

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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Abomination of Desolation (Matthew 24; Daniel 8)

Introduction

Matthew 24:15: 15. *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)* This verse is the central theme around which this study revolves. Everything that Jesus said in this verse, and the surrounding chapters, is accented by the last phrase “the (one) reading - consider, ponder, understand.” Consider, then, what Daniel wrote about the “abomination of desolation,” and, what Jesus said leading up to the statement, and his explanations to the disciple's questions. WHEN you see the abomination indicates something not as yet seen by the disciples.

There is historical value to knowing about the destruction of the temple and the city of Jerusalem. Many know that the animals in Daniel's visions represent nations. How does knowing only the history help with the sin in your life? The real and personal value comes with being able to see these things as allegories and types of a person's spiritual experience. So the focus is on the characteristics of those nations as they apply to the thinking of man. God is actually exposing what is in the heart of mankind to those who have spiritual ears to hear (Mk 4:9).

The context of chapter 24 begins in Matthew 21:23, when Jesus came to the temple, and the chief priest, elders and people gathered about as he taught. Then he left the temple (Mt 24:1, 3) to go to the Mount of Olives with his disciples, and continued to teach through Matthew 26:2. All of that time Jesus taught by parables, and the leaders in Jerusalem kept trying to discredit his teaching (Mt 22:15, 23). All this occurred just two days before the Passover (Mt 26:1-2) when Jesus was to go to the cross.

Mt 23:1-3: 1. *Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, 2. Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: 3. All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.* As Jesus was concluding his discourse to the people, he told them that their leaders were hypocrites, blind guides, fools, murderers, and snakes, who outwardly appeared beautiful, but inwardly they were full of extortion, hypocrisy and iniquity. Then as he was leaving the temple, he told the Pharisees, **Mt 23:38:** *Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.*

The disciples did not understand the words of Jesus, and they began to speak to him about the beauty of the temple (Lk 21:5). Jesus answered: **Lk 21:6:** *As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in which there shall not be left one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.* It is clear from the next few verses that the disciples understood “house” to mean “temple.” The prophecy has a dual meaning: 1) Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed; 2) The people of the temple would be left spiritually desolate because they rejected the Messiah. Every concept (stone) taught by man would be destroyed by the truth of the cross.

Words like house, tent and temple are used metaphorically of the mind (cf 2 Pet 1:13-14; Heb 9:11; 2 Cor 5:1; Eph 2:21). **Pr 24:3-4:** 3. *By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; 4. by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.* (RSV). When the mind is filled with truth, it is “precious riches!” Stones are concepts, and our old spiritual house is to be torn down, and a new

one built by God. Notice: **1 Cor 3:16**: *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?* Additionally, the literal destruction of Jerusalem is also a figure of the destruction of a false spiritual mind-set which causes bondage under the law, and will be destroyed by the revelation of truth. Paul understood this concept (cf Gal 4:25, 26). So, Jesus spoke primarily of the hearts of the Jewish leaders as being left desolate of spiritual understanding because they refused to receive His teachings (Jn 5:37-40). It was this statement that led Jesus to answer the disciples with the words, *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, when you recognize that your own spiritual understanding is corrupted, flee from it - that is, seek the Lord for what is true, and get away from the error, and do not become spiritually deaf.*

The “abomination of desolation” is mentioned in three chapters of Daniel, all of which are connected with numbers. Chapter eight, being the main focus, also identifies two primary entities - a Ram (male sheep) and a male Goat. There is also a little horn which evolves out of the goat, and is considered separately because so much is said about it.

The Study (Note)

Note: The study is based on the understanding of parables and historical events as types containing spiritual concepts. **Rom 5:14**: *Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure (or type) of him that was to come.* (cp 1 Cor 10:6, 7; Heb 8:5) Therefore, to keep the study short, not all the details are included as to how the writer determined certain interpretations. Another study of this topic can be found at www.dtgMinistries.org, click Bible Study Materials, click DTG Audio Catalog; click Audio Archives, scroll down to Year 2003 for studies Of Finished Proportions Parts I & II. A Bible Symbols list is also available.

Jesus gave warnings to his disciples, and to those who would read their writings: **Mt 24:5, 11-12**: *5. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Christ; and shall deceive many. ...11. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.* Mark worded it a little different: **Mk 13:22**: *For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.* By the fourth century AD, misconceptions about the Father and the Son had a stronghold in the Christian church. Jesus said that they will say that *I am the Christ; and shall deceive many* - it is happening today all around you. Do you really understand the Son of God? Have you studied for yourself? Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (Jn 14:6). He is the cornerstone of truth. How you understand God's purpose by, and through the Son, determines your foundation. Do you know if the foundation of your spiritual temple is built on sand, or solid rock (Eph 2:19-22; 1 Cor 10:4)?

To learn more about the *abomination of desolation*, Jesus directs the reader to the book of Daniel. In chapter two, when God gave Daniel an understanding of the King's dream, Daniel told the King that he was being shown what was to take place in the “latter days” (Dan 2:28) This same term was also used in reference to Daniel's vision in Chapter 10:14. The vision in chapter eight is said to be “at the time of the end” (8:17), a phrase used also in chapters 11:27, 35, 40, and 12. Chapter 12 sums up a time of the revelation of the book: **Dan 12:4, 9**: *4. ...O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: ... 9. ... for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.* So, the understanding of the entire book is locked up (sealed) until “the time of the end”, the “latter days.” But, to what time do these refer?

The outward fulfillment of many prophecies can be seen in history. However, the ultimate fulfillment, applies inwardly, in that which the types represent spiritually, as they apply to the inward man to help us understand our own hearts. Jesus went on to say, **Mt 24:32-34**: *32. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33. So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 34. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall*

not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Obviously, all things are not fulfilled, as Jesus has not returned. Therefore, those of the generation that begin to understand Matthew 24 spiritually will also understand the books of Daniel and Revelation. It will be in the last generation when all things will be fulfilled. Bible truth comes like the building of that temple of stones - First the foundation, then one stone (spiritual concept) upon another. The symbols of Daniel 2, 7 and 8 represent kingdoms, which are also spiritual types. These types, when understood, reveal the prevailing mind-set and experience of man. This knowledge received from God and applied in an individual's life by Divine grace, will enable a group, called the 144,000, to overcome sin in the last generation, BEFORE the return of Christ. The great multitude (Rev 7:9) will be completed after His return.

King and kingdom: I was raised to believe that God's kingdom was only a literal place called Heaven. However in the Bible, God used literal kingdoms as a way of helping man see what drives and controls his life. The best way to illustrate this is to show that Jesus taught that the kingdom of God (Heaven) is inward, which will help with the study of Daniel. **Lk 17:20-21:** 20. *And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21. Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.* Note that the kingdom of God comes without observation because it is within you. For this reason Jesus taught in parables, using literal things to illustrate what happens in the mind (or, heart, soul), which you cannot see.

