***DCF 300122 Dan 8:15- 27 Gabriel Interprets the Vision***

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***Dan 8:15 15Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. 16And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.”***

Daniel hears someone instruct Gabriel to explain the vision. When we believe in God, we accept the reality of the spirit world – both good and bad. ***John 4:23 23But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*** As we pray for wisdom and insight, the Holy Spirit reveals to us the subtle influence of the spirit world.

In Matt 18:10 Jesus confirms His hearers know that they have an angel or angels allotted to cover them. ***10“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.*** When we are born again, we begin to see that the spirit world is a whole new dimension, and it is real. We have to believe in things we cannot see or prove. We walk by faith.

Satan does not mind if those who do not believe in God, also do not believe that he exists. So, there are people under the influence of demons who do not believe in demons. But in our warfare, we must accept the reality of the enemy. ***Eph* 6:10 10Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places.* 13Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** It is not 1 or 2 spirits – it is HOSTS.

In the Hebrew Bible Gabriel and Michael are described as the guardian angels of Israel. In Luke, Gabriel appears to Zechariah and Mary. He is regarded as a very high-ranking angel, so Daniel’s response in v27 is understandable. “ ***I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days.”***

***Dan 8:17 17So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, “Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.”***

Now, we come to a problem that blocks many people. It would seem that this prophecy is fulfilled in the next few hundred years with the Greek empires and the coming tyranny of Antiochus Epiphanes. And that is true. But what we have to see is that past fulfillments come as a foreboding for us of what is to come. We saw that when Matthew quotes Isaiah. ***Is 7:14,17 14Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. … 17The Lord will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father’s house. … 8:3 3Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, “Call his name Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz;***

***Matt 1:22 22So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”***

This is standard teaching methodology. We have exercises in class before the tests, and then the final exam. We have practice before the real thing. Jonathan Cahn’s books The Harbinger 1 and 2 have excellent examples of this.

Antiochus Epiphanes heralds a far greater evil man who will come in the last days. God has given us history to warn and prepare us for what is to come. The OT Antichrist came out of Greece, with all its education, culture and refinement. The EU symbol of Europa riding a bull also has its roots in Greece.

***Dan 8:18 18Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. 19And he said, “Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be. 20The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. 21And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. 22As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.***

***23“And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes.…*** We are often terrified with fierce features, forgetting the future we have in Christ.

We read that he will have covenant with Israel which will be broken. So, he has a smooth tongue and charm, in politics. Sadly, many Christians no longer look for fellow believers in elections, to vote for. Good looks, charm, half-truths and loyalty to a party, win many votes.

***Dan 8:24 24His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully,
and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.***

There is no doubt that the Antichrist will be distinctively evil. There is no doubt too, that we will experience evil rulers, who have power, who destroy the opposition, who tell lies and who prosper. But what does Jesus teach us to do?

In Matt 25, Jesus tells us 2 parables to prepare us for the kingdom of heaven. The first is the parable of the wise and the foolish virgins. Both groups had oil. But 5 of them needed more oil, because their oil was running out. This is a warning, that some people will get so absorbed in the flesh that they will not be ready. To these Jesus warns us that the door is shut.

***Matt 25:11 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ 12But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’***

***13“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.***

The oil is our walk with the Hoy Spirit. We are given marriage to understand that our relationship with God is permanent and requires continual humble service.

The 2nd parable, is the parable of the 10 talents. This is a lesson for us to use our gifts, time and finances for the kingdom of God. The question is how are you managing your talents? The good servants were productive. One had 5 talents, and one had 2 talents, so they were not equal. But they were productive.

Jesus is very severe with the lazy servant. The lesson is in ***Matt 25:29 29‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.*** What did the lazy servant have that he would lose? He had an open door to Jesus. He had the opportunity to score for God. He had the opportunity to speak one word for Jesus. He had the opportunity to do something to point people to God. If we are not productive for God, we lose the alertness needed to serve Him.

The chapter finishes with a separation of the sheep and the goats. We have seen repeatedly that there will be a falling away in the last days. We have seen that there will be many antichrists who are loosely linked with a church. The true believers were active in service to God.

***Matt 25:37 ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’***

The fake believers did nothing.

***41“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ …***

***46And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”***

The Antichrist comes with ferocity, deceit, much destructive power, and arrogance. But we can do the little things – like loving people who are broken in life.

Dan 8:25 ***25“Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means.***

Our media is full of deceit. It tells part truths. It pushes abortion, LGBTQ teaching, idolatry, materialism and covetousness, blasphemy, sexual immorality, and ungodly teaching like evolution. Pray to spot the lie. The prosperity we experience in Australia will disappear.

