

DANIEL
CHAPTER

8

DAY ONE

1. Like Daniel 7, this chapter is also the prophetic writing of Daniel.
Please read it twice to get a greater understanding of the events written here.
2. Reading Daniel 7:1 and Daniel 8:1, when did these two visions occur?
Briefly state Daniel's first vision?

Briefly state Daniel's second vision?
3. As we mentioned in our study of Daniel 5, Belshazzar became a coregent with Nabonidus in 553BC.
What do we know about Daniel's age when he came into captivity?
Read Daniel 1:4
We can only guess as to how old Daniel might have been when taken captive in 605 BC.
Simply make a guess. Daniel may have been _____ years old.
How many years have passed since Daniel and his fellow Israelites were taken into captivity?
Approximately how old do you think Daniel was at the time of this vision?
4. Belshazzar is King of Babylon and Daniel is living in Babylon.
Do you remember what Daniel has been doing all these years in captivity?

Daniel's influence waned under King Belshazzar. This reminds me of Joseph in Egypt.

Read Exodus 1:8. What happened that changed things for Joseph and Daniel?
5. Sadly, this is just what happens with the passing of years. Other leaders came into prominence and power who had not personally experienced the wonders of God.
Read Daniel 5:10-12. Who reminded the King about Daniel and his God?
6. Daniel has been in Babylon for many years and will be there for many, many more.
When he has this vision (Chapter 8), where does he see himself?
7. Daniel describes what he saw. What was the first thing Daniel describes in Daniel 8:3-4?
Write down the details.
8. Read Daniel 7:17. What did the animals of Daniel 7 represent?
What do you believe this animal in Chapter 8 represents?
9. Read Daniel 7:24. What did the horns of Daniel 7 represent?
What do you believe these horns in Daniel 8 represent?
What do you believe is the significance of one horn being longer and stronger than the other?
10. This great ram came out of the east. How did Daniel describe the movements of this animal, in Daniel 8:4?
11. The Babylonians had been the dominant kingdom for many years in Daniel's life.
Do you recall the statue, representing the kingdoms in Daniel 2 and the animals that came out of the sea in Daniel 7?

Which kingdom do you believe this ram also represents?

12. Look at the chart in the Biblical reference pages to see the statue we looked at in Daniel 2 and the beasts of Daniel 7. These two chapters gave us insight as to the kingdoms God used to discipline and correct his people.

Read Hebrews 12:6 in the Message translation. I believe it will help us understand the discipline of the Lord. What can we know about God's discipline?
13. Babylon is now ruled by Belshazzar. In the vision, Daniel sees a ram charging from the east. Which two kingdoms or empires lie to the west of Babylon?
*See the first map included in the Biblical Reference pages.
14. In his vision, where did Daniel see himself?

Which empire is this city located in?
15. Read Isaiah 14:27. What do we know about God's plans?
16. Daniel 8:5. What is the next animal of Daniel's vision?
17. Previously in our study of Daniel, we have seen animals used to describe conquering kingdoms. Which kingdom does the goat represent?

Label the goat with the kingdom it represents on the chart included in the Biblical reference pages.
18. List the events of Daniel 8:5-7.
19. What does Daniel 8:8 tell us about the goat?

We must remember this goat represents a kingdom, and the horn represents a mighty ruler. And the four horns that become prominent represent four generals who come into power in place of the first ruler.
20. We know, looking back in history, these events happened exactly as prophesied by Daniel many years before. Alexander the Great did indeed conquer the known world with great speed and merciless force. However, at the height of his glory, he suddenly died, and four of his generals took over his kingdom. These generals were Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Ptolemy.
Look at Daniel 8:9 again, what do we learn about one of these four rulers?

What land became the object of this ruler's attention?
21. Conquering Israel was not enough for this proud and arrogant ruler. What did this ruler do in Daniel 8:11?
22. According to Daniel 8:12, what was the cause and effect of this leader's actions?

Cause-

Effect-

We know from history that this was Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who came out of the Seleucid dynasty. He conquered to the south, to the east but he was especially interested in conquering Israel.

23. Daniel 8:10 mentions the “starry host” being thrown down.
Read Genesis 15:5. What promise had God made to Abraham concerning his offspring?

This picturesque language is describing what people?

24. According to Daniel 8:10, what did this vicious ruler do to God’s people?

25. This was a time of great unrest, warring, and rebellion. Looking back in history, we see this was the cruel leader, Antiochus. He trampled the Jewish people and set himself up as commander of the host. Declaring himself to have divine authority, He declared himself Antiochus Epiphanes. The meaning of Antiochus is the illustrious one, or god manifested. He claimed to be Zeus incarnate.

Who do you believe this could be a foreshadowing picture of?
Read I John 2:18-23

26. List the chain of events you saw in Daniel 8:11-12.

27. How could something this horrible happen again in Jerusalem? Isn’t this God’s holy city?

What was going on in the hearts and lives of the Israelites?

If you are still wondering how this could happen again to God’s people, read Daniel 8:12 in the Message translation. After reading these verses, how had God’s people been treating daily worship of Jehovah?

28. Do you believe God has softened his stand on holiness?

If not, what do you think he is thinking about America today?

Does the complacency of God’s people to sin cause you concern?

What can believers do that would please the heart of God?

