

20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning Week 38 (September 17-23, 2017)

After taking a week to see the miracle that saved Daniel's life, I want to return to his dream that occurred at least 14 years earlier. This amazing prophecy still blows my mind after many years of study.

Sunday, September 17 (read Daniel 7:15-18)

"The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth." (Daniel 7:17)

We have already observed the four great global empires that ruled the entire world (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome). Even though Daniel has already interpreted the truth of the world empires to Nebuchadnezzar (see chapter 2), he is still troubled by the vision that he has experienced (v. 15). Fortunately, an angel is standing nearby to encourage him and to remind him of coming world events

(v. 16). Following the best efforts of man to rule the earth, Jesus returns after the Great Tribulation to set up His kingdom, along with the saints from all the ages (v. 18; see also Revelation 20:1-6). The Lord and all believers will reign on earth for 1000 years, but this time will end when the New Jerusalem comes down from Heaven and a new earth is formed. This kingdom will last for ever and ever (v. 18).

Monday, September 18 (read Daniel 7:19-22)

Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, . . . (Daniel 7:19a)

The fourth beast is so different from the other three that God does not use any animal (lion, bear, leopard) to describe it (see Daniel 7:4-6), sufficing to say it was terrifying, frightening and very powerful. This pictures the kingdom of Rome, a brutal kingdom that was never defeated by another global coalition. Instead, Rome declined as the leaders became more and more proud, greedy and full of debauchery, leading the citizens to do the same horrible acts (v. 19). A confederation of ten nations that were formerly associated with the Romans will emerge in **the last days** and elect or appoint a ruler who will rule the entire world (v. 20). This ruler is the antichrist (1 John 2:18), also called the beast (Revelation 13:1) and the little horn (Daniel 13:8). We will see some of his activities in tomorrow's devotion.

Tuesday, September 19 (reread Daniel 7:19-22)

As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, . . . (Daniel 7:21)

As you can see from the printed verse, the antichrist's military will be allowed to defeat the new believers during the second half of the tribulation, which is known as the Great Tribulation. Many, if not most, of the new converts will be executed. At least some of the slain will be killed by beheadings (Revelation 20:4). People used to scoff when I preached this truth forty years ago, but I doubt if anyone is scoffing now. The antichrist, with his boastful mouth (Daniel 7:20), "will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God" (2 Thessalonians 2:4). He will conquer until God sends His Son back to earth along with His angels and His saints (us). Don't forget that Daniel sees all of these visions in **553 B.C.** If God accurately identified the first four global kingdoms, is there any doubt that He knows how the rule of man will end and the rule of God will begin?

Wednesday, September 20 (read Daniel 7:23-25)

He will speak against the Most High and oppress His saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. (Daniel 7:25)

The angel explains to Daniel what he has seen in the vision. As we have previously learned, the fourth global kingdom will be the Roman Empire (v. 13). At the end of time, a confederacy of ten nations will emerge from the former Roman dynasty and will elect a leader who will rule the entire world (antichrist). This man will run roughshod over three of the ten nations and begin to attack anything that is worshipped or is called God (2 Thessalonians 2:4). The entire tribulation lasts for seven years, but the major part of the brutal persecution will be in the final three and a half years (time, times and half a time). Then Jesus returns with His angels and His saints to conquer the antichrist and his evil kingdom, to remove and judge the unbelievers and to begin his earthly reign of 1000 years. Some of this has been repetitious, but I want to emphasize the amazing accuracy of the prophecy given in **553 B.C.**

Thursday, September 21 (read Daniel 8:1-4; 15-20)

I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later. (Daniel 8:3)

In 551 B.C., God gives his servant, Daniel yet another vision of the same truth. Once again, He pictures the alliance of the Medes and the Persians conquering the entire world. This time, however, He uses a two-horned ram to picture the combined empire. Once again, He foretells the fact that Persia will be the stronger nation (longer horn). For the first time, however, God tells us the name of the angel who is interpreting Daniel's vision (v. 15-20). He is the Angel Gabriel (v. 16), the same one who appeared to Mary to announce the coming Messiah (Luke 1:26-27). I hope that you are finding this prophecy amazing as well as perfectly accurate.

Friday, September 22 (read Daniel 8:5-8; 21-22)

"The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king." (Daniel 8:21)

In this latest vision, Daniel sees a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes attacking the ram. The goat moved so quickly in conquering the world that his feet did not even touch the ground (v. 5-6). More than 200 years after Daniel's dream, Greece (represented by the goat), under Alexander the Great, defeated the Medes and the Persians and ruled the entire world. As I said earlier, Alexander died at the age of 33 and his kingdom was divided into four sections under the leadership of four generals (v. 8). The kingdom endured for more than 250 years before the Romans conquered it, but it never regained the power it had under the rule of Alexander (21-22). Don't lose sight of the fact that Daniel had this vision in **551 B.C.**

Saturday, September 23 (Daniel 9:1-19)

"We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy." (Daniel 9:18b)

I want to close this week of amazing prophecy by having you read Daniel's powerful prayer. This is similar to the way that we should be praying for America. Don't miss the fact that Daniel is given truth from Scripture as to the length of the captivity of the Jews (v. 2). This same Scripture will also guide us as we walk with the Lord daily. He starts his prayer with confession of sins (v. 4-14) and then moves into his request for God to show His mercy (15-19). Likewise, America has deserted the Word of God and redefined marriage, gender, and morality and life, itself. Judgment will come to our country, but God has given us a little window of time to reach our loved ones. Read Daniel's prayer often and start praying this way for your country, your family and your church. We will rest after we arrive in Heaven!