Mt 13:3-5, 8: 3. *And he spoke many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4. And when he sowed, some seeds fell beside the way... 5. Some fell upon stony places... 7. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them... 8. But other fell into good ground...* In this parable the seed is the word of God (Lk 8:11) which Jesus (Mt 13:37) sows in the heart (Mt 13:19). He illustrates how that when the word of God is sown in an earthly heart (4-soils, 4-directions; 4-seasons = earthly), there are four reactions. Jesus concluded the parable in verse 9 with: *Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.* (cp Mt 13:15)

Hearing ears do not always include the physical hearing, but does absolutely, always include spiritual hearing. Therefore, it is the spoken word to be received in the heart about which Jesus is teaching. In the next two verses Jesus likens the receipt of God's word in the heart as receiving the kingdom of heaven. **Mt 13:10-11:** 10. *And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speak thou unto them in parables? 11. He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries (hidden things) of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.* The hidden things are NOT given to those who will not hear.

A king is a ruler (Ps 105:20) and he establishes the land (Pr 29:4). The land is a figure of the mind-set each and every person establishes and rules, and this is the earth over which God desires man to have dominion (Gen 1:26; Ps 72:7-8). Over and over, and in various ways, God reveals this in scripture. Four is earthly, and earth is a symbol of the mind of man, because there are four major categories of thinking: 1) Worldly; 2) religious; 3) thoughts from, and about others; 4) thoughts from, and about self. This concept must be understood in order to grasp the hidden things of God, and to understand the depth of the books of Daniel and Revelation.

The Ram: Dan 8:3: *Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram ^(Note) which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.*

Note: Man is likened to a beast spiritually. Thus, animals are symbols of thoughts, clean and unclean. (cf Ps 73:22; Eccl 3:18; Jude 10; 2 Pet 2:12) The spiritual meaning of the Levitical food laws concerning animals - do not eat unclean thoughts. Examples using a lion: Pride - 1 Pet 5:8; a king - Gen 49:9-10; Rev 5:5.

The ram is a symbol of your thoughts about Christ. In the story of Abraham, after the angel stopped him from offering Isaac, he turned and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket (Gen 22:13), which he eventually offered instead of Isaac. The thicket is a symbol of an earthly mind (cp Mk 4:7, 18-19). The Ram is a symbol of every Christian's experience when they first accept Jesus as their Savior; but the understanding is perverted with man's opinions and what we assume to be true, until God can straighten out our crooked thinking. The root of the Hebrew word for "horn" is a verb meaning "to shine" (Ray of light, Hab 3:4), and light is a spiritual understanding (Ps 119:130) which we project by our actions. The horns of a Ram or Goat are crooked and twisted, a figure of the perverted truth about God all mankind carries. The Bible refers to this as "iniquity" (Ps 51:2; Jer 33:8).

Above, it was stated that two horns came up, *but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.*

In Daniel 8:20, the Ram's horns are identified as the kings of Media and Persia. The second horn that came up last was taller than the first. Persia became the stronger and eventually absorbed the Median kingdom. Additionally, it was Persia that delivered Israel from Babylon. Again, consider Media and Persia as types. Both, the pre-incarnate and incarnate experiences of Christ are shown as symbols in various places in scripture. Examples are two stacks of bread, six in each stack (Lev 24:5-6) and two olive trees (Zech 4:3, 12, 14). In the Old Testament Christ is known as "Michael, your Prince" (Dan 10:21) and "Captain (Prince) of the host" (Josh 5:14). In the New Testament he is known as Jesus, the Son of man, and he is the one who came up last. It was the Son's human experience which brought him into the stature and fullness of his Father (Col 1:19; 2:9), which is a type of man being brought into the same fullness (Eph 3:19; 4:13). The majority denies Christ as Michael, and they exalt Jesus as the "one true God." (Note: A more in-depth study on the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is available at dtgministries.org and www.dtgministries.org/House_of_Wisdom.)

Now, consider the Ram's activity: **Dan 8:4:** *I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great ...* Directions indicate spiritual quality – positive or negative. A positive example of "north" is the table of bread on the north side of the tabernacle, and a negative example is that of Babylon, a city north of Israel. "Babel" in Hebrew is "gate to God," but when the people built the city (Greek = Babylon), God called it "confusion" (Gen 11:9). We look for a city (mind-set) *whose builder and maker is God* (Heb 11:10). Now with that, consider that when a priest entered into the tabernacle, he moved westward, with his back to the east, a symbol for self. In this scene, the Ram represents a new Christian who has answered Christ's invitation. When I first came to Christ I knew very little more than Jesus was the Son of God and that he died on a cross. Like the Ram, I was initially going away from self (east), but at the same time leaning toward what I thought was a gate to God, yet it was all the confusion (Babylon – northward) I had been taught and the worldly understanding (Egypt – southward) I carried. Sins that I believed I was overcoming was drinking, going to nightclubs, etc. and keeping the seventh day of the week as Sabbath, or the letter of the law.

The Goat: **Dan 8:5:** *5. And as I was considering, behold, a he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, ⁽⁷⁷⁶⁾ and touched ⁽⁵⁰⁶⁰⁾ not the ground: ⁽⁷⁷⁶⁾ and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.*

Dan 8:21: *And, the rough goat is the king of Greece: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.*

Here is Daniel 8:5 re-written (see **Note 1, in Addendum**), using a more spiritually correct meaning of the Hebrew, where it makes more sense as applied to the heart: *And, I was considering, and behold, a male of the goats, coming from the west, over ⁽⁵⁹²¹⁾ the face ⁽⁶⁴⁴⁰⁾ of all the earth (self), and touching (or, reaching) ⁽⁵⁰⁶⁰⁾ not the earth (God not able to influence thinking about self): and the goat {had} a notable horn between his eyes.*

The rough goat is identified as Greece, a kingdom whose people worshiped many gods, and the “great horn” is the first king - Alexander the Great, who established Babylon as the capital of his kingdom. At the time of his death, he was pretty much ruling all the known earth. Another interesting connection is that in the four categories of offerings, one of them was that of a male goat, the offering of a ruler (Lev 4:22-23). God has appointed every person to be a king (Rev 1:6), but, to rule what? Our thoughts, as our mind is the kingdom over which God will give us dominion! The great horn represents all of your understanding. Are your thoughts ruled by Christ (2 Cor 10:5), or by self’s own understanding (great horn between the eyes). When considering all the religious organizations of the world, people worship the God of their religion. However, there is only one true God (Jn 17:3), and false gods can be anything, or anyone you put before Him, which is caused by how you are taught to understand God.

Figuratively, what Daniel is seeing is a person totally ruling self by knowledge (great horn) given him about how to serve the Lord. Though having come to Christ, he is not converted, nor has he has seen that he is actually in rebellion against Christ, trampling Him with incorrect thinking (under feet). The “day of the Lord” for any individual, is when the Lord comes to show you the “desolating abomination (rebellion)” you carry in your heart. Luke, as well as Matthew and Mark, warn everyone to WATCH, *For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.* (Lk 21:35) Yes, the warning is to those literally dwelling on the earth, but definitely for all those abiding in the person of the earth.

