



Series: Daniel, Living for God in a Pagan World

Passage: Daniel 8

Title: Preview of the Antichrist- Antiochus Epiphanes

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 09/08/2024

Discussion Starter – The precise details regarding world empires given 400 years in advance of the events have been used as evidence that Daniel’s writings were of necessity “post-dated” and written much later than 551 BC as Daniel claims. How is your view of God supported or challenged by your understanding of the historic accuracy of Daniel in general and Chapter 8 specifically?

Read Daniel 8:1-14

- 1) What is the year of this prophecy? How far in the future is the overthrow of Babylon as described in Chapter 5 of Daniel?
- 2) What is the historic significance of the details of Daniels vision of the Ram with two horns?
- 3) What are the details of Daniels vision of the Goat with one large horn that was broken and what is the historic significance of this part of the vision?
- 4) How is the “little horn” associated with the Goat? What characteristics are attributed to the “little horn”?

Read Daniel 8:15-22

- 5) How does Daniel come to understand his vision? Does he try to offer his own understanding?
 - a) How do you process biblical statements that are initially unclear to you? (Read 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- 6) What time period does this vision refer to?
- 7) Daniel makes bold and specific statements about nations and kings based upon his vision and interpretation from Gabriel. How do you understand God’s knowledge of the future? Is the future fixed and unchangeable, does God make predictions based upon His comprehensive knowledge of the past and present, or does God declare certain events and work in all things toward their fulfillment?
 - b) How does your understanding of the future affect your relationship with God? In prayer? In obedience to His commands? In evangelism?

Read Daniel 8:23-27

- 8) Who is the little horn, the king that arose at the latter time of the Grecian kingdom? What are the dates of his rule? Who provided his power, (v.24)?
- 9) What practices and policies did Antiochus Epiphanes implement that are similar to policies we see in America today? (particularly regarding children, schools, and cultural customs)
- 10) What documentation do we have to verify Antiochus rule? In what ways is Antiochus Epiphanes a foreshadow of the antichrist spoken of in the New Testament?
 - c) What benefit can we as 21st century Christians gain from this prophetic passage centered around ancient Jewish and Greek history? How does it enhance your knowledge and understanding of your God and Savior?