

Joyful Life Bible Studies

Daniel 8:1-27

Lesson 10

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share a way your study of Daniel 7:1-28 has influenced your *faith, hope* or *witness* this week.

2. Through our study of Daniel 8 this week we will observe that God's sovereign plan includes nations and individuals. Read Daniel 8:1-27. Note the following divisions and write the phrase or verse that particularly captures your attention:
 - a. Daniel's vision – verses 1-14

 - b. Daniel's request and Gabriel's response – verses 15-19

 - c. The interpretation of the vision – verses 20-27

3. Pastor Chuck says, *Isn't it wonderful to be instructed by the Author of the Book? It is such a blessing to me to have the Holy Spirit open up my understanding to a passage of Scripture. It really helps to have the God of heaven as your tutor, right there alongside you.* With this in mind ask the Lord to grant you understanding and guidance as you complete your lesson. Write your prayer here.

*. . . the Helper, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in My name,
He will teach you . . .
John 14:26a NKJV*

SECOND DAY: Read Daniel 8:1-7

- History verifies the prophetic vision of Daniel 8. In our lesson this week we will consider some of the historical events Daniel foresaw in his vision. Portions of these prophecies also foreshadow future events. Read the introductory verses in Daniel 8:1,2 and describe the circumstances surrounding this *vision*.
- The prophetic *vision* in Daniel 8 focuses on two of the four empires seen in Daniel 7. Read Daniel 8:3-5 and note the main images Daniel saw. Daniel 8:20,21 sheds light on verses 3-5 by revealing what these images represent. To see this complete the following chart:

Images	Activity	Represents
verse 3 <i>ram with 2 horns</i>	verse 4	verse 20
verse 5 <i>he goat with a notable horn</i>	verses 5 - 7	verse 21

- History records the rise of the Medo-Persian empire and how Persia (*the ram*), under Cyrus, became stronger and made its conquests to the *west, north* and *south*. Daniel predicted the war between the *ram* and the *goat* (Greece). The symbol used on the coins of the Persian empire was a *ram* and the symbol on the coins of the Grecian empire was a *goat*. How does this speak to you?
- God alone knows the future. Read the following verses from Isaiah and write your response:

*Do not forget the things I have done throughout history.
 For I am God – I alone!
 I am God, and there is no one else like Me.
 Only I can tell you what is going to happen even before it happens.
 Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.*
 Isaiah 46:9,10 NLT

THIRD DAY: Read Daniel 8:8-14

1. Daniel 8:8 is so precise in its predictions that it disturbs skeptics. Bible scholars agree that Alexander the Great fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel 8:5-8, identifying him as the *large horn* on the *male goat that grew very great* (verse 8a NKJV). Observe what happened to him after he became *strong* by filling in the blanks from verse 8b:

and when he was strong, the _____ horn _____;

- a. Observe the following quote from Pastor Chuck: *Alexander the Great was only 32 years old when he died. After Alexander's death the Grecian empire was divided by four of his generals. Verse 8c was explicitly fulfilled. How does fulfillment of prophecy affect your confidence in God's Word?*

Optional: Alexander the Great seemed invincible during his conquests of the world, yet in his youth he suddenly died. Think about this as you read James 4:14. What perspective does this give you about life and the way you should live?

Advanced Students: After Alexander's death his four leading generals fought for and divided the Grecian empire among themselves. Name the four generals and the territory they ruled.

2. Out of one of the four horns or rulers *came forth a little horn*. Daniel 8:9-12 describes this evil ruler. Pastor Chuck and many Bible expositors identify this man as Antiochus Epiphanes from Syria, who foreshadows the Antichrist. Record one or two prophetic statements about him from the following verses:
 - a. verse 9 (The *pleasant land* is the *land of Israel*.)
 - b. verse 10 (The phrase *even to* means *even against*; the *hosts of heaven* here are the *Jewish people* and the *stars* are the *priests and spiritual leaders*.)
 - c. verse 11 (The *prince of the host* is the *Lord*.)
 - d. verse 12

3. Read Daniel 8:13,14. Daniel *heard* the discussion between two *saints*, perhaps angels. Consider the question in Daniel 8:13b NIV: *How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled – the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?* Print the answer from Daniel 8:14.
 - a. This amazing prophecy was written over 350 years before it was fulfilled. Antiochus began his persecution of the Jews in approximately 171 BC. On December 25, 165 BC the sanctuary was cleansed by Judas Maccabeus. How does this minister to you about the wisdom and greatness of our God?

FOURTH DAY: Read Daniel 8:15-22

1. Imagine the thoughts, questions and feelings that Daniel might have experienced while seeing this vision. Read Daniel 8:15-19 and summarize what happened according to:
 - a. verses 15,16
 - b. verse 17
 - c. verses 18,19
 - d. What impresses you the most from these verses?
2. Gabriel explained to Daniel: *understand that the vision concerns the time of the end. . . I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end* (Daniel 8:17b,19 NIV). In Daniel 8:20-22 Gabriel clearly identified the images Daniel saw at the beginning of this vision. Gabriel was showing Daniel the parallels between the vision and the end times. Why do you think God would want Daniel to know these things?
3. God's time clock is ticking. We are seeing signs of the last days unfolding all around us. In light of this what does Luke 21:28 instruct us to do?

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
Revelation 22:20c

FIFTH DAY: Read Daniel 8:23-27

1. The verses we will study today include prophecy that foreshadows *the time of the end* (Daniel 8:17c). Often in Daniel 8:23-25 both Antiochus and Antichrist are in view. *And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise...*(Daniel 8:23a NKJV). Describe this *king* by writing phrases from the following verses:
 - a. verse 23b
 - b. verse 24
 - c. verse 25
 - (1.) Pause and think about the last phrase of verse 25 NIV: *Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.* How will the Antichrist be destroyed? Answer from Revelation 19:20.
2. Draw a few parallels between Daniel 8:23-25 and the description of the Antichrist (beast) from the following verses:
 - a. II Thessalonians 2:3b,4
 - b. II Thessalonians 2:9,10a
 - c. What practical instruction is given to believers in II Thessalonians 2:15?
3. Notice the instruction Daniel was given in Daniel 8:26 NKJV: *And the vision of the evenings and mornings which was told is true; therefore seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future.* Think about Daniel's reaction to the vision as you write Daniel 8:27 here phrase by phrase.
 - a. Daniel was physically, emotionally and spiritually affected by the vision. What does this reveal to you about this prophet of God?
 - b. In spite of being shaken by what he had seen and heard, Daniel *rose up, and did the king's business.* What do you learn from this that you can apply to your life?

SIXTH DAY: Review Daniel 8:1-27

1. In response to your study of Daniel 8:1-27 write an insight you received or a discovery you made concerning:
 - a. fulfilled prophecy

 - b. prophecy yet to be fulfilled

 - c. God

 - d. His Word

2. Why do you think it is important to study Biblical prophecy?

3. What effect should the knowledge of the prophecies of Daniel 8 have on your perspectives, priorities and pursuits as a Christian?

4. How does knowing the Lord uses nations and individuals to accomplish His sovereign plan minister to you today?

*... for He alone has all wisdom and power.
He determines the course of world events;
He removes kings and sets others on the throne.*
Daniel 2:20b,21a NLT