



Shining in Babylon
Study Guide
Daniel 8

1. The spirit of Anti-Christ is the rejection of Christ. Read 1 Peter 3:15 (Amp)
"But in your hearts set Christ apart [as holy—acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives] as Lord. Always be ready to give a [logical] defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope and confident assurance [elicited by faith] that is within you, yet [do it] with gentleness and respect."
How does culture influence us away from following Christ in all things? What do we have in place to set Christ apart and give Him first place? How willing and competent do you feel to share Christ with someone when the opportunity arises?
Discuss.
2. Read Daniel 8:3-8 & 20-22
This prophecy describes the destruction of Persia and the rise of the "male goat", Alexander the Great. He was swift and able to conquer much territory. The Anti-Christ in the future will go global. Discuss how it makes you feel to think that the USA may be pushed into a global world order.
3. Read Daniel 8:9-19. Discuss what Antiochus Epiphanes did to the Jews.
4. Read Daniel 8:23-27. Discuss what the Anti-Christ will do in the future. According to verse 27, Daniel was sickened for several days from this vision and then he got back to his daily work. How should the fate of the world sicken us, and how do we balance that with having to still do our daily work. Discuss (see also 1 Peter 3:15 above).

5. Do you feel equipped to share your faith in the moment with others? Why or why not?

Consider reading the book, The Myth of the Non-Christian by Cawley. He gives the reader excellent tools and considerations on how to engage our culture and share the hope that we have in Christ. He says that Christians need to be:

Plausible- Have logical answers

Desirable- Have reasons why following Jesus is so helpful to our daily lives.

Tangible- Have natural connections/hospitable with people who are not born again.

Message Outline

Daniel 8

1 Peter 3:15 (Amp)

"But in your hearts set Christ apart [as holy—acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives] as Lord. Always be ready to give a [logical] defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope *and* confident assurance [elicited by faith] that is within you, yet [do it] with gentleness and respect."

Big Idea: Anti-Christ= Choosing self over Christ.

Matthew 24:24

"For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect."

Alexander- Swift Power- conquering personality
Antiochus- Sheer Brutality- murderous personality
Anti-Christ- The Ultimate manifestation

The Vision (v. 1-2; 15-17)

In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. ²And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal.

¹⁵When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. ¹⁶And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." ¹⁷So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end."

A. The Swift Conqueror (v. 3-8 & 20-22)

³I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. ⁴I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

²⁰As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia.

A. The Swift Conqueror (v. 3-8 & 20-22)

⁵As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. ⁶He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. ⁷I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power.

A. The Swift Conqueror (v. 3-8 & 20-22)

²¹And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. ²²As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power.

A. The Swift Conqueror (v. 3-8 & 20-22)

⁸Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.

B. The Devasting Killer (v. 9-19)

⁹Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. ¹⁰It 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.

Dual Prophecy

Matthew 24- Fall of Jerusalem- 70AD & end of the world

Amos 5:18&27- the Assyrians- the day of the Lord

Isaiah 13- Babylon- end of World

Joel 2:28-32" ...I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh ... prophesy... dreams ...visions wonders in heaven and earth ...blood. ...fire...smoke...sun turned into darkness... moon into blood.

Acts 2:16- "This is that which was spoken through the prophet Joel."

Rev. 6:12- "...and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood."

B. The Devasting Killer (v. 9-19)

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.

1 Maccabees 1:20-24

After subduing Egypt, Antiochus turned back in the one hundred forty-third year and went up against Israel and came to Jerusalem with a strong force. ²¹ He arrogantly entered the sanctuary and took the golden altar, the lampstand for the light, and all its utensils. ²² He took also the table for the bread of the Presence, the cups for drink offerings, the bowls, the golden censers, the curtain, the crowns, and the gold decoration on the front of the temple; he stripped it all off. ²³ He took the silver and the gold and the costly vessels; he took also the hidden treasures that he found. ²⁴ Taking them all, he went into his own land. He shed much blood and spoke with great arrogance.

1 Maccabees 1:30-34

³⁰ Deceitfully he spoke peaceable words to them, and they believed him, but he suddenly fell upon the city, dealt it a severe blow, and destroyed many people of Israel. ³¹ He plundered the city, burned it with fire, and tore down its houses and its surrounding walls. ³² They took captive the women and children and seized the livestock. ³³ Then they fortified the city of David with a large strong wall and strong towers, and it became their citadel. ³⁴ They stationed there a sinful nation, men who were renegades.

1 Maccabees 1:41-43

⁴¹ Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people ⁴² and that all should give up their particular customs. All the nations accepted the command of the king. ⁴³ Many even from Israel gladly adopted his religion; they sacrificed to idols and profaned the Sabbath.

1 Maccabees 1:54

And on the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the 140 and fifth year, they built an abomination of desolation upon the altar. They burned incense at the door of their houses and in the streets."

Daniel 9:27

²⁷ And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations

shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

Matthew 24:15-16

“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

B. The Devasting Killer (v. 9-19)

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.”

C. The Anti-Christ (v. 23-26)

²³ And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. ²⁴ His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. ²⁵ By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. ²⁶ The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”

Conclusion

²⁷ And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.

Big Idea: Anti-Christ= Choosing self over Christ.

1 Peter 3:15 (Amp)

“But in your hearts set Christ apart [as holy—acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives] as Lord. Always be ready to give a [logical] defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope *and* confident assurance [elicited by faith] that is within you, yet [do it] with gentleness and respect.”

Image- The Myth of the Non-Christian- Luke Cawley