

APPLICATION

5 