

DANIEL

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE & REBECCA FRENCH

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

Beastly Rulers Always Oppose God's Ways Inflicting Human Suffering Daniel 8

Dan. 8:1 *In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first...**27** And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.*

"Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end." (v.19)

Overview

A charging Ram with unequally prominent horns meets no resistance (Medo-Persia).

Dan. 8:4 *I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.*

"As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia." (v. 20)

A single-horned, east-bound Goat overthrows the Ram (Greece under Alexander).

Dan. 8:5 *... a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, ... And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. ...**7** I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him...*

"And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king." (v. 21)

The goat's broken horn is replaced by four lesser horns (Greece under the Diadochi).

Dan. 8:8 *Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.*

"As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power." (v. 22)

An arrogant little horn opposes worship of the God of Israel (Antiochus Epiphanes).

Dan. 8:9 *Out of one of them came a little horn...**11** It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. **12** And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper.*

"And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. His power shall be great—but not by his own power;" (vv. 23-24)

The appalling hallmarks of beastly rulers are...

Dan. 8:27 *And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days...I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.*

- **Animosity toward God** – *...and the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. (v. 11)*
- **Destruction & violence** – *“...and he shall cause fearful destruction ...and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints.” (v. 24)*
- **Arrogant pride** – *“...in his own mind he shall become great. ... And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes...” (v. 25)*

Despite beastly opposition we follow our Servant King by...

- **...respecting human authority while serving the real Authority.**
John 19:11 *Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.*
- **...refusing to treat human adversaries with hostility or contempt.**
Eph. 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but ... against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*
- **...rejecting beastly modes of power (violence, manipulation, deception, etc.).**
John 18:36 *Jesus answered [Pilate], “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews.”*
- **...enduring unjust suffering to benefit others as we respond to God's love in Christ.**
1 Pet. 2:20b *But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*

SONGS

“GOD IS FOR US” - M. Farren, J. Ferguson, T. Kleyn, J. Reeves, J. Robinson, J Tealy, R. Thompson

“GREAT ARE YOU LORD” - David Leonard, Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan

“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS” – Thomas Obediah Chisholm, William Marion Runyan

“TO THE ONE” - Oscar Gamboa, Meredith Mauldin, and Beau Maddox

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 49,844.11

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 1,246,395.90

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 1,299,348.00