

DANIEL 8:9-14

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT END-TIME PROPHECIES IN THE BIBLE YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF

[9] 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] It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. [11] It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. [12] And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. [13] Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?" [14] And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state." (Daniel 8:9-14 ESV)

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

1. Daniel 8 is one of the most significant prophecies passages in the Bible concerning specific events and dates leading up to the close of this age. Concerning the intersection of dates and prophecy we must exercise caution. We must be cautious not to scoff at them and discredit them (the primary risk of our generation) on the one hand, and making more of an emphasis on them than we should. We want to shout what the Bible shouts, whisper what it whispers, and maintain silence where it is silent. If dates were irrelevant, the Lord would not have commissioned Gabriel to communicate them and Jesus would not have commanded us to read and understand them.
2. One of the verses in Daniel 8 is the singular passage that Jesus laid His eschatological teaching on. It is at the heart of the NT theology of the end of the age. Jesus' emphasis in Matthew 24:15-31 set the stage for the apostles to likewise emphasize it.
3. While it touches on events in history past, the climactic passages of the chapter refer to the eschaton. The case for historical fulfillment is hollow and incoherent.
4. The chapter revolves around the single most catalytic event in Biblical prophecy—the invasion of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple that will have been recently rebuilt. The desolation of Jerusalem the defiling of the future Temple is the most emphasized event in the eschatology of the prophets and apostles. This centrality and gravity needs to be understood. It's also critical for a proper exegesis of the passage considering that in Daniel's generation the Temple had been destroyed and would later be rebuilt. These future

events concerning the rebuilding and subsequent destruction of the Temple must either refer to the Second Temple or a future Third Temple. This will become a key issue to settle in order to receive and understand what Daniel was shown and why.

5. Daniel 8:9-14 contains events that are cross referenced by the prophets and apostles that bear the same language. To get the full picture of what Daniel sees in 8:9-14 we need to familiarize ourselves with a number of passages. Most notably, Revelation 12:7-14, 2 Thessalonians 2, Daniel 12:1-7, and Matthew 24:15-31, and Revelation 13.

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THE RISE OF THE LITTLE HORN (DAN. 8:9)

Out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land [Israel]. (Dan. 8:9)

A little horn:

Out of one of them:

Grew exceedingly great:

THE CASTING DOWN AND THE TRAMPLING (DAN. 8:10)

Four things are trampled, or cast to the ground, by the little horn (Antichrist): **the truth** (8:12), **the host** (8:10, 13), **the stars** (8:10), and **the sanctuary** (8:11, 13).

“And it [little horn] 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.” (Dan. 8:10)

It grew up:

Cast some of the host of heaven to the ground and trampled them:

Cast some stars to the ground:

It cast down and trampled:

THE TRANSGRESSION, THE ARMY, AND THE SACRIFICES (DAN 8:11-12)

He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host [Jesus]; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn [Antichrist] to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered. (Dan. 8:11-12)

He exalted himself:

Daily sacrifices:

Sanctuary:

Transgression:

An army was given over to the little horn:

Truth will be cast down:

Prospered:

THE 2300 DAYS OF TROUBLE (DAN. 8:13-14)

The Antichrist will transgress against and trouble the temple for 2,300 days (8:13-14). Daniel gave four details that give us insight into what the Antichrist will do. He will defile the temple by removing the daily sacrifices, trampling the sanctuary, trampling the host, and committing “the” transgression, which is to set up the abomination that results in the desolation of nations.

I heard a holy one [angel] speaking; and another holy one [angel] 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 under foot?” And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days [2,300 days]; then the sanctuary [the temple] shall be cleansed.” (Dan. 8:13-14)

I heard a holy one speaking:

How long:

The transgression of desolation:

The sanctuary shall be cleansed:

“From the time the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days [1,290 days].” (Dan. 12:11)