about the "time of the end" - the "end time"
 What is the point the angel is trying to make to Daniel at this time?
 We get so caught up trying to figure out what or when the "time of the end" is
 And we miss the simple, unmistakable point the angel is trying to make to Daniel
 Daniel - This is not about the current desolation of Jerusalem - Caused by Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon
 This vision is about another desolation way down in the distant future

Daniel 8:18 *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.*

Daniel says - While he spoke to me - I was out of it - Unconscious on my face
 This is a typical response when humans come in contact with the awesome glory of the heavenly
 Then the angel touched me and stood me up - Wake up - Stand up and listen - I'm talking to you!

Daniel 8:19 *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."*

The Angel repeats himself - I'm telling you what will happen in the latter time of the indignation
 Literally - The after-part of the wrath - Not the present-part
 For the appointed time - the end - *Daniel, there will be an end to all this trouble*
But what you have seen is not about NOW - But about a desolation for later times
For the latter time of the indignation - of the Little Horn's desecration of the things of God

What is Gabriel's point? - He said it three ways - This vision is about...

- The end time
 - The latter part
 - The appointed time - the end
- Could the angel be clearer - This is not about NOW - the present time - But a distant future time
This is not about the current desolations in Jerusalem - Caused by Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon
But something way in the future

Good News - Sin will not go on forever - God is going to bring the evil of this world to an end
There will be an "end-time" for this world
This will not just go on and on and on - for millions of years - with endless cycles of nature in control
This world is facing an END - There will be an end - The stone of Daniel 2 - The Kingdom of Daniel 7
And this prophecy reaches down to that appointed "end time"
Good news to seekers of God - Bad news to Evil and evil doers
And understanding the timing aspect of the prophecy - will point out when the End time has come

Having set this initial, all-important perspective - Now Gabriel interprets the symbols - one by one
v.20 -22 - We have already seen these verses

- Ram = Medo Persia
- Goat = Greece; Large horn = Alexander; Broken - died near Babylon at age 33
After his death - Four of his generals divided the territory and ruled four separate kingdoms

Daniel 8:23 *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.*

As Greece is petering out - the Little Horn comes into view
All nations rise and fall - What goes up must come down
All who follow the principal of self exaltation - will eventually meet with desolation

- Now the Little Horn is further described - But not specifically named
A king with - fierce features - strong countenance
- sinister schemes - skilled in riddles - a skilled deceiver

Daniel 8:24 *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.*

- mighty - but only because he is propped up by another power -
The Little Horn rises on the power of the beast of Rome - A horn on the 4th Beast
- destroy fearfully, prosper - thrive - destroy the mighty and holy people -
The Little Horn makes war on saints - Persecutes the saints of the Most High

Daniel 8:25 *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.*

- cause deceit to prosper - Lies about the character of God - were believed - and still persist
Cast truth to the ground - Exalting falsehoods - False teachings
- magnify himself in his heart -
The Little Horn would have an appearance greater than his fellows
He would magnify himself as high as the Prince of the Host - God himself
- even against the Prince of princes - Against the Most High
- broken without human hand - Stone of Daniel 2 - Judgment of Daniel 7 - God breaks him

This is clearly talking about the same little horn - Just from a more spiritual perspective

Now for the last part of the vision -

Daniel 8:26 *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.*

- ☐ The evening-morning vision (singular here, as in v.14) - refers back to the 2300
 - 1st - It is TRUE - Though it is not yet explained, it is significant - Important - Don't forget about it
 - 2nd - It is SEALED - It is not going to be explained right now - It is not to be understood just yet
 - 3rd - It pertains to MANY DAYS - implying "from now" or "in the future"

Do we have a starting point to begin counting the 2300 yet? - NO

Does it seem like a short or a long period of time predicted? - LONG

Reaching to the end time - To the latter time of the wrath of indignation of the Little Horn

How long would a literal 2300 days be - based on Jewish lunar 30-day months? - 6 years, 4 months, 20 days

Does that short of a time period seem to fit the context or the angel's words? - NO

But we don't know anything for sure yet - Because we have no starting point

Daniel 8:27 *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.*

Daniel was sick at heart - for days - This hit him really hard -

Knocked him off balance physically and emotionally - Took him a long time to regain his equilibrium

But he finally picked up and carried on - Still astonished - Still not understanding

Why was Daniel so upset? - This seems to go deep and personal - Daniel does not tell us why?

Daniel 9 will make this clear - And it has to do directly with the unexplained 2300 prophecy

- ☐ Now - Tonight's topic must be concluded by the phrase - "to be continued"
 - Clearly God has brought up something - which is not finished in this chapter
 - And God ends by making that clear - "The 2300 is true - Sealed up - Pertains to the distant future"
 - But we already live in the distant future - Therefore, it might be possible for us to understand it NOW
 - And to do that we must simply continue on in our study - Which we will do tomorrow night with Daniel 9

- ☐ What have we learned? - What are some points to remember?

- ☐ The Gospel - Gospel was preached before the Cross - Ever since Adam and Eve first sinned
 - God promised a Savior - Looked forward to by faith through the symbols of the sacrificial system
 - There is only one Gospel - an Everlasting Gospel - The same Gospel for all people in all times
- ☐ The End - God will bring an END to this mess of sin and suffering - There is an appointed time - It won't go on forever
 - And this prophecy - when fully understood - points to that end time
 - What Daniel 2 introduced - That we live deep into the feet and toes - just before the coming of the Stone
 - What Daniel 7 further clarified - We live after the 1260 year reign of the little horn - In the judgment time
 - Daniel 8-9 will put numbers to - Placing us right on the end of earth's time-line
 - And that end is the coming of our Lord

- ☐ The Restoration - Before Jesus comes - There will be a time of restoration of truth - The truth of the Gospel
 - For centuries the Gospel will be obscured - hidden behind error and lies of the Little Horn
 - Silenced through cruel persecution
 - But in the End Time - There will be a restoration and proclamation for all the world

Remember again these words spoken by Jesus...

- ☐ Matthew 24:14 (960) *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

Revelation puts it this way...

- ☐ Revelation 14:6 (1183) *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people...*

God has a special message of truth to give to the whole world in the last days

I believe we live in those last days - Tomorrow night will prove it from prophecy

Do you want to be part of the restoration of the true Gospel - and it's proclamation to the whole world?