

The Gospel, 1844, and Judgment Lesson 7 3Q 2006

The 70 Weeks

SABBATH

Read memory text. Thoughts?

First Let's explore the actual time line:

What differences do you see in the visions of Daniel 7 & 8? The animals in Daniel 7 are unclean animals not used in the sanctuary service whereas the animals in Daniel 8 are clean animals used in the sanctuary service. Do you think this might clue us in to a focus change of meaning in the visions?

Let's walk ourselves through the key elements of Daniel 8 and 9

He had just had a vision of a Ram, a Goat with one great horn broken off with 4 horns arising out of it and then one of the 4 horns had another little horn arise out of it. This little horn started small but grew great to the south, east and beautiful land, it grew until it reached heaven and threw 1/3 of the starry host down and trampled on them. It set itself up against the Prince, took away the continual, and brought the place of his sanctuary low. Then it would be 2300 days until the sanctuary would be set right/cleansed.

Some argue this little horn is Antiochus – they cite the fact that this horn came up out of one of the horns of the goat – i.e. the body of the animal that represents Greece and thus cannot be Rome, they argue that it defiled the sanctuary as Antiochus did, they argue that the direction it grew in conforms to the direction of Antiochus – and thus they argue that this was fulfilled around 300 BC when the Macabees cleansed the Sanctuary – this is why the celebration of Hanukah which is referred to in John 10:22. Thoughts?

While all these arguments are plausible, none are persuasive and all the elements could also refer to Rome- for instance, one could argue that the one horn which represented the Saleucus kings – Antiochus was the eighth of 26, not near the end or the line of kings, and there is already a horn that represents this line of kings why would another horn need to arise to represent this same line? Rather it represents a new power arising – Rome –But this also is not persuasive – additional information is needed to tip the balance – which is? The interpretation given in Daniel 8 the angel tells Daniel twice the vision concerns the “time of the end” was Antiochus living in the time of the end? No, so while such an

interpretation is intriguing it must be rejected, but further evidence, Jesus in Matthew 24:9-31 describes the events prior to the second coming, the time of the end:

MT 24:9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

MT 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place `the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet **Daniel**--let the reader understand-- ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. ¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. ²² If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. ²³ At that time if anyone says to you, `Look, here is the Christ!' or, `There he is!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time.

MT 24:26 "So if anyone tells you, `There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, `Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

MT 24:29 "Immediately after the distress of those days

" `the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

MT 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

In this passage what is Jesus speaking of, the past or the future? In relation to where Jesus was where was Antiochus? In the past, and this little horn power is the power referred to as the abomination that causes desolation and Jesus refers this to the future, so again Antiochus cannot fit.

DA 8:18 While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet.

DA 8:19 He said: "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.

Here again we have the "appointed time of the end" telling us this vision is going to take us down into the future, way past Antiochus. What does the "time of wrath" mean?

Romans 1:20-30 Paul tells us that when people reject the truth about God that God's wrath is revealed and what does Paul say 3 times God does? Let them go, and when He let's them go what happens? They become depraved and decadent, just like what happened in the dark ages. And why did such a terrible time happen? Because the truth about God was rejected.

²⁰ The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia. ²¹ The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king. ²² The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power.

DA 8:23 "In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. ²⁴ He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people. ²⁵ He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.

DA 8:26 "The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."

DA 8:27 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

Notice several things here, The Bible explains explicitly what the Ram is and what the goat is, the first large horn and the 4 horns, and then a detailed description of the characteristics of the stern-faced king- which is that little horn power. No confusion or misunderstanding here. The Bible also tells us again that the vision concerns the "distant future." So again, not Antiochus. The Bible also says that the portion concerning the 2300 days was to be sealed. So when Daniel at the end of chapter 8 says it was beyond understanding, what is the point that he most likely didn't understand? The 2300 days.

Now in chapter 9 starts out with Daniel realizing the end of Jeremiah's prophecy is at hand and he begins to pray and ask God for fulfillment of this prophecy. Gabriel then comes to give Daniel "understanding" vs. 22.

9:21 while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

22 He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. 23 As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:

What vision is he coming to give Daniel understanding of? What did Daniel not understand from the previous chapter? The time period of 2300 days – and what does Gabriel start explaining? Time.

DA 9:24 "Seventy `sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

DA 9:25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven `sevens,' and sixty-two `sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 After the sixty-two `sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and

desolations have been decreed. ²⁷ He will confirm a covenant with many for one `seven.' In the middle of the `seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation will come with abomination on his wings until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

First let's look at the time issues. 70 sevens, meaning 70 weeks or 490 days and in prophecy that translates into 490 years. 490 years remain for the Jews to fulfill the mission God had covenanted with Abraham to fulfill. This 490 years is broken into several pieces. The first piece is 49 years, then 434 years and then 7 years. This 490 year period is a period of time determined or decreed or cut off of a larger period of time, not previously explained the 2300 days or years of Daniel 8:14.

