**Daniel 8:13-27** ***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?” 14And 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. 16And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.” 17So 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.” 18Now, 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. 19And 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. 20The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. 21And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. 22As 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. 24His 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.” 27And 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.***

We’re finishing Daniel 8 tonight. Recall with me that two weeks ago, we spoke about the Ram representing the Medo-Persian empire, with the two horns, one higher than the other. This is equivalent to Daniel 7 and the bear, with one side lifted higher than the other. The Persians were much larger and stronger than the Medes, which is represented by the higher horn and the hunched bear, favoring one side. Recall as well that the goat represented Greece, Alexander the Great being the large horn. Tonight, we look at the interpretation of the vision. We hear from heavenly beings, and we are blessed that God spoke through Daniel that we might hear.

 Verse 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?* Understand “holy one” as we did in Daniel 4:13 being an angel. Another holy one answered the one speaking, so we know that there are at least two of these beings and they are witnessing the vision that Daniel is seeing. It’s interesting to note that one holy one has more knowledge than the other holy one, suggesting rank. There’s a suggestion that Christ is the certain one speaking. The full conversation and all attending is not revealed to us. If it were critical to know, God would have revealed. The question asked: *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?* This is a straightforward question about the vision in view. Remember that Antiochus was in view and had removed the High Priest from the temple, trampled his authority under foot, installed Jason as High Priest and placed Zeus in place of God in the Temple of Jerusalem. He’d outlawed sacrifice and desecrated the Temple with idols and false gods. But we also had in view the Antichrist in some future day.

 Verse 14 *And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.* The answer that this certain one, the holy one originally speaking gives is 2300 days. This can be understood as 2300 days or about 6 years. This coincides with Antiochus first invasion of 171 BC when he profaned the priesthood and a second attack in 168 BC on the city when he forbade the worship of God. History records that Judas Maccabeus took Jerusalem in 165 BC, declared the sanctuary unclean, chose men to ceremonially cleanse the sanctuary, and held the Feast of Dedication about 2300 days after Antiochus first invaded. History records this - *Judas designated a priesthood again to serve in the temple; pulled down the altars which the pagan had erected; bore out all the defiled stones into an unclean place; built a new altar in place of the old altar of burnt-offerings which they had defiled; hallowed the courts; made a new altar of incense, table of showbread, golden candlestick, etc., and solemnly re-consecrated the whole to the service of God.* (Prideaux Connexion iii 265-269).

 Other theologians have interpreted the 2300 days to be 2300 years, as in Ezekiel 4:6 where we read this - *And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.* This is dealing with prophetic time and represents 2300 literal years. The fact is that no human can say when the day and the hour of the end will be. Jesus tells us that only God knows. In due time, we too will know. For now, we simply will trust God with timing we cannot understand.

Verses 15-18 *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. 16And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.” 17So 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.” 18Now, 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 seeks the meaning of this vision. He lacks understanding. James 1:5 tells us *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.* The word seeking in Hebrew is peculiar. It means to seek specifically in worship or prayer, to strive, beg, ask, and beseech the answer. Daniel is diligently seeking understanding.

A man’s voice instructs Gabriel to give understanding in verse 16. We understand Gabriel to be the one from verse 15 that had the appearance of a man. The one telling Gabriel to help Daniel understand seems to be the “certain one” from verse 13. Might this be Christ, the very Living Word of God? Many theologians think so, but the Bible is silent. Regardless, we’ve met Gabriel before! In Luke 1:19 *And the angel answered and said to him,* *“I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.”* This is the very same angel of God that announced the coming of John the Baptist to Zacharias and the coming of Jesus to Mary!!! We are in fine company here! Gabriel stands in the presence of God. He appeared even as early as the writings concerning Enoch.