If you are not sure, you might go back and read the first few words of Daniel 1:8 and follow his example. We can only control our own thoughts and actions, but we must not underestimate the power of our example. As a follower of Christ, we are to reflect Him to the world.

Do others see Jesus when they are around you?

29. Daniel 8:13-14 records a conversation between the angels. What was the question? Just state it in your own words. What was the time mentioned in these verses?

30. The angel, Gabriel, was sent to help Daniel understand the meaning of his vision. Gabriel was also God’s messenger sent with good news in Luke 1:26-30.
What news did he bring to Mary?

What understandable response did Mary and Daniel have to the appearance of Gabriel?
(Luke 1:30 and Daniel 8:17)

Gabriel appeared to Daniel and 500 years later to Zechariah and to Mary. Each time Gabriel appeared, he brought important messages from God.

31. Daniel 8:20, tells us very clearly which kingdom the two-horned ram represented.
Which kingdom was it?

32. Daniel 8:21-25. Which kingdom does the goat represent?

33. The large horn between the goat's eyes was the _____.
34. After a period of great power and prominence, what happened to the large horn? (Daniel 8:8)
What do you believe this means for the ruler concerning his kingdom when it is at the height of its power and glory?
35. The four horns that replaced the large horn, when it was broken off, were _____.
Although, they will not have the same power.
36. List the chain of events from Daniel 8:23-25.
37. Since these events would not take place for several years, it makes sense that Daniel was told to keep this matter to himself. How might king Belshazzar have interpreted this vision, had Daniel walked in and shared it with him?

Kings and rulers seldom like to discuss their reign coming to an end. Do you think it might have been interpreted as treasonous remarks?
38. What specific instruction was Daniel given concerning this vision? (Daniel 8:26)
39. Knowing when and what to say and to whom we should say it is very important.
When it comes to your own conversations, do you pray and ask God for divine wisdom and discretion and his divine timing?
40. Has God ever told you, "Simply, be quiet?"
41. We, too, should be sensitive with what we share, with whom we share it, and when we share it.
Do you recall a time when you tried to have a spiritual conversation and the timing was not right? Perhaps the person you wanted to talk to did not want to have that type of conversation?

We must carefully consider the motive behind our words. Are we attempting to share the greatest gift ever given or are we judging others and attempting to correct them?

Read Matthew 7:1-6. As we have said many times, often the best witnessing tool we can use is a life lived with humility and service, like Christ.
42. We must be wise and gentle at the same time. We must listen carefully for God's voice to instruct us when and what to share. We must be ready with a pure heart; one God can use. We must ask him to provide hearts that are softened and ready to receive the truth.

Stop for a few minutes and talk to God about those he will bring across your path. Why not ask Him to soften their heart, so they can see the love He has for them.
43. How did seeing this vision affect Daniel?
44. How did studying this chapter affect you?
45. After a time of rest, what do we see Daniel do?
46. There are so many Christians today who throw up their hands and makes silly statements like, I'm just biding my time until the Lord returns or, I'm retired and waiting on Jesus' return.

They are right to be watching for the Lord's return, but, what should we be doing with the time we have remaining?
47. What might that look like for you today?

48. It can feel like a battle each day, loving and serving like Jesus. So many forces, seen and unseen, are against us. Read Joshua 5:13-15. Who appeared to Joshua just prior to the battle of Jericho?

The truth is that it was not a matter of whose side the visitor was on; it was a matter of whose side Joshua was on. Has God given you a seemingly impossible assignment?

What is the only thing you must concern yourself with, the size of the task or the size of the God who called you?

49. Psalms 51:17 speaks of a broken and contrite heart being pleasing to God. This is the type of person God will use. What exactly is a broken and contrite heart?

50. What lesson can we take from Daniel 8:27?

Please do not miss this.

If you are a follower of Christ, you too will become exhausted sometimes, but God has "King's business" he would like you to carry out.

There is nothing wrong with getting good rest when it is needed, but after that, what are we to do?

51. The object of studying God's word is so we can better know Him. Which of God's character qualities have you seen in Daniel 8?

52. One of the things I love the most about Daniel is his diligence to try to understand everything God shows him. When you come to something difficult to understand, are you diligent to hang in there and try to understand?

Let me just say, the fact that you are still here working on Daniel 8 shows great tenacity and dedication!!! If you have gotten this far in Daniel, you can humbly reply "yes".

53. When you study chapters in the Bible, like Daniel 7 and 8, you see how much prophecy has already come to pass. What effect does it have on your walk of faith?

54. Read I Thessalonians 4:13-16. These verses describe the rapture of the church, the body of Christ. They are those who have placed their trust in Christ and had their sins forgiven. After reading the words of the apostle Paul, make a list of the processes seen in these few verses concerning Christ returning for his church.

55. We do not know the day or the hour of Christ's return, but we do know the signs to be looking for. Does this give you hope?

If so, how are you sharing this hope in a world that seems to be more and more anxious?

56. We have seen in this chapter that God uses the heathen nations, when necessary, to discipline his chosen people. We should never forget they were and are God's chosen people. He has a plan for the Israelites. It is never okay to be hostile to or prejudiced against Jewish people or any other group of people just because they are different than you.

Read Genesis 12:1-3 and underline the promises God made to Abram.

What did God promise to all who bless Israel?

What did God promise to all who curse Israel?

NOTES

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