

“The History of Our Future – Part 3”

Daniel 8:1-27

February 4, 2018

“There sure are a lot of horns in Daniel!”

In our study in Daniel we're seeing God has graciously given us His Word to guide us and to build our faith.

1. Share your story:
 - Can you think of a time when you realized God was keeping something from you? An event that maybe didn't make sense until later only to see that God in fact had a reason. Perhaps you're feeling something like that now.
 - Think of a trial you went through, and how you came out of it. How did you grow? What did you learn? Or, think of something you waited for, and when it finally came you maybe had an understanding of why God wanted you to wait.

Sometimes God conceals. When prophecy is first given, it probably sounds like a mystery and even alarming. Just remember Daniel's response in 7:15, 28 and 8:27.

READ: 8:3-4

2. Do you remember who the ram represented and why two horns?
 - The ram was the Media-Persian empire, led by Cyrus. The two horns represented the two nations, with Persia being the stronger, bigger. When they conquered from Babylon empire, there was nothing holding them back.

READ: 8:5-8

3. Do you recall who the male goat was? And the horn?

- The goat was the Greek empire, led by the horn, Alexander the Great. The horn breaking represented his sudden death.
- The four horns that replaced him were his 4 generals that took control of the kingdom by 4 areas.

READ: 8:9-12

4. Is this little horn the same as in chapter 7?
 - The little horn in 7:8, 20-22, 25-26 comes from the 4th beast, the 10 kings that somehow come from the Roman empire.
 - The little horn in 8:8-12 comes from the third kingdom, Greece. This speaks of Antiochus Epiphanes, who essentially is a type of the antichrist yet to come.
 - Antiochus Epiphanes brought widespread devastation upon the Jewish people, killing many and desecrating the worship in the Temple.

God has revealed. When God sent Gabriel to help Daniel understand the meaning, He graciously lays out what is consistent to what began in chapter 7. When the explanation of the little horn is given, it both relates to the coming Antiochus Epiphanes, with very similar traits to the antichrist.

We'll see in Daniel 9 that part of the reason Daniel was so sick in 8:27 was because he had a burden for his people.

5. How can an understanding of prophecy help us feel the burden for people in Flagstaff today? Be specific.

As you pray for one another in your group, pray that God will give us a great burden for our friends and neighbors and that He will also draw them to Himself, through our witness and the message of the Word.