Having come back to church, I was troubled in my spirit, knowing something was not right. Now, years later, I can see that I was beginning to separate myself mentally by searching for truth, and yet, I was still in the mind-set of the church. I was still the god of my earth, because of the understanding of the Bible that I was taught - I did not know how to die to self, nor did I have a correct doctrinal view of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Dan 8:6-7: 6. *And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury ⁽²⁵³⁴⁾ of his power ⁽³⁵⁸¹⁾ (or, strength).* 7. *And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power ⁽³⁵⁸¹⁾ in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. The goat moved with choler ⁽⁴⁸⁴³⁾ is better understood as “became embittered.”* When I first came to Christ, had you asked me if I was bitter, or angry toward God, I would have declared emphatically, that I was not, but that I loved him with all my heart, mind and soul. So, why would any sincere Christian be embittered, even though their understanding of God at the time is not accurate?

Mt 25:31-36: 31. *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32. And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats: 33. And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35. For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36. Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

To sum it up - LOVE your neighbor as yourself. *Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me* (verse 40).

The ram does not represent Jesus as having no power in my life, but, my understanding being overwhelmed by all the false ideas I carried. I thought that I was born again, when in reality, I was not even converted. As a baby Christian, I carried many corrupt ideas, things which I considered to be light that I had assumed from personal studies, and that which I had accepted from my others as truth. The written word was my authority (i.e. I was under the law - Rom 3:19; Gal 3:23) instead of that spoken by the Spirit (Isa 30:21). The goat represents a stage in my life when I thought that I was doing God's will, but in reality, I perverted the truth (broke the two horns). God has slowly revealed my spiritual condition, and how I was trampling heavenly truth with my earthly understanding.

Great horn broken: Dan 8:8: *Therefore the he goat waxed very⁽³⁹⁶⁶⁾ great⁽¹⁴³¹⁾: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. **Dan 8:22:** *Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power (or, strength). The great horn is broken down into four "horns" called "kingdoms." Zechariah adds some important information: **Zech 1:18-21:** 18. *Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, and behold four horns.* 19. *And I said unto the angel that talked with me, What be these? And he answered me, these are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.* 20. *And the Lord showed me four carpenters.* 21. *Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but These are come to fray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles (nations), which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it.* The nations, the kingdoms lifted up their horn over the land of Judah - i.e. the land of Judah, spiritually, is a figure of God's people who have received their understanding from the nations, or denominations, *so that no man did lift up his head* - so that no man lifted his eyes (understanding) into heaven (cf Gen 22:4; Jn 17:1). Daniel said the four notable ones are toward the "four winds of heaven," which are a figure of Babylon (Zech 2:6-7).**

Notice the shades of meaning brought out in other translations: *Therefore the he goat waxed very great* rendered in the RSV as *Then the he-goat magnified himself exceedingly*; Young renders it as *And the young he-goat hath exerted itself very much*. The Hebrew *mâ`od*⁽³⁹⁶⁶⁾ = exertion of great force; and *gadal*⁽¹⁴³¹⁾ = to make large by twisting. I find it interesting that the horns of a rams and male goats are crooked and twisted. Paul said, *the strength* (some versions = power) *of sin is the law* (1 Cor 15:56). Having renewed my church fellowship, I was serious about living a righteous life. I would get up at four A.M. every morning and study two hours before going to work, and I went to church every time there was a service. I was in the place of the great horn, or doing things in my own strength with my twisted thinking about God. "The strength of sin is living by one's own understanding of the law." The iniquity of man is his twisted, crooked thinking expressed by words (Job 15:5) of doctrinal error.

Moreover, when I first came to Christ, I did not go to church for six months. I followed my heart but served the Lord with my old understanding (as a Ram with twisted horns). Then I became more zealous for the church, as that is all that I knew. I was appointed as an Elder, led out in study groups and became involved with church business and as a constituent for my local church (as a goat with a great horn). However, my conscience would not let me rest. I first noticed the worldliness of the music in the church, and, I knew something was wrong with the doctrine of the Godhead, as the church presented it at that time. God was breaking down my old understanding (great horn) into smaller parts (four horns) and showing me that I was in confusion, referred to in the Bible as Babylon. The "great horn" being broken represents my conversion (Note) experience.

Note: Most Christians refer to this type experience as “born again.” Scripturally, this is not true. The phrase in John 3:3 should read: *Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God* - The kingdom of God is His understanding. Peter and the disciples walked with Jesus over three years, but their conversion was incomplete. They did not even believe Jesus would die, nor did they understand the Son of God, or His purpose (Mt 13:15; Acts 1:6).

When the “great horn” (my light, strength) is broken, *for it, four kingdoms* (verse 8 - four noble ones) *shall stand* (verse 22), *up toward the four winds of heaven* (verse 8). A kingdom inwardly, is an understanding and four indicates that it is earthly (not God’s). The “four winds” are Babylon, from where God calls His people out of doctrinal confusion. We have a literal historical example: After the Apostolic church went into apostasy, there was an attempt to have a one-world church, in the embodiment of the Roman church (tower of Babel a type). God, however, scattered the people into many churches. The final call of God’s people out of spiritual Babylon will be in the last generation, as indicated in **Matt 24:31**: *And he shall send his [messengers] with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

The little horn (LH): Dan 8:8-9: *8. ...and for it (great horn) came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. 9. And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed (grew) exceeding great, toward the south (Egypt - the world), and toward the east (self), and toward the pleasant land.* The “little horn” comes out of one of “them” (verse 9). Many jump to the conclusion that the LH came out of one of the four horns. However, in the Hebrew, antecedents must have the same gender as the nouns which they modify. All the nouns/pronouns (last part of verse 8, first of verse 9) relating to the LH are feminine except “them” (antecedent) and “heavens” (noun), both of which are masculine. Therefore the “little horn” came out of one of the winds of the heavens, and not out of one of the horns. This is important because it cannot be applied outwardly to the Papacy, Antiochus Epiphanies or any other nation, as you will see in the next paragraph. If the LH is spiritual, or, inward, then all the vision must be viewed the same way. The nations represented are spiritual types.

Generally, when directions are considered from a spiritual point of view, they are in reference to Israel, geographically, or, to the orientation of the temple, as in Bible times. When in Jerusalem, the temple is used, when out of the city, the geography, or land is used. The east, a symbol for self (Job 15:2-6; 27:19-21), or, self exalting thoughts, was missing from the directions that the Ram pushed. The Ram was moving away from self, or self was not dominant. However, the LH grows exceedingly great toward *the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant (land)*, and in this case “east”, or self is dominant - the LH has the spirit of Babylon.

