



SESSION 7 NEAR AND FAR: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ANTICHRIST, PART 2

Daniel 8:15-27

His power will be mighty, but not by his own power, and he will destroy to an extraordinary degree and prosper and perform his will; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.

INTRODUCTION

Other than Jesus Christ, The Antichrist has more prophecy written about him than any other prophetic figure in the Bible.

Daniel chapter 8 contains some of the most detailed examples of that prophetic material in all of Scripture. Using the historical figure of Antiochus Epiphanese and key New Testament passages, this section will provide very specific insight into the person and position of The Antichrist in the last days. Just like Antiochus, he will be a man who capitalizes on the deception of others; he will set himself up as god and will seek to destroy those who are faithful to the one true God; he will prosper in advancing his purposes and the root of his power will be Satanic in nature.

The near fulfillment of these statements was manifested in Antiochus, but as a whole these ideas carry more significance than can be found in the defeated ruler of a ruined Greek empire. They speak to a further fulfillment of a larger prophetic picture, one in which a literal man will rule a literal empire. The Antichrist will set himself up against the Kingdom of God and seek to rule in the place of Jesus Christ. He will in the end be destroyed and find himself among the throngs of other historical figures who have attempted the same feat and fell victim to the same fate.

Interpretation of the Vision

- 15 When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man.
- 16 And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai, and he called out and said, "Gabriel, give this man an understanding of the vision."
- 17 So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end."
- 18 Now while he was talking with me, I sank into a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me and made me stand upright.
- 19 He said, "Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for it pertains to the appointed time of the end.

The Ram's Identity

- 20 "The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.

The Goat

- 21 "The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king.
- 22 "The broken horn and the four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms which will arise from his nation, although not with his power.
- 23 "In the latter period of their rule, when the transgressors have run their course, a king will arise, insolent and skilled in intrigue.

- 24 “His power will be mighty, but not by his own power, and he will destroy to an extraordinary degree and prosper and perform his will; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.
- 25 “And through his shrewdness
He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence;
and he will magnify himself in his heart,
and he will destroy many while they are at ease.
He will even oppose the Prince of princes,
but he will be broken without human agency.
- 26 “The vision of the evenings and mornings
which has been told is true;
but keep the vision secret,
for it pertains to many days in the future.”
- 27 Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days
then I got up again and carried on the king's
business; but I was astounded at the vision, and
there was none to explain it.

NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Daniel 8:17 an angel appears to Daniel and says, "...understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end." What support of Near and Far Fulfillment does this statement provide to someone who might be skeptical of this type of literal interpretation?

2. Why do you think the Bible contains so much prophetic material on the person of The Antichrist? Why is he such a significant figure?

"...Christ will destroy him by the word of His mouth, and bring him to an end by the brightness of His coming. Isn't that something?!"

- Tommy Nelson

3. What specific insights do we gain into the person of The Antichrist through these passages?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

UNPACKING THE TEXT:

Daniel 8:26

The angel instructs Daniel to “keep the vision secret”. Revelation 5:1-5 says in the last days that the Messiah will break the seven seals and open the book, thus bringing judgment upon the earth.

4. *Based on some of the ideas presented in these passages about The Antichrist, is it understandable why people have historically accused past rulers or authority figures of being him? Why?*

5. *Why does the angel instruct Daniel to “keep the vision secret” in verse 26? When will the secret be revealed? Who will reveal it?*