



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

The Price of Transgression

JUNE 12-14, 2024

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Daniel 8:8-14 *Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. 9) And 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) And it 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. 11) He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. 12) Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered. 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?" 14) And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."* (NKJV)

What happened to Alexander the Great after he had conquered the world? Was it because he became strong that he was broken? Who is the "little horn"? Which of the countries were conquered by him? What was the greatest height of his arrogance? Why does God let him do this? Does arrogance against God "cast truth to the ground"? When injustice is allowed, do the just want to know "how long"? Does God always have a set time that He allows the wicked to prevail?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

> JUNE 19-21: DANIEL 8:15-22 *THE KINGDOMS EXPLAINED*

> JUNE 19-21: DANIEL 8:23-27 *THE FUTURE KINGDOMS SEALED*

The prayer warrior Daniel is in Shushan, the capital of the Persian empire in the 3rd year of Belshazzar, the final king of the Babylonian empire. The year is 550 BC and a formerly unknown king suddenly bursts upon the pages of history as he defeats his grandfather to become the leader of the Medo-Persian empire. Cyrus the king had been prophesied by Isaiah the prophet a century and a half before he was born, and he is the king God had promised as the means by which His people would be delivered from their 70 years of captivity by Babylon.

NOW IN THE FIRST YEAR OF CYRUS KING OF PERSIA, THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD BY THE MOUTH OF JEREMIAH MIGHT BE FULFILLED, THE LORD STIRRED UP THE SPIRIT OF CYRUS KING OF PERSIA, SO THAT HE MADE A PROCLAMATION THROUGHOUT ALL HIS KINGDOM, AND ALSO PUT IT IN WRITING, SAYING, "THUS SAYS CYRUS KING OF PERSIA: 'ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH THE LORD GOD OF HEAVEN HAS GIVEN ME. AND HE HAS COMMANDED ME TO BUILD HIM A HOUSE AT JERUSALEM WHICH IS IN JUDAH. WHO IS AMONG YOU OF ALL HIS PEOPLE? MAY THE LORD HIS GOD BE WITH HIM AND LET HIM GO UP!'"

2 CHRONICLES 36:22-23

O GOD, THE NATIONS HAVE COME INTO YOUR INHERITANCE; YOUR HOLY TEMPLE THEY HAVE DEFILED; THEY HAVE LAID JERUSALEM IN HEAPS.
PSALM 79:1FF

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST & NOON – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 14490 SMOKETOWN RD.

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 Price of Transgression

I. ARROGANT DESTRUCTION DANIEL 8:8

In this vision, not only does Daniel see the rise of the Medo-Persian empire, symbolized by a ram, but he also saw the swift approach of the male goat from the west. With lightning speed this first king of the Greek empire, Alexander the Great, not only challenged the ram, but quickly destroyed and trampled it. No one in the history of the world had ever conquered so brilliantly, quickly and effectively. In his youth, Alexander the Great was leader of the third world empire. Yet his success proved to be his undoing. Literally, *“because he was strong, the great horn was broken.”* He immediately destroyed himself by intoxication with wine and women, and soon died from a fever which most say was malaria, others, poisoning.

NOW ALL THESE THINGS HAPPENED TO THEM AS EXAMPLES, AND THEY WERE WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION, UPON WHOM THE ENDS OF THE AGES HAVE COME. THEREFORE LET HIM WHO THINKS HE STANDS TAKE HEED LEST HE FALL. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:11-12

II. ANTIOCHUS DOMINATES DANIEL 8:9-12

After the death of Alexander the Great, the Greek empire was divided among four of his generals. As these passed on their rule to their sons, in the eighth dynasty of the Seleucid rulers, a most wicked tyrant rises to power. He will be the focus of the remainder of Daniel’s vision. Appropriately called a *“little horn,”* after being captive as a slave in Rome for 12 years, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, by deceit, flattery and murder of his nephew, became king in Antioch over the Syrian portion in the 137th year of the Greek empire. Immediately, to expand his empire to the south, he sought to conquer Egypt where the king had been given his sister, Cleopatra, as a wife. On his return, he easily conquers Jerusalem and replaces the godly High Priest with a traitor, Jason, who had opened the gates for him. In 171 BC, another priest, Menelaus, gave a higher bribe, and thus replaced Jason as High Priest and the

godly priest, Onias was murdered. Thus, the violence begins by *“transgression”* among the priesthood in Israel. Antiochus only ruled for 11 years from 175 to 164 BC. With Menelaus as his guide, he plunders the Temple, taking all the gold and silver treasures from it and killing over 40,000 Jews and selling as many into slavery, he starts his reign of terror over Israel. When he returns to Egypt to conquer its capital, the Romans expel him. He then vents his full fury on the Jews and requires them to serve his gods. On December 6, 167 BC, he sets up an idol of Zeus in the Temple, requires its worship and desecrates the entire complex by sacrificing pigs to his god and pouring the grease from his sacrifices all over the entire area. Then he will slaughter every Jew who will not immediately sacrifice to his god. On the 25th of every month he will continually keep up the requirement and slaughter, but added to it death for keeping the Sabbath, having a copy or obeying the Scriptures or circumcising their children. His name *“Epiphanes”* is from his claim to be *“God manifest,”* which he inscribed on his coins. Thus, the Temple becomes desolate while he prospers.

IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN ... 2 CHRON 7:14

III. ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION DANIEL 8:13-14

Though our translation calls this severe slaughter with idolatry *“transgression of desolation,”* the Jews called it the *“Abomination of Desolation.”* The cry to such trampling underfoot of God’s truth and His people was *“How long?”* The specific answer was provided by another for Daniel’s benefit, *“For two thousand three hundred days.”* On December 25, 165 BC, prayerful Judas Maccabaeus cleansed the temple, restoring the sacrifices to God and the Jews have celebrated Hanukkah every year ever since. This was the beginning of the end for the Greek empire!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) What is your attitude toward God and His people?
- 2) Do you consider yourself strong and is transgression leading you to fall?
- 3) Is God’s Word and His promises your prayerful guide for decisions in your life and public service?