The land south of Israel is Egypt, a land whose horses (strong thoughts) are flesh (Isa 31:1-3) and called by God an “iron furnace” (Jer 11:4), a figure of the unsanctified fire carried in the heart of man. One meaning of the root of Egypt is “adversary,” which describes our initial relationship with God. The land east of Israel is a wilderness, a land not sown (with light), a land of darkness (Jer 2:2, 31). But why was not a direction given instead of pleasant land? The Hebrew word for “pleasant” is the noun *tsâbiy* ⁽⁶⁶⁴³⁾, which means “beauty, glory, honor.” The little horn is exceeding great toward the beauty of the land, or himself. Note what Jesus told the Pharisees: **Mt 23:27**: *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.* Here is another example: The king of Babylon stated: **Dan 4:30**: *Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?* Later, Daniel referred to this incident as the king's heart lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride (Dan 5:20). The little horn is glorifying the beauty of his land, or his way of thinking obtained by his power.

The little horn is also called a king: **Dan 8:23:** *And in the latter time of their kingdom (4-horns), when the transgressors (rebels) are come to a fullness, a king (LH) of fierce (strong) countenance, and understanding (considering) dark sentences (the Bible), will stand up. Dark sentences: The Hebrew word for “dark sentences” is *chiydah* {khee-daw'}⁽²³²⁰⁾, translated other places as “riddle” (Jug 14:12), “dark saying” (Pr 1:6) and “dark speeches” (Num 12:8). The word is used parallel with “parable” in Psalm 49:4 & 78:2; and the book of Proverbs is called *chiydah*. Jesus told the Jews: **Jn 5:39-40:** *39. You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me; 40. yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.* (RSV) The Jews were seeking life from the “dark sentences” instead of going to the source of life that God put in His only begotten Son (1 Jn 5:11). This principle is still true today - the scriptures are *dark sentences* to the people who read them, except they lift their eyes to heaven so that God can bring forth His understanding of the Scriptures.*

Dan 8:10, 24: *10. And it (LH) waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them ... 24. And his power [strength] will be mighty, but not by his own power [strength]; and he will destroy wonderfully [wonderful things], and will prosper (prosper in own understanding) and do his pleasure; and he will destroy mighty ones and the people of the holy ones (i.e. by his own understanding, he corrupts what the prophets wrote). A spiritual kingdom is an understanding and the “dark sentences” are the hidden things of the Bible. The little horn is the understanding which evolves out of scattering your thoughts to the four winds, and then God continues to bring you out of the confusion. In other words, a person has to acknowledge their error at each step. [Another interpretation of the original] (Writer’s comments)*

I can remember, just as I was beginning to grasp symbols and parables, I told several people that we would understand the entire Bible in a short time. Looking back on that experience, it was my time of the “little horn” - I was considering the “dark sentences” of the Bible, but I was still reigning over my land.

Dan 8:11-12, 25: *11. Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host ... and the place of his (Prince's) sanctuary was cast down. 12. ... and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered... 25. And by his understanding he has caused craft [deceit] to prosper in his hand (works); and in his heart he magnifies himself, and by prosperity (own spiritual riches) he destroys many (thoughts from God): he will stand up against the prince (Christ) of princes (man); but he will be broken without hand. The host is speaking of the sun, moon and stars (Dt 4:19), or, the light from the Prince of the host (Josh 5:14), or the Prince of truth (Jn 14:6), which when rejected is likened to casting it to the ground (earth - putting man's spin on it). The place of sanctuary is your heart. It is when I look back on my Christian experience that I can see that my works were based on what I considered to be spiritual riches, and which caused deceit to prosper in my heart.*

A recap of what has been covered so far: Wind is a symbol for a spirit, four indicates earthly. God's people are scattered to the four winds (spiritual mind-set) in Babylon (Zech 2:6-7). In modern times, these are the sincere Christians scattered in various religious organizations, and considered to be in spiritual Babylon - or in a state of confusion about God (Gen 11:9). If they are faithful to live up to the light they have, these also will respond to the voice of the great Shepherd. I looked for truth inside and outside my church, and as I saw what I thought to be error, I searched it out. First, I had to reach a point where I could at least acknowledge that there may be error in what I believed, or had been taught to believe.

In 1955, I was baptized into the third and last church of which I was ever a member. By 1957, I had stopped attending church on a regular basis, and eventually quit altogether. It was not until 1984 that I made a serious commitment to the Lord, came back to church and began to search for truth (Ram). In a short time, I

became involved with teaching the doctrines of the church, all the while continuing my personal Bible study (Goat). Being involved in organized religion, I was spiritually dead, and did not know it (cf Jn 5:24-25). However, I was sincere and determined to serve God. As I sought the Lord, he would show me bits and pieces of truth as I could receive them (great Horn broken down into four), and I began to see problems with Church teachings. In 1992, I separated from my church. It was the beginning of my spiritual journey out of spiritual confusion. But like Abram, I made a stop along the way - I became associated with an independent ministry, the experience of which I now realize was needed to show me that I was still leaning more on man than God. Slowly, I was being converted to God's way of thinking, which is far above man's.

The daily, or continual: Dan 8:10-12: 10. *And it (LH) waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. 11. Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince (Christ) of the host, and by him (LH) the daily [or, continual] was taken away,* ⁽⁷³¹¹⁾ *and the place of his (Christ's) sanctuary (heart) was cast down* ⁽⁷⁹⁹³⁾. *12. And an host was given him against the daily by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground (truth corrupted by man's opinions); and it practiced, and prospered.*

What is the daily? The Hebrew word *tamiyd* ⁽⁸⁵⁴⁸⁾ is a word connected with everything of the tabernacle. It is associated with the shew bread (literally = bread of presence), called the “continual bread” (Num 4:7); with the lamps (Ex 27:20); breastplate of judgment worn by the high priest (Ex 28:29); the offerings (Lev 6:20), the fire in the altar (Lev 6:13) and even the cloudy, fiery pillar above the tabernacle (Num 9:16). *Tamiyd*, would be better translated “continual”, rather than “daily.” The reason being is that sacrifices were offered more than once a day, the lamps were trimmed twice a day, but the shew bread was replenished only weekly, and yet, all things were to be done continually. What is the continual and what is the desolating abomination that replaces it?

The verses above (Dan 8:10 -12) are re-written below with notes and two changes in verse 11. The idea is to more clearly state what is being said, and to reflect on what God is trying to get across to the believer. Divine help is always needed. But, it is especially needed in these difficult places in order to understand the spiritual concept as it relates to your personal experience.

10. And it (LH) exalted self, against the truth (host of the heavens), and it (LH) cast from the truth (host and stars - Dt 4:19) to the earth (corrupted the truth with self's opinions), and trampled it (feet symbolize the direction of a person's thinking, cp Eze 34:17-19).

11. (**Note 2 in Addendum**) It (LH) exalted self against the Prince (Christ) of the host (truth), and was lifted up ⁽⁷³¹¹⁾ (or, removed) from ⁽⁴⁴⁸⁰⁾ it (LH) the continual, and was cast down the place (mind of the LH) of His (Prince's) sanctuary (Christ's understanding).

12. And a host (of truth) was given up with the continual through rebellion ⁽⁶⁵⁸⁸⁾ and it (LH) threw down truth to the earth; and it worked and prospered (in its own understanding ^(Note)).