***Dan 8:26 26“And the vision of the evenings and mornings which was told is true; therefore seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future.”***

We are told in Revelation that John’s vision is not to be sealed, probably because Jesus had already begun His ministry. ***Rev 1:3  3Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*** And then again in ***Rev 22:10*** a time comes when people can no longer change.  ***10And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. 11He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”***

This is the lesson: God wants His people, throughout the ages to live as though the end is near. We MUST be ready. Complacency is a trap. After the rapture, and after death, repentance will no longer be possible. The unjust will not be able to change. The filthy, will remain filthy.

We live in an era where we no longer need to be fearful of the Greek or Roman Empires. But the Bride must be ready for the Bridegroom.

**Dan 8:27** ***27And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king’s business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.***

Part of the reason for Daniel’s response was that he had experienced the fulfillment of prophecy in his life time.

He had read the prophecy about the invasion of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, which began in 740 BC, until Samaria was taken in 722 BC. He had seen the devastation, idolatry, and immorality that had come into that land. ***2 Kings 17:13 13Yet the Lord testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.” 14Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God. 15And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them that they should not do like them. 16So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. 17And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger. 18Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.***

He had heard the prophecy of the invasion of Judah and experienced it first hand. ***Jer 25:8 8“Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Because you have not heard My words, 9behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,’ says the Lord, ‘and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. 10Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. 11And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.***

He had read and experienced the prophecy in **Isaiah 39:7** that captives would be castrated. ***‘And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’***

So then, we too need to stand in awe at what God is revealing to us. We do not know the exact sequence, but we can prepare our hearts. As this year and time progresses, the prophecies will become increasingly clear. And at the end of our life, whether it be 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, or 100 years, eternity will begin.

Israel’s return to their land was a miracle. It had been owned by the Ottoman Turks who hated the Jews. It began with a missing metal star in the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem. This led to conflict between the Greek Orthodox sided by the Russians and the Latin clergies sided by the Ottoman Empire, France and Britain. This led to the Crimean War and massive debts for the Ottoman Empire. So, they sold off the land of Israel in 1867, and it was bought by Jews, fulfilling the prophecies in the Bible. Then in 1917 Australian troops battled with the Ottoman and German Empires – and won. Then 50 years later in 1967, the Jews were forced to fight again against 3 more powerful neighbours – and they won. And then 50 years later, in 2017, after 3 US presidents had failed, President Trump went against the opinions of many nations and established Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Who would have foreseen that Israel would return after being destroyed by Babylon and rebuilt by Nehemiah? But even more amazing: who would have seen the return of Israel as a nation after almost 2000 years? We have an amazing God who has an exact plan for your life. Pray to fulfil it.

Last Hymn: Mine eyes have seen the coming of the glory of the Lord.

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

Refrain:
Glory, glory, hallelujah,
glory, glory, hallelujah,
glory, glory, hallelujah,
His truth is marching on.

2 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgment seat:
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. [Refrain]

3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
as He died to make us holy, let us die to make men free,
while God is marching on. [Refrain]

4 He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave;
He is wisdom to the mighty; He is succour to the brave:
so the world shall be His foot-stool, and the soul of time His slave:
our God is marching on. [Refrain]

**Homework**

**Read these passages about angels. There are many more – this is just a selection.**

Heb 13:2

Psalm 34:17

Heb 1:14

Psalm 91:11,12

Matt 18:10

Col 1:16

Rev 1:20

***Read Matt 25***

In what way is the media selective about what it tells the public?

How does it use half-truths?

People, including Christians like to hear happy, cheerful things. So, the judgement of God is excluded, from sermons and conversation. But God delights in judgement – Jer 9:24.

The Antichrist will persecute people. I believe that Covid is given to us as a precursor, to understand end times. I do not believe yet, that the vax is the mark of the Beast. People have not had to deny Christ to get vaccinated. But it is global and it has restricted people from buying and selling. It has given governments increased power. It has disproportionately, given us concern for only one type of death – death by covid. 8000 babies are murdered in WA each year, but that statistic is ignored and not tabulated.

In 2020 there were 381 suicides, 295 were male, 86 female. In 2021 there were 166 deaths on the road in WA. There have been about 9 confirmed deaths by Covid in WA. Is our apathy excusable?

Percy Cerutty, the coach of Herb Elliott had a saying: “To train without pain is to train without gain.” As we read the Bible, the prophets and the teachings of Jesus are sometimes tough reading. Do you want comfort? Or, do you want to score for God?