*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.* Gabriel draws near. Throughout the Bible, we see that when faced with an angel humans fall on their faces in fear, tremble. It’s an awesome sight that I cannot imagine. Daniel is no exception. He was afraid and fell upon his face. Gabriel speaks, *Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end*. Only Ezekiel and Daniel are given the title son of man in the Old Testament. This vision will not be in Daniel’s time, but Gabriel is assuring him that it will be fulfilled in a future time. St Jerome wrote, “what was done in the time of Antiochus, still almost 400 years in the future in Daniel’s day, represents what will be fulfilled by the Antichrist.”

*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.* The idea here is that Daniel fainted and fell on his face. But, Gabriel touched him and stood him upright again.

Verse 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.*Gabriel is making known a series of God’s judgements that will come upon His people. Isaiah 26:20 says *Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past.* The “indignation” will cover a period of time, not just a moment. The time will come when God will deal with the indignation, the blasphemies, the apostacies, and the denial of His power. The indignation will come to an end in God’s appointed time.

Verses 20-22 *The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. 21And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. 22As 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.* Now we encounter the description of what we saw in verse 4-8. The Ram with two horns symbolized the Medo-Persian Empire. The Goat symbolized the Grecian Empire with the notable horn being the first king, Alexander the Great. When he died, his four generals took over the Grecian kingdom dividing it into four kingdoms, but none have the power of Alexander. They were not conquerors but dividers.

Verses 23-25 *“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. 24His 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.* These verses can be taken together with verses 9-12. In the latter time or towards the end of the four divisions which arose out of Alexander’s Kingdom, when transgressors have reached their fullness, just like in Daniel 2, we see that God sets up and removes kings. This applies to the Jews, as well as all the kingdoms of the earth. All kingdoms are given time to acknowledge and serve the Living God. When that kingdom is disobedient, God removes blessings and ultimately removes the kingdom. Our nation be warned!

*A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.* This describes Antiochus, which we’ve already talked about, as well as Rome. Rome ultimately will arise to replace Greece in the latter years. Rome was a fierce nation that often came in as a rescuer and then enslaved the populations. They offered themselves as friends if accepted, and conquered and destroyed when not accepted. Sinister schemes also has the idea of not being able to understand the language spoken. Rome spoke Latin and this was very foreign for the Hellenistic language speaking nations. They spoke Hebrew, Greek, Chaldean, and Persian in Israel, but Latin was unknown. Both Antiochus and Rome were cunning in their dealings. They divided, being given power by the population because of disobedience to God and disagreement with one another. *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.* The historian Josephus records this of the reign of Antiochus - *the men of the greatest reputation, and of the most generous spirit, among the Jews, paid no regard to Antiochus, and therefore were harassed daily, and died under the most bitter torments. Antiochus, in his first invasion of Judea, slew and led captive 80,000 Jews; and two years afterward sent Apollonius, with an army of 22,000 men, to destroy those that assembled in their synagogues on the sabbath.* Antiochus, later Rome, and eventually the Antichrist gain power through deceit and cunning, gaining control of Israel and the Jewish people. *He shall destroy many in their prosperity.* Many nations entered treaties to gain peace and prosperity. In end times, many will accept the mark of the beast to gain prosperity and be able to trade. Many will be destroyed. *He shall even rise against the Prince of princes.* Antiochus did and, in the end times, the Antichrist will rise against Jesus and exalt and blaspheme and many will be led away and deceived. *But he shall be broken without human means.* This reflects Daniel 2:34 that tells of the stone cut out without hands that will destroy the last earthly kingdom and establish Christ’s eternal kingdom.

Verse 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 2300 day prophecy is true and will surely come to pass. This is great comfort to we that believe. Seal up the vision. The fulfilment will be in the distant future.

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 fainted at the prophecy. He was astonished. We know that Daniel received more in Daniel 10.

We continue to study this Faithful, Focused, and Fearless servant of God, entrusted with visions that relate to Revelation and End Times. May we be equally faithful, focused, and fearless as we seek to apply these lessons to our life and spread the Gospel. The Antichrist seeks to silence the Truth of Jesus. We know God will send delusions in end times and in 2 Thess 2:12 it says - *that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* May we never find pleasure in unrighteousness.