Note: Light is an understanding (Ps 119:130): sunlight = your knowledge of the Son of God (Mal 4:2); moonlight = knowledge from the law (Jer 31:35); stars = collective understanding: When unsanctified, your sun & moon must be darkened, and your stars must fall - i.e. when you see the error, let God correct it (cf Mt 24:29-31; Rev 6:12-14).

The temple and its services are a parable of the spiritual process of overcoming the flesh in Christ in order to become a high priest. Moreover, considering the tabernacle and services allegorically, they describe spiritual events which happen in the heart to reveal, by Christ Jesus, the doctrinal truth about the Godhead, to give to us an understanding of the sin nature and show us the depth of the Father's love. **Ex 19:5-6: 5.** *Now therefore, if ye will obey ⁽⁸⁰⁸⁵⁾ my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure*

unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation... The key to understanding the Bible is to listen, understand & obey ⁽⁸⁰⁸⁵⁾ God's voice speaking to the conscience. The "abomination of desolation" is the "rebellion of desolation." In the beginning of our experience we did not know to listen to our conscience to hear God; and therefore our rebellion against God left us spiritually desolate. This becomes clearer when the number 2300 is explained.

The Hebrew linguistics provide credibility to the way verse 11 is re-translated: Some translations of the Bible (RSV, Darby, NIV) read as if the little horn took away the "continual (sacrifice)" from the Prince. So, by applying the verse to a literal, historical event, it seems reasonable to supply the word "sacrifice." The KJ and Young's versions read as if the little horn removed the continual, but do not specify from where. All of them have the little horn as the one performing the action of two the verbs (7311 & 7993). However, these two Hebrew verbs are in the "passive voice," which is like the passive in English. The little horn is not performing the action, but is affected by the action of the verbs. Here is an example the principle:

In Peter's vision of the sheet and unclean animals (Acts chapter 10), three times the Lord told him to *kill and eat*, and each time Peter refused (self exalted by not obeying). The sheet was lifted the third time, and Peter was left doubting (understanding removed) what the vision might mean. Of course the Lord already knew how Peter would react to eating an unclean animal, so He had already instructed Cornelius, a Gentile, to send his servants to Peter. When the three men arrived, the Lord told Peter to go with them and not doubt. God showed Peter that he, as well as the Jews, considered non-Jews as unclean, an idea based on the interpretation of the law by Jewish leaders (cf Num 18:4). On this basis, the same principle exists today. Because everyone does not agree on the interpretation of the Bible (law), we have multitudes of religious organizations instead of one unified Church, and others who cannot agree on which book to use (i.e. Bible, Koran, Joseph Smith, Ellen White, etc). Before I understood the Godhead, and yet thinking that I did, I was given a study explaining the Holy Spirit. I let another man convince me that the person on the tape was teaching error, because, at the time I did not know to listen to the Lord as he impressed my heart. At that time, the "continual" was lifted from me. The continual is a process of learning by listening to the voice of God, which can be interrupted at any time if we deviate from the truth. The idea of an outside influence taking away the continual is shown in Daniel 11:31.

Dan 11:31: *And arms shall stand on his part, and they (others to whom you have listened) will pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away ⁽⁵⁴⁹³⁾ the continual, and they will place the abomination (erroneous teachings by the rebellious in heart) making desolate (your spiritual understanding). The "abomination making desolate" is caused by the fleshly knowledge about God everyone carries in the beginning, and the twisted way of looking at self because they do not understand why they sin or how to stop. It is when you see the error and corruption that you are to flee from it (Mt 24:15-16).*

The next two verses are an important part of the key. **Dan 8:13-14:** *[13. Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said unto that certain one which spake, How long (will be) the vision of the continual, and the desolating transgression (or, rebellion), to give both the holy place (temple of the mind) and host (of truth) to be trodden under foot? 14. And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred (days); then shall the holy place be justified (or, made right)]. [more accurate to the Hebrew] (supplied).*

That certain one (**Note 3, in Addendum**) The KJ margin gives an alternate interpretation of "the numberer of secrets, or, wonderful numberer." Numbers are important, and Christ is a numberer of hidden things. However, the Hebrew brings out another meaning that fits better with the spiritual idea, as a type of a baby Christian. Here is the first part of the verse (Dan 8:13) rewritten: "Then I heard a certain ⁽²⁵⁹⁾ holy one ⁽⁶⁴¹⁸⁾

speaking, and another ⁽²⁵⁹⁾ holy one ⁽⁶⁴¹⁸⁾ said unto that certain one ^(6422, 492) (who could not be named) who was speaking ...”

That is, Daniel could not name the one giving him the number. During my conversion experience, I followed my heart as best I knew how; moreover, I was dumb about the Father, Son and their spirit. I believed that the One speaking to my heart was a third God called the Holy Spirit. At that time I did not understand that there was only one Spirit (Eph 4:4), and that Spirit was the mind of the Father in the Son (Jn 3:34; 2 Cor 3:17; Phil 2:5). When I saw the error, I fled from that understanding (Mt 24:16).

Daniel's question was *How long the vision, the continual and the desolating rebellion, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled?* The answer in Daniel 8:14 should read: *Unto two thousand and three hundred evenings-mornings.* The word “days” is supplied in lieu of two Hebrew words - Strong's #s 6153 & 1242, translated correctly in Dan 8:26: *...the vision of the evenings ⁽⁶¹⁵³⁾ and the mornings ⁽¹²⁴²⁾ which was told is true:* (ASV; RSV) These same two words are associated with a whole day (cp Gen 1), and also, part of a day (cp Ex 18:13; 27:20-21). Since Daniel used the Hebrew word for days connected with other prophecies (Dan 11:11, 12), indicates that something different and specific is meant here.

At the beginning of the discussion about the continual it was stated that everything of the tabernacle was connected with it. Evenings mornings are connected with several things also: The seven lamps on the gold lamp stand were to be trimmed and replenished with oil continually (Lev 24:1-4); and at the same time incense was to be burned on the altar of incense (Ex 30:7-8). A lamb was to be offered morning and evening, seven days a week (Ex 29:38-39). In the day when Aaron or one of his sons was anointed as high priest, a food offering of one-half in the morning and the other half in the evening – continually (Lev6:20). All these things are types to bring us to the end of the 2300 evenings-mornings, a spiritual formula explaining how this is accomplished. Six things accomplished are revealed in Daniel 9:24. The 70 weeks is another number adding to the explanation of the 2300 evenings-mornings. (The digits are somewhat flexible in arrangement, which gives a similar message)

The number - 2300:

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} (10 + 10 + 10) & \times & (10 \times 7) & + & (10 \times 4) \times 5 & \\ \mathbf{30} & \mathbf{x} & \mathbf{70} & \mathbf{+} & \mathbf{200} & \mathbf{= 2300} \end{array}$$

10 + 10 + 10: (**Note 4 in Addendum**) The sanctified meaning of ten is hearing God, and there are a sum of three experiences. 1) Repent and be converted - Acts 3:19, receive doctrinal correction of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism in a spiritual wilderness by a messenger of God also a figure - Acts 11:16; Mk 1:9-12. 2) Be born from above (KJ = again) in order to see (understand) and enter the kingdom of God - Jn 3:3, 5. 3) Ascend into the heavens where God sits on the throne of your understanding. Three is the number for completeness. Each experience represents the bringing down of a veil, added to the next until all three veils of the tabernacle are down. A veil represents something blocking your understanding.

