

CALL to PRAYER -

Pray for our government and military.

Daniel 8 - History found in Prophecy gives us Security

Intro - The Bible is an amazing book. It is a faith giving book and a faith building book. *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* Today we come to Daniel 8 which contains a vision about the future. It was all future to Daniel, but it comes to us today as mostly history... ..fulfilled prophecy. Prophecy is a remarkable feature of the Bible. It is a unique feature in religious literature only found in the Bible. There are over 2000 prophecies in the OT that have already been fulfilled and can be verified by history ^(Kennedy). The Bible brings receipts - cities, nations, wars, events, people ^(called by name)... This amazing fact is a good reason & foundation to establish one's faith. We can believe God & His word. Faith is taking God at His word. Believers declare that God is true; unbelievers say that God is a liar. Passages like our today scream out that *God is true!* His words are verifiable in history books not just The Good Book.

I am tasked today with being a "tour guide". Years ago, my wife and I took the kids to see DC. We saw a lot of amazing sights: Arlington, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial... But I came away from that trip with one main thought - *"You can't see it all in one trip...something is left out."* Preaching scripture is like that. You can't get to it all in one trip. I am often like: *Look at this... O look at that...* Just know that there is too much to get in one sermon and I will try to restrain my tendency to cram as much I can in one sitting. One big thing to see in this trip is: "The God who writes the scripture is the God who writes the future." God has proven Himself trustworthy 1000's of times with things prewritten ^(which have already happened in the past) so we should trust Him with the things that He says will happen in the future. *"Our times are in His hands"* Ps. 31:15. There are no cutesy headings today that rhyme, just a hodgepodge assortment of eclectic sights to see from a tour-guide that can't decide on how best to communicate all these faith building facts.

- Daniel 8 is divided into: 1] The Vision 2] The interpretation of the Vision.
 - Jesus teaching a parable...then explaining it later to His disciples Mk. 4:34 / John 16:18
 - Daniel receives the vision but doesn't understand it in the 1st part. (Ram & Goat -?????)
 - God sends the angel Gabriel to explain it in the 2nd part. 8:16, 27
 - Application: *We all need help understanding God's word.* (Daniel couldn't interpret own dream)
 - The Spirit - 1 Cor. 2:14 John 14:26; 16:13
 - Spirit filled people Nehemiah 8:8 Mal. 2:7
 - We can never take it all in. Always new. Living word
- Daniel 8 reveals items not elaborated on in chapter 7
 - Daniel 7 lays out world history and its 4 major world empires.
 - Focused on the 4th empire (Rome) and its final 10-pronged iteration at the end of time. 4 beastly kingdoms with the kingdom of *the Beast* at the end.
 - Showed Christ's kingdom that rules over all the "beasts" of the earth
 - Daniel 8 elaborates on the two middle kingdoms that would arise.
 - Daniel was living in the 1st kingdom/beast (Babylon) 8:1 ^(550 BC)
 - The 2nd and 3rd beastly kingdoms to come were Persia & Greece

- These two nations/empires are called out by name ^{centuries before their rise to power} 8:20-21
 - Ram with 2 horns (one bigger) = Medo-Persia with Persia being more dominant
 - Goat with one prominent horn = Greece
 - Large horn = 1st king = Alexander the Great who conquered Persia
 - Alexander with a smaller and quicker army beat the larger (Goat > Ram)
 - Mind blowing accuracy...
 - ...unless you consider that God is the One who pre-writes history ^{Is. 46:9-11}
 - Isaiah wrote about the 1st Persian king 200+ years before he ruled
 - Isaiah 44:28 - 45:3
 - Josephus says Cyrus read about himself in Isaiah ^(Daniel showed him?)
 - Imagine reading your name & actions in the ancient Scriptures.
- The division of Alexander the Great's empire into 4 parts
 - 8:8, 21-22
 - He conquered the world in 6 years but only reigned 12 ^(died at 32 - kingdom divided 4 ways)
- The little horn - (8:9-14, 23-25)
 - Antiochus Epiphanes IV ^(wicked ruler of one of the fragments of Greece empire from 175-163 BC)
 - 1 Maccabees 1
 - Jewish war for independence Hannukah
 - Antiochus becomes a pattern for a future evil ruler
 - 8:11 - blasphemous & sacrilegious
 - 8:12 - cast truth to the ground 8:25a - cause deceit to succeed
 - 8:24 - Empowered by another ^(Satan) Prosper in destruction of holy people
 - 8:25 - He will oppose Christ and be destroyed by Christ
- Exact timeframes
 - 2300 evening & mornings 2300 days ^(6.4 yrs) ... or... 1150 days ^(2300/2 = 1150 ... 3.2 years)
 - Timeframe of the desolation will be limited 8:13-14
 - Evil rulers have limited realms and timeframes.
 - 7th Day Adventist inception by a false interpretation - (2nd coming in 1843)
 - Beware of misapplying/misunderstanding scripture
 - END timeframe
 - 8:17b 8:19 8:26
 - It is amazing to given information about the end
 - God declares the end from the beginning. ^{The future is ordained / appointed}
- We should take God at His word
 - "Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness." ^{Gen. 15:6}
 - Believers believe God and say that He is true - John 3:33
 - Unbelievers call God a liar - 1 John 5:10
 - God doesn't predict the future....He declares what the future will be
 - God is not a fortune teller. He is the future Maker.
 - The God who writes scripture is the God who writes the future.
 - God graciously tells us the future so we will be prepared for the future.
 - Our Lord has proven Himself trustworthy 1000's of times in the past.
 - You can trust Him with your time & eternity.