

“The World Seems Out Of Control, But God Controls The Future”

Daniel 8

Sermon Series: “The World Seems Out Of Control, But...”

Introduction: The first half of the chapter is the vision, and the second is the interpretation. This is clearly predictive prophecy as Daniel was written hundreds of years before these things happened. This is a prediction of Medo-Persia, Greece, and Antiochus Epiphanes, who is also a type of the antichrist. Here is some material about that from Stephen Miller:

“As explained in the discussion of Dan 8:17, Antiochus IV seems to be a type of eschatological Antichrist. By examining the life of this ancient king, believers are instructed concerning the character and career of the future ruler. Many parallels exist between the two individuals, suggesting that Antiochus prefigured the Antichrist:

1. Antiochus (8:9) and Antichrist (7:8) are symbolized by horns that were “little” or “small” at the beginning. Representing both kings as little horns supports the idea that one king prefigures the other.

2. Antiochus was “a stern-faced king” (8:23), and Antichrist will have an “imposing” look (7:20). Both of these descriptions imply cruelty and harshness.

3. Antiochus was “a master of intrigue” (8:23), and the brilliance of the Antichrist is suggested by the “eyes” of the horn (7:8,20). The ability to offer seemingly correct solutions to the world’s perplexing problems may be one factor that will catapult Antichrist to power.

4. Antiochus had great power (8:24); Antichrist will have greater power (cf. 11:39; 2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:7-8). Yet 8:24 says that it was not Antiochus’s “own power.” His power was that of Satan, who controlled him, and this satanic inspiration was the reason he attempted to destroy God’s people, the Jews. Antichrist also will be energized by Satan (cf. 2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:2), and this is one reason he will attack God’s people as well.

5. Antiochus destroyed thousands (8:24); Antichrist will destroy more (Rev 13:15; 16:13-16).

6. Antiochus prospered for a short while (8:24), and Antichrist will prosper for a brief time (11:36; Rev 17:12).

7. Antiochus persecuted the saints (8:24); Antichrist also will oppress believers (7:21, 25; Rev 13:7).

8. Antiochus was a deceiver (8:25); Antichrist will be the master deceiver (2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:4,14; 19:20).

9. Antiochus was proud (8:25). He called himself Epiphanes (“the illustrious one” or “God manifest”), although the Jews called him Epimanes (“mad-man”). Antichrist, however, will be one of the most arrogant individuals the world has ever known (7:8,11,20,25; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:5).

10. Antiochus blasphemed God (8:25); Antichrist will blaspheme God (7:25; 11:36; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:5-6).

11. Antiochus was not killed by human hand (8:25), nor will be the Antichrist (2 Thess 2:8; Rev 19:19-20).”

Conviction: The world seems out of control, but God knows, predicts and controls the future.

Action: We will trust God with our lives and futures because His Word is trustworthy.

-Proverbs 30:5

Why?

1. There are many fulfilled prophecies in Scripture here and elsewhere (Peter Stoner material).

2. The continued existence and flourishing of Israel in the face of hatred and persecution.

-v. 25; Revelation 12:1-6, 13; Genesis 37:9-10

Applications:

1. God’s Word is true so it is the authority for our lives (Acts 1:15-26, Acts 2:5-21, Acts 4:23-26, Acts 15). We are to interpret life by Scripture so our question must be as we make decisions and evaluate experiences, “What does the Bible say?”

2. Life can leave us upset and confused, but we must persevere in doing what God has called us to do by doing the next right thing (v. 27).

3. God is faithful to take care of His chosen people (Ephesians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 1:19-20). We can trust this because:

Christ Connections:

A. Jesus is our Conqueror (v. 25, Colossians 2:15, Romans 8:32).

B. Jesus is our sacrifice, temple and High Priest who gives us access to God without a human intermediary (John 1:29, Revelation 21:22, Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 10:10-17).