10 x 7: Seven is a mini completion, referred to as a fullness of experiential understanding (7 churches, seals, trumpets, etc). By listening to the Spirit of God you are brought through many sevens to a full understanding of God's purpose in bringing forth a Son and the reason for Calvary. (30 x 70 = 2100)

[(10 x 4) x 5]: What you do not have must be added (200) to that above (2100). By listening (10) and by God's graciousness (5), is revealed your earthliness (self - 4), and the error you carry. The revelation of self must be added because no one starts out knowing God, or has an understanding of the human nature.

There are three major things God has to reveal in order to deliver you out of spiritual confusion (Babylon): **1)** Know that Jesus is the literal Son of God, and a separate individual from the Father (Jn 17:1-3), and that the Father is not condemning you (2 Cor 5:19), but sent the Son to reveal His love (Jn 3:16-17); **2)** you can hear God (Mt 16:16-17), and if we obey Him, He will make us spiritual kings & priests (Ex 19:5-6); **3)** Understanding of your sin nature so that you can stop deceiving self (Jer 17:9; 1 Cor 13:11-12) or letting others deceive you.

So, spiritually, the Continual is hearing God in your daily walk with Christ. Listen to receive oil for your lamps, eat the bread of life while daily sacrificing your thoughts to receive God's understanding of the Bible so that you can be corrected doctrinally and receive emotional healing – the two parts of your salvation. **Pr 6:20-21:** *20. My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 21. Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.* Father and Mother are represented in another place as Sun and Moon (Gen 37:9-10). The instruction is to continually bind Christ's (Father, Sun) understanding of the law (Mother, Moon) upon your heart, and make them the foundational principles (neck) of your life.

Understanding comes by knowledge plus experience. When a person comes to the end of their 2300 evenings-mornings, the iniquity (crooked, twisted thinking) is gone and the sanctuary of the mind is made right again. When the process is complete, then a person understands that sin can be avoided by hearing and doing God's instructions which come through the Son. It is a spiritual happening which is manifested in an individual's life by how they live and treat others. THIS is why ALL the law is based on loving God and loving others as self. If God does not condemn me because of my sin (2 Cor 5:19), then I should not condemn others. What is your desire? Jesus desired salvation for you strong enough that he died in your behalf.

The 2300 evenings-mornings, then, are the total spiritual experience it takes to cleanse your sanctuary, or, to replace perverted human thinking with God's thoughts, and then the continual (of hearing God daily) is restored. There are three numbers showing the steps to complete the 2300: **Dan 12:7:** *And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that lives forever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter (or, destroy) the work (literally = hand) of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.* Each has to brought to the point of realizing that *a man is not justified (made right) by the works of the law, but by the faith (understanding) of Jesus Christ* (Gal 2:16).

The second step is shown in **Dan 12:11:** *And from the time that the continual is taken away⁽⁵⁴⁹³⁾, to the giving up⁽⁵⁴¹⁴⁾ of the abomination (rebellion) making desolate, there will be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.* The 1290 days is a figure of the spiritual process wherein your understanding of the Messiah is corrected, after which Christ rules in your heart. Scott expressed the number this way (due to flexibility in the use of numbers):

1000 = 10 x 10 x 10 – a completion of God's word – negative (cf Rev 17:17; Phil 3:19)

200 = 2 x 10 x 10 – a division between Father and Son

90 = 9 x 10 – God's judgment - negative

The third step is **Dan 12:12**: *Blessed is he who waits and comes to the thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.* (RSV) Add 45 days to the 1290, and you come to the 1335 days. $45 = 9 \times 5$. $5 = \text{grace}$ ($4 = \text{earthly} + \text{the } 1 \text{ God} = 5$); $9 (3 + 3 + 3) = \text{judgment, finality, completeness}$. (Judgment - 9 things are affected, Hag 1:11; spiritual completeness - 9 things are listed for the fruit of the Spirit, Gal 5:22-23; and gifts of the Spirit, 1 Cor 12:8-10) It is receiving the Divine influence on your heart (grace) which gives you nine attributes of Christ - *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* (Gal 5:22-24 - RSV)

Scott stated it this way:

$1000 = 10 \times 10 \times 10$ – completion of God's word – positive (cf 1 Pt 1:9; Rev 10:7)

$300 = 3 \times 10 \times 10$ – complete understanding of Father and Son

$35 = 7 \times 5$ – a fullness of grace

I hope by now you are seeing more clearly how these scriptures apply to what God will do in the heart. As a zealous Christian, and like most, I believed that I was to read the Bible and do what it said. Righteousness to me became what I ate, where I went to church, on what day I attended, etc., etc. I was interpreting the Bible according to my Church creeds - I was under the law. Now, I am horrified when I look back and see just how judgmental I was toward others of different religious affiliations. I now know that Christ's sacrifice was to reveal God's love, and not to appease an angry God, and how significant it is to understand the cross and why it is the center of the gospel.

Summary

Jesus warned us that many false prophets would arise, and deceive many (Mt 24:11). In just three verses, Peter sums up past, present and future: **2 Pet 1:20-21; 2:1: 20.** *First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21. Because, no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men, moved by the Holy Spirit, spoke from God (past). 1. But, false prophets also arose among the people (present), just as there will be false teachers among you (future), who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.* (RSV) False prophets and teachers are ever present because there is always someone teaching their own opinions. The only way to recognize truth is to seek and listen to the voice of the spirit of Christ. Often, I hear people say that the Bible is inspired, which is true. But not the way many teach, as they teach that a person is to only read the Bible for instruction. Peter said that the scripture is not to be an individual's own interpretation (KJV - private). Men were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the scriptures (cp 1 Pet 1:10-11 with 2 Pet 1:21), and men today will only understand it correctly as the Holy Spirit reveals what the writings mean. Most are raised to believe a certain way, and it is human nature to want to believe family and others with whom we closely associate. But because all do not agree with each other's interpretations, the world has numerous religious sects. This should be a clue that something is wrong with the way man is understanding the Bible, or any other book on religion.

Looking back I can see that I first came to Christ because I was listening to the pricks of his spirit in my heart, and how the Ram represents my understanding tangled in worldly thinking. Then, the worldly thoughts began to dominate (goat) which shut out the spirit of Christ (broke the two horns), and I became involved in teaching Church creeds instead of continuing to listen to the Holy Spirit as how to understand the book. I was taught, and believed it to be true, to hear and do as the Church led. That great horn being broken was the beginning of my conversion experience. I was still strong in traditional Christian beliefs (great toward the south) being self governed (toward the east), but I was lifting up the beauty of my own land (my thoughts).

