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Daniel 8:15-27 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. 16) And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." 17) 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." 18) 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. 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. 20) The ram which you saw, having the two horns-they are the kings of Media and Persia. 21) And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. 22) As 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. 24) 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. 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." 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. (NKJV)

THE WICKED SHALL BE TURNED INTO HELL, AND ALL THE NATIONS THAT FORGET GOD. PSALM 9:17 (15-20)

Who was the One that looked like a man? Does this One command Gabriel? Why is Daniel so afraid? Is this a type of the what will happen at the end? Is Gabriel revealing a time when iniquity will be full? How does this mighty king not act "by his own power"? Is he a master deceiver? How is he "broken without human means"? Was Daniel sickened by this vision?

FOCUS ON FUTURE EVENTS:

- AUGUST 16: LIFT—THE FINAL LEGISLATIVE INVITATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT
- NOVEMBER 4: THE ELECTION-EVE CAPITOL COOKOUT & PRAYER WALK

The precise time had been determined to the day. Israel had again forsaken God and their leaders had become so corrupt, God abandoned these wicked leaders and those who followed them. In times of honoring God, Israel had enjoyed the balance of spiritual leadership between the prophet, priest and king. But now only one remained, the godly leadership of Onias the High Priest. When Jason bribes Antiochus Epiphanes by turning traitor to Israel and the Temple, he becomes a puppet High Priest. Soon, he is upstaged by another with a higher bribe to become High Priest and godly Onias is murdered. Thus begins the 2300 "evenings and mornings" (Daniel 8:14).

BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday @ 8:30 am –Bible study – Fredericksburg – 106 Carter St, on the North side of Fredericksburg Thursday @ 8:00 am – Bible study – Richmond – Shoney's, Hull & Courthouse & Noon – Lynchburg – Panera Bread, 3901 Old Forest Rd. Friday @ 8:30 am –Bible study – Suffolk – Chick-Fil-A, 6212 College Drive, Near Hampton Roads Crossing

Virginia

The Vision of Evenings and Mornings

THE WICKED WALK ON EVERY SIDE, WHEN THE VILEST MEN ARE EXALTED. PSALM 12:8

I. THE SON OF MAN

DANIEL 8:15-19

Daniel was in Shushan, the capital of the Medes and the Persians, and was likely part of a diplomatic team to gain the favor of Cyrus, whom Daniel knew would overthrow the Babylonian empire and release the nation of Israel to return and rebuild the temple and the walls of Jerusalem. When he receives this vision he is outside the city and overlooking the River Ulai that connected the two main rivers servicing this strategic capital. While contemplating the horror to come upon his people in this vision, Daniel longs to know its meaning. Suddenly there stands before him in the likeness of a man, an appearance of Jesus Christ, the "Son of Man," who tells Gabriel to interpret the vision for Daniel. He becomes so frightened when he hears the voice of God that he falls flat on his face in a comatose state, probably wondering if he is still alive. Gabriel addresses him as "son of man," tells him his vision is about "the time of the end," and picks him up, setting him on his feet, telling him what would happen "in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be." Daniel is amazed that he is still alive, his prayer is being answered, and the focus is on a Gentile king who seems to be a type of a much worse one in the end times.

BUT HE SAID, "YOU CANNOT SEE MY FACE, FOR NO MAN SHALL SEE ME AND LIVE." EXODUS 33:20

II. THE SIN MAGNIFIED

DANIEL 8:20-26

Gabriel explains specifically that the initially invincible ram, "*pushing westward, northward, and southward*" (8:4), are the "*kings of Media and Persia*," one of which Daniel has likely just met at Shushan. Gabriel also specifically identifies the next invincible kingdom as Greece with its first king, Alexander the Great, who soon dies and his empire is split between his four generals, who never acquire the power of Alexander. It will be toward the end of this empire that a bold faced king will arise, because "transgressors have reached their fullness," who with "sinister schemes" will become strong with satanic power. He will become famous by deceitfully attacking those whom he has promised peace, and strategically using fear in destroying the strongest and most godly among the Jews. Their destruction would contribute to his prosperity as he pillaged their houses and stole their wealth as the spoils of war. With his ability to twist the truth, "He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule." By magnifying his authority, he is able "to destroy many in their prosperity." He will become so arrogant that he will be against God and His Word, so that God will personally destroy him. Not only does Antiochus Epiphanes deceitfully overcome and destroy the Jews, shedding rivers of innocent blood, and desecrating and especially disallowing the godly even to worship the true God, but his end is as abominable as his sins. First with intense stabbing pain in his stomach, then every part of his body, then worms appeared, eating various parts of his body until the putrefying smell of his plague became too strong for his soldiers to care for him. Thus, every detail of this vision proved true, and Daniel was to seal it for his people in Hebrew until it occurred.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED, GOD IS NOT MOCKED; FOR WHATEVER A MAN SOWS, THAT HE WILL ALSO REAP. GALATIANS 6:7 FF

III. THE SICKNESS MARKED DANIEL 8:27

The intensity of this holocaust to come upon his people was overwhelming for Daniel and the dread of such judgment make him confined to his bed with sickness, possibly for a week. In contrast to his ancestor, King Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:19), Daniel truly cared and constantly prayed for his people, God's people.

Questions to Ponder:

Are you allowing sin in your life to reach its fullness?
Have you received Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, as your Lord and Savior?
Are you deceiving yourself and mocking God, thinking that you will not reap what you have sown?