McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: May 30, 2021

Title: “Antiochus IV and the Antichrist”

Text: Daniel 8:1-27

**THE RECEPTION OF DANIEL’S VISION** (8:1-2)

1. The **Position** of the Vision (8:1)

*Date: 551 B.C. … two years after vision of chapter 7.*

*Chronology: 12 years before the fall of Babylon described in Daniel 5.*

1. The **Profile** of the Vision (8:1)

The visions in Dan. 2 & 7 both summarize the rise & fall of four kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The vision of Dan. 8 focuses on the 2nd & 3rd of those kingdoms: Medo-Persia and Greece. These 2 king-doms are singled out because they have special relev. for the Jew. people.

“In this vision we get a glimpse of a terrible part of the world’s future by understanding a terrible part of the Jews’ past. Even though the Jews suffered horrifically under a Greek ruler, it can’t compare to the suffer-ing under the coming Antichrist.” - Dr. David Jeremiah

1. The **Place** of the Vision (8:2)

Daniel was actually in Babylon but was transported in a vision to Susa (or, Shushan) a town ***little known*** at the time (551 B.C.) and ***unsuspected*** for its future grandeur. Long before the Persian Empire began, before Baby-lon fell, Daniel saw himself at the capital of the Persian kingdom.

**THE REVELATION OF DANIEL’S VISION** (8:3-14)

1. The Ram (8:3-4)

The ram is identified in vs. 20 as the Medo-Persian Empire. It correspond-ed to **the** arms & breast of silver of the image in ch. 2 & to **the** bear in ch. 7.

1. The Goat (8:5-14)

The next thing Daniel saw was a goat coming from the west. The goat is id-entified in verse 21 as “the king of Greece”. Fall of Medo-Persia: 331 BC.

1. One Prominent Horn (8:5-8a)

The goat had a “prominent horn between his eyes”. This horn symbo-lyzed the Greek Empire’s first great king, Alexander the Great (21).

1. Four Prominent Horns (8:8b)

When Alexander died (323 B.C.), history tells us that four of his gen-erals divided up the vast empire and formed separate kingdoms:

1. **Ptolemy** took Egypt, Cyrene, Cyprus, and Palestine.
2. **Seleucus** possessed Syria, Babylonia, and the Iranian Plateau.
3. **Cassander** ruled Macedonia and Greece proper.
4. **Lysimachus** controlled Thrace and most of western Asia Minor.
5. One \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 9-14)

This king was Antiochus IV, also known as Epiphanes, the 8th ruler of the Seleucid/Syrian division (175-164 B.C.). He moved South, against Egypt; and then East (Armenia). But in 171 B.C. he turned his attention toward the “Beautiful Land” (the Jews and city of Jerusalem).

**THE INTERPRETATION OF DANIEL’S VISION** (8:15-25)

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Vision (8:15-16)

Daniel didn’t understand the vision of vss. 3-14; but Gabriel did (vss. 15-16).

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Vision (8:17-19, 26b)

For the first time in chapter 8 we’re told that “the time of the end” is in question in relation to the vision (verses 17, 19, 26).

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Vision (8:23-25)

This futuristic emphasis (vss. 15-25) leads many conservative, evangelical theologians & expositors of the Word to conclude that this difficult pass-age goes beyond that which is historically fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes to foreshadow a fut. personage often identified as the world ruler of the end time (known as the Beast or Antichrist). *There are many parallels:*

* both begin modestly but increase in power and influence
* both blaspheme God with mouths that speak boastful things
* both persecute Jewish people
* both claim to be gods and put images in the temple
* both impose their own religion on the people
* both are opposed by a believing remnant that knows God
* both appear to succeed marvelously and seem to be invincible
* both are finally defeated by the coming of a redeemer:

*- In the past, the 2nd century B.C. Judas Maccabeus*

*- In the future, Jesus Christ, at His second coming.*

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**THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO DANIEL’S VISION** (8:26-27)