Now I can see clearly how I answered the call of God to come out of the world, and then became a king of Babylon, so well described by Isaiah – **Isa 14:4, 13-14: 4.** *That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon ... 13. For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.* Without realizing it, every believer in God begins by trying to be like the most High by their own strength.

When I received the correct understanding about the Son of God, it was the beginning of my giving up the error which was making me spiritually desolate. The process has taken years, and has culminated in my experiencing the love of God personally, as revealed by the cross, plus the fact that God has never condemned me. Jesus said: **Mt 24:15-18: 15.** *When therefore, you may perceive the desolating abomination (rebellion), spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in a holy place (the heart), (the one reading, let him understand:)* 16. *Then let them which be in Judea (spiritual promised land) flee into the mountains: 17. Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: 18. Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.* The abomination that is making everyone spiritually desolate is **1)** not knowing our heavenly Father; **2)** not listening to and obeying His voice; and **3)** not understanding what it is in us that makes us rebel. When you see these things, those of spiritual Judea (cp Gal 4:22-26) are to flee to the mountains (outwardly = kingdoms; inwardly = concepts of truth); don't take any of the old error you once believed (what was in your house); nor, the old character (garments), or, any of that old way of thinking. Leave it ALL behind.

Mt 24:19-21: 19. *'And woe to those with child, and to those giving suck in those days; 20. and pray ye that your flight may not be in winter, nor on a Sabbath; 21. for there shall be then great tribulation, such as was not from the beginning of the world till now, no, nor may be* (Young). There is a difference in levels of spiritual food. Paul made this distinction when writing to the Corinthians (1 Cor 3:2). Apparently, by the time the letter to the Hebrews was written, they needed to be taught again the milk of the word (Heb 5:12-14). “Strong meat” belongs to the spiritually mature, and Jesus has warned everyone, to not be caught, spiritually, as a nursing baby when the end comes.

Winter: In the Jewish calendar, winter comes during the five months between the last feast, in month seven, and the first feast in the first month (matches U.S. Nov - Mar). The seven feasts are figures showing the process of spiritual growth and coming into the stature and fullness of Christ (Eph 4:13), who is in the fullness of the Father (Col 1:19; 2:8-9) who is love (1 Jn 4:16). Winter is a time of soil preparation and of “seed sowing” (Mk 4:1-9). In your spiritual experience, you want to be partaking of the harvest, and not just beginning to receive seed when the end comes. It is a time when those who have been diligent to “hear and do” God's will, begin to share the good news of the love of God. The great tribulation has to do with everything that you see which goes against what you have been taught, and that which the churches teach. The time of the end is a great tribulation for two reasons: **1)** Those who have been totally negligent, and the milk drinkers, will be tormented by the sting of the scorpions (cf Rev 9:5, 10; Eze 2:6; Isa 9:15), i.e. the rebellious who have been teaching lies. **2)** There will be persecution of those teaching truth. The time will be similar to the days of Christ, when what is taught will be so different from what the religious leaders teach, most leaders will reject it and cause thousands also to reject the true message.

Sabbath: Sabbath is a Hebrew word (7676) transliterated into the Greek (4521) and then into English. The proper meaning is that of “rest” and used of the 7th day of the week, certain feast days (Lev 23:24-32) and every 7th year when the land was not to be plowed (Lev 25:2-4). Except for Passover and Unleavened

Bread, the feast days were to be kept after Israel entered the promised land (Lev 23:10), a symbol for entering an abiding relationship with Christ. In your sixth day, spiritually, you are created in God's image and come to rest in Christ, wholly trusting his guidance. You cease from your own works of law keeping the way man teaches it. Pray that your flight be not in winter (after the feast days are fulfilled), nor in a Sabbath (when God's people are resting in Christ), and woe to the spiritual babies. It takes time to understand why and how you are spiritually desolate. And, because of the lack of depth of understanding, the spiritually immature (theologians included) will struggle with trying to decide whether to listen to man, or to God. It was not easy for me to give up friends, my Church and its teachings that I sincerely believed, neither will it be for others, especially those whose lively-hood is the Church.

We are all *...of the household of God, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the corner stone; in whom all the building, being closely joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in spirit.* (Eph 2:19-22 Greek Interlinear) It is clear from these scriptures that the temple, or sanctuary, to be justified, made right, cleansed, and spoken of in Daniel 8:14, is the human heart, wherein dwells the spirit of God. The plan of God for humanity has been unfolding since creation, and the final revelation is coming in the last generation. When all is said and done, everyone will know where they stand with respect to God. **Dan 12:1-3:** *1. And at that time shall Michael (Note 5 in Addendum) stand up, the great prince who stands for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.* The truth that Michael is the Son of God will stand up in the minds of those who have ears to hear.

The entire Jewish economy is the gospel in figures. What has been discussed of Daniel 8, are some of the details pertaining to the experience a person goes through in coming to know the Father through His only son, Jesus Christ, and living up to the light they do have. While no one is judged based on the amount of knowledge they have, all should be seeking a deeper understanding and attempting to walk daily with Jesus Christ by living up to what they believe. Those neglecting to do this, are judging themselves unworthy of the kingdom of God (Acts 13:46). **1 Jn 1:7:** *and if in the light we may walk, as He is in the light - we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son doth cleanse us from every sin;* (Young) Apply the understanding of the cross to your heart continually, and be cleansed of sin.

Some Conclusions

Daniel has been a book of interest from the day it was written. The numbers 2300, 1290, 1335 and 70, as far as I know, are always taken to mean "years." The image in chapter two and the beasts in chapters 7 and 8 have been understood for hundreds of years to represent the nations of Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome. Yet, the man "clothed in linen" (12:6-7), whom I believe to be Christ, told Daniel, *Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end* (12:9), which cannot be hundreds of years long, as many conclude. Questions to be answered are, "Why only four nations when there are many more involved in the history of Israel? Why list these particular nations?" According to chapter two, all these nations are destroyed together - **Dan 2:34-35:** *34. Thou saw 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. 35. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together ⁽²²⁹⁸⁾, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.* Of the 14 uses of

the Hebrew word *chad* ⁽²²⁹⁸⁾, this is the only place where it is used as a prefixed preposition (with Hebrew *kaph*). The ancient meaning for *kaph* is “to bend, to curve, to tame, to subdue, as one bent to another’s will.” This all makes much more sense when the metals and nations are understood to be symbols for man’s nature and way of thinking. The image is destroyed “as one” when God brings a person’s way of thinking in line with the way He thinks. The revelation of the book of Daniel in the time of the end is about applying these things to the heart and not outward events in history.

Daniel 8:5 was especially troubling to understand, until the Lord had me re-read some of the history pertaining to Alexander the Great. Then, I realized that he is a perfect example of a person who is drinking themselves to death with the wine of Babylon (Rev 17:2). Several times I mentioned that churches were teaching error. While there is error in their teachings, there is some truth. For example, if a church teaches that the four beasts in Daniel 7 and those in Daniel 8 represent nations, it is teaching truth. While this aids in the final understanding, it is not meat in due season. **Mt 24:43-47:** 43. *But know this, that if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.* 44. *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.* 45. *Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?* 46. *Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.* 47. *Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.*

Jesus said: **Lk 16:10-12:** 10. *He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.* 11. *If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?* 12. *And, if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?* Only, by living what one believes and seeking the truth as it is in Jesus Christ can a person advance in spiritual understanding. It is important to follow the impressions of the heart, and trust that God is leading. Anyone doing these things in sincerity, God will lead them out of error into the glorious light of His kingdom. Remember, the Jews would not listen (Jn 5:39-40) and believed according to the traditions of their Elders, which led them to kill their Messiah. It is my prayer that we all run to finish the race, and by God's grace that we have the courage to stand for the truth which is Jesus Christ. **PREACH IT BY LIVING IT! Amen.**

ADDENDUM TO THE STUDY

Note 1: Dan 8:5: *And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on⁽⁵⁹²¹⁾ the face⁽⁶⁴⁴⁰⁾ of the whole earth⁽⁷⁷⁶⁾, and touched⁽⁵⁰⁶⁰⁾ not the ground⁽⁷⁷⁶⁾: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. There are two troubling phrases in this verse, underlined, which do not make sense when applied externally to Alexander the Great, as do the Bible scholars. Here are possible translations of the words indicated by numbers of Strong:*

5921: Used as a preposition: *above, over, against*. Gesenius (pg 626) gives several examples where the word indicates a state of rest, and perhaps need more study. The easiest example to see is 2 Sam 4:7: ... *on a bed* ...

6440: Used as a preposition: *in/to the front of, before, in/from the presence of, person, in/at the face of*.

776: *whole earth (as opposed to a part), earth (as opposed to heaven), earth (inhabitants), solid ground*. Earth a symbol of self, land = mind-set.

5060: In Hebrew Qal the proper meaning is *to touch, to reach*. The verb is in the Qal, Participle, Active - i.e. the subject if performing the action. Examples of the inward application: 1 Sam 10:26: ... *whose hearts God had touched* – or, whose minds God had moved. Jer 4:10, 18: ...*the sword reaches unto the soul*. And ...*this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reaches unto thine heart*. - God, through Jeremiah, was telling the people that they were wicked to the core of their being. God wants to touch your heart, He wants to move your feelings, but He cannot reach the heart if the person is not listening to their conscience.

The verse we are considering is negative – not touching. The “great horn” is the first king, which in history is known as Alexander III. He was 20 years old when he became king of Greece, and two years later he began to carry out his Father’s plans and execute the mission of Greece. He was surnamed “the Great” because of his rapid conquests of Asia, Egypt, Persia and other smaller nations, pretty much all the known earth in that day. During the consolidation of his Persian conquests, Alexander established Babylon as the capital of his empire, a perfect spiritual example of a person coming to God, but who is in total confusion about Him. At age 33, Alexander died of alcohol poisoning in the middle of his plans, which were never achieved by the four generals who divided the kingdom among themselves.

Here is how I believe that God would interpret the verse: *And, I was considering, and behold, a male of the goats, coming from the west, (ruling) over⁽⁵⁹²¹⁾ the face (or, person)⁽⁶⁴⁴⁰⁾ of all the earth (self), and touching (or, reaching)⁽⁵⁰⁶⁰⁾ not the earth (God not able to influence thinking about self): and the goat {had} a notable horn between his eyes. The goat is headed east (turned toward self), not dying to self nor understanding self.*

Note 2: Dan 8:11: *It exalted*⁽¹⁴³¹⁾ *self to the Prince of the host, and was lifted up*⁽⁷³¹¹⁾ (or, removed) *from*⁽⁴⁴⁸⁰⁾ *it the continual*⁽⁸⁵⁴⁸⁾, and was cast down the place of its sanctuary. First, the proper meaning of *gadal*⁽¹⁴³¹⁾ is “to twist” - In the causative means “to magnify, make large,” i.e. to act proudly. Two other words are somewhat difficult to know how to translate. The Hebrew word *ruwm*⁽⁷³¹¹⁾ can be translated “to rise, rise up, be high, be lofty, be exalted, lift up.” The other word is *min*⁽⁴⁴⁸⁰⁾, which, as a preposition means “from, out of, on account of, off, on the side of, since, above, than, so that not, more than.”

There is one other example using 7311 in Hebrew Hophal, which is in the passive voice, and used in conjunction with 4480: **Ex 29:27:** ...*and the leg of the heave-offering, which hath been waved, and which hath been lifted up*⁽⁷³¹¹⁾ *from*⁽⁴⁴⁸⁰⁾ *the ram of the consecration* ... (Young). The heave-offering, taken off the carcass of the ram, did not lift up itself, but was lifted up by a priest. The translation here is more accurate than in Daniel 8:11.

Note 3: That certain saint (*palmowniy*⁶⁴²²), a variation of *pâloniy*⁽⁶⁴²³⁾ in Daniel 8:13, which comes from the root *palah*⁽⁶³⁹⁵⁾ and which means “to be distinguished, set apart, to be wonderful.” The KJ margin gives the interpretation of “the numberer of secrets, or, wonderful numberer,” which can only be ascertained from the context of verse 14, along with the meaning of the root. (cp 6395 in Ps 17:7; 139:14) There is another Hebrew word (492), the meaning of which is left out of the translation.

Always joined with 6422 & 6423 is the Hebrew word *'almoniy*⁽⁴⁹²⁾, the root of which is *'alam*⁽⁴⁸¹⁾. The word (492) means “one who is nameless, or cannot be named.” The root (481) adds to this “to be dumb, to bind.” In my early experience, I did not know that it was the spirit of Christ speaking to me (cp Jn 3:8). I knew about Christ, but I did not know him intimately.

Note 4: The 10 written in stone is the covenant given Israel (Dt 4:13), and the only thing spoken to all the people (Ex 20:1, 19, 22). They were to obey God's voice to keep them (Ex 19:5; Dt 30:10). After Israel built the tabernacle, God spoke to Moses & Aaron from above the ark, where the tablets were stored (Ex 25:21-22) in the Most Holy Place, which measured 10 x 10 x 10 cubits. We are saved by Christ's faith, which was completed by his human experience (cf Heb 5:8-9; 12:2), and symbolized by the 3 days and nights in the heart of the earth (Mt 12:40). The root of the word seven⁽⁷⁶⁵⁰⁾ is “to swear.” Oaths/promises were confirmed by seven sacrifices (Gen 21:28-30). The continual (a lamb evening & morning) was offered seven days a week - a figure of God's promise of a Savior and taking up the cross daily/continually.

Note 5: Michael & Jesus are two names of the Son of God. The name Michael, the God-like one, represents Christ's divine character, and the name Jesus, or Yahshua, the One Yahweh saved, represents his humanity (cf Heb 2:14-18). Jesus partook of our humanity, so that we might partake of the Divine nature through him (2 Pet 1:4). Studies are available on Michael and the Angel of the Lord which will aid in understanding. Go to www.dtgministries.org/House_of_Wisdom.htm. Click on Godhead, and then select the study, The Pre-existent Son of God.