When does the time start? With the decree to rebuild and restore Jerusalem – which was in 457 b.c. counting 49 years later is when the Temple was finished and then 434 years (total 483 years) after that takes us to 27 AD when Christ was baptized and started His ministry. And then 3 ½ years later, in the middle of the last “seven” Christ dies and puts an end to the sacrificial system. Christ completed the covenant with Abraham that through Abraham's seed all nations would be blessed. 3 ½ years later Stephen is stoned, the 490 years end and the gospel goes to the Gentiles and shortly after Saul is converted.

“The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.”

Pagan Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the physical sanctuary and Pagan and Papal Rome continued the war against the Spirit Temple. And this war causes desolation to the image of God within the Spirit Temple. 2Cor 10:3-5.

9:27 “and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.” NASB

Papal Rome and its abomination of lies about God that make Him into a cruel dictator who must be pled with in order to be assuaged, and this abomination continues with all those who continue to misrepresent God, even in our own church.

Let's look at our memory text – read – thoughts?

Who is it pertaining to? The Jewish nation? And what is it saying within the time remaining is to be accomplished? What were they to be doing?

Were they to be preparing to meet the Messiah? Were they to be a nation, totally dedicated to preparing to meet Jesus Christ? Is this prophecy talking about that? It says in the last phrase to anoint the most holy, could it be speaking of Jesus? As the next verse says the anointed one speaking of Christ?

And when Christ came did He fulfill the covenant He made with Abraham? Did He take sinful humanity upon Himself and instead of being overcome by sin He purged sin from His humanity and put an end to sin? Did He reconcile humanity with God? Did He establish righteousness that will never end? Did He ratify, by fulfillment, all the visions and prophecies? And was He anointed by the Holy Spirit in the form of a Dove?

Don't the 70 weeks prophecy work out nicely? And is it because of the 70 weeks that we know Jesus is the Messiah? Were there other people claiming to be Christ at the same time in history? Could they lay claim to the 70 weeks prophecy to support them? So does the 70 weeks determine that Jesus was the Christ? What does?

What kind of kingdom did Jesus come to establish and promote? What kind of kingdom did the false Christ's promote? Is there a lesson here as we prepare for the second coming?

Is it important that everyone know all the details about these prophecies in order to be saved?

Do you have to know how to bake bread in order to eat bread? And what is necessary to live, baking or eating? Christ is the bread of heaven, the truth about God and we don't have to know how He accomplished everything He did, but we do have to believe and partake.

Questions from anyone regarding Daniel 8 and 9?

TUESDAY

In the Teacher's Guide it asks: "The 'Anointed One' in Daniel 9:25,26 is an obvious reference to Jesus, the Messiah. Jesus' life not only anchors this prophecy in history; it reveals one of the outcomes of His ministry; 'The Anointed One will be cut off,' and 'he will put an end to sacrifice and offering'. Why did so many, in the ages up to Jesus' birth, misunderstand this prophecy? What is the greatest misconception about Jesus and His ministry now?

Thoughts?

Donald Barnhouse, after investigating Adventism wrote: “The [sanctuary] doctrine is, to me, the most colossal, psychological, face-saving phenomenon in religious history. ... We personally do not believe that there is even a suspicion of a verse in Scripture to sustain such a peculiar position, and we further believe that any effort to establish it is stale, flat, and unprofitable. ... [It is] unimportant and almost naïve.” [(Eternity, 7:67, September 1956, pp. 6-7, 43-45.)]

What do you see as the basic problem people like Ford and Barnhouse have with the sanctuary doctrine? They have the wrong diagnoses and if the diagnoses is wrong the treatment is wrong. They have diagnosed the sin problem as a legal problem and that blood payment was necessary to atone for the offense to a angry, wrathful and offended God. They see that at the Cross Christ paid the penalty, and in their view a complete atonement was made, in that total payment was offered and accepted and thus the sanctuary doctrine to them is heresy as they see it watering down what Christ did on the Cross. They fail to realize that the issues was never a legal issue, nor was God ever angry, nor was appeasement or payment ever needed. They don't appreciate the real destructiveness of sin and how it actually destroys the sanctuary of the human soul and thus don't see the need for Christ to come and purge the infection from humanity, reveal the truth about God, expose Satan, procure and remedy and then minister that remedy to all who are willing – thus His work in the sanctuary.