

#12 – Judgment Day Part 1 - Daniel 8 Prophecy

Introduction/Purpose: To understand the Day of Atonement and what it means for us today. To be encouraged to live each day to the full.

1. Daniel 8:1-3 In Bible prophecy, what does an animal; a beast, represent? (Dan 7:17, 23)

In Dan 7, we saw that the beasts in Daniel's dream represented and paralleled the exact same kingdoms that were symbolized by the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel chapter 2. We saw that Daniel's dream of the beasts was a repetition and expansion of the dream of the image. Both sets of symbols foretold the same future kingdoms. We will find that this vision is yet another parallel of the exact same kingdoms containing new information including time prophecy. In this second repetition of the same prophecy, this time again using animals/beasts to expand on the details of the prophecies already given concerning the future kingdoms of the world.

2. Daniel 8:20 Of the four beasts in Dan 7, one beast; the bear had two sides. One side was 'higher than the other'; 'raised up on one side'. *Dan 7:5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side...* The two horns on this ram in Dan 8 parallel the two sides on the bear in Dan 7, which in turn parallels the two arms on the chest and arms of silver in Dan 2. The silver chest had two arms, the bear had two sides, and this ram has two horns, because the Medes and Persians ruled together. In Daniel's dream in Dan 7, the weight of detail shifts to the future kingdom of iron. In this vision, God shifts the emphasis of detail even more heavily to future events; skipping Babylon altogether and starting the vision with Media-Persia.

3. Daniel 8:4 "pushing westward, and northward, and southward" represents the literal directions that Media-Persia expanded its territory: west into Lydia, north into what is currently Russia, and south into Egypt and Ethiopia.

4. Daniel 8:5-8 What beast in Dan 7 had wings and was extremely fast; enabling it to 'not touch the ground'? What beast was divided into four parts? What beast in had a 'notable' king? *Dan 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.* This he-goat parallels the leopard with four wings and four heads, which also parallels the belly and thighs of brass in Dan 2; both representing Greece. The 'notable' horn represents the 'notable' world renowned Greek ruler Alexander 'the great'. The four wings and speed of the leopard in Dan 7 parallel the speed attributed to the he-goat; 'not touching the ground'. Alexander the great conquered the known world with mind boggling speed. The four heads of the leopard in Dan 7 parallel the four horns that replaced the notable one. When Alexander the great died, he was succeeded by four generals: Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Ptolemy.

5. Daniel 8:21-22, 9-13, 23-25, 27 Was there a little horn in Daniel 7? Who was the little horn, of Dan 7, and what was the theme of his involvement in Dan 7? The little horn of Dan 8 comes up out of grand scale war caused by the four horns. (Dan 8:8-9, Jer 49:36-37) There is no doubt that the little horn of Dan 7, the Papacy, is being paralleled to this little horn in Dan 8. The only difference is that this time in Dan 8, this little horn includes both pagan and papal Rome with an emphasis on papal Rome. Let's explore some of parallels between the little horn in Dan 7 and the little horn in Dan 8. **#A.** Both are little. "little horn" (7:8, 8:9) **#B.** Both are powerful: "more stout than his fellows" (7:20), "waxed exceeding great" (8:9) **#C.** Both carry out persecution against God's lights; His faithful: "wear out the saints of the most High" (7:25) "cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them" (8:10) "shall prosper, and practise and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people" (8:24) **#D.** Both are filled with motives of self exaltation to the point of taking the place of God: "in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things" (7:8) "he shall speak great words against the most High" (7:25) "he magnified himself even to the prince of the host" (8:11) "he shall magnify himself in his heart" (8:25) "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. (2Thes 2:4) **#E.** Both rebel against Jesus, who said: "one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law" (Mat 5:18) "and think to change times and laws" (7:25) "he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes" (8:25) **#F.** Both are allowed to thrive through the judgment until the 2nd coming: "But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion" (7:6) "he shall be broken without hand" (8:25) "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces." (2:34) Now let's look at some of the additional details we can glean from what we already read in Dan 8. The little horn: Casts down the truth to the ground. (v.12) Desecrates the sanctuary. (v.13) Understands dark sentences. (v.23) (is 'skilled at intrigues' - MKJV; keeps secrets – perhaps secret societies?) Has mighty power not from himself, but from the devil. (v.24) Causes craft (deceit) to prosper. (v.25)

6. Daniel 7:9-11 Here in Dan 7, the judgment begins before the little horn is destroyed by the fiery destruction of the world at Jesus' second coming. God's judgment hour begins before Jesus comes again. A message goes forth to the world before probation closes: Rev 14:7 ...the hour of his judgment has come... (ESV/MKJV) When Jesus comes, He comes with His reward because judgment has already taken place. Rev 22:11-12 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Before Jesus comes, He has already passed judgment on every individual's life - even from the beginning of the world.

7. James 2:10-12, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 By what standard are we judged?

8. Hebrews 4:12-13 Why is there any need for a judgment if Jesus already knows every person's heart and every decision they will ever make? Since Jesus already knows every person's heart, the heavenly judgment is not primarily for the benefit of God, but for the benefit of the angels. The angels are not all-knowing as God is. God needs to prove to the angels that each individual who is being adopted into the family of God is safe, and will never again sow the seeds of death, sin, and rebellion. The judgment is a necessary step in Jesus' victory in the great controversy between God and Satan. The first phase of this judgment, which occurs before Jesus' 2nd coming, is the part where the evidence is investigated by the judge and jury. This is commonly known as the 'investigative judgment'. This happens in heaven. Jesus is the Judge and billions of angels are the jury. The books that are opened contain the records of everyone's lives. We are judged by our works, although we are saved by faith. (Mat 7:19-23)

9. Revelation 20:4 During the millennium, all of the saved people from all of earth's history will enter into the investigative judgment also. We will look into why people are there that may surprise us that they are there, and we will also look into why some are not there. Another reason for the judgment is that ever since Lucifer rebelled in heaven, God's character has been on trial; in challenge. God has been accused of selfishness, and at this time, everyone will have ample opportunity to look at the books and investigate. Until thoroughly satisfied, all will investigate how God has behaved Himself in every detail in the controversy over who is selfish and who is selfless: God or Satan? 1Cor 6:2-3 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And...the world shall be judged by you...Know ye not that we shall judge angels?... (fallen angels)

10. Revelation 15:2-4 What is the outcome of the judgment concerning the great controversy?

11. Daniel 8:11, 13 The judgment brought up in Dan 7, and the sanctuary brought up in Dan 8. In Dan 7, every beast is an unclean beast, and was never used for sacrifices in the sanctuary. It is the opposite in Dan 8. Both rams and goats were clean animals, and were commonly used in the sacrificial services of the sanctuary. Dan 8 is about the sanctuary. Dan 7 is about ungodly kingdoms. The daily (Dan 8:11, 13) describes the things that continually and regularly occurred in the sanctuary.

12. Hebrews 9:1-28 The Day of Atonement, however, was the exact opposite of the daily. It was not a continual and regular occurrence. It was a one time per year rare occurrence. The Day of Atonement was an awe inspiring, sobering, unique, and irregular event.

1Joh 2:1-2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Php 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Won't you confess your sins and choose Jesus as your advocate right now?

Is there ever going to be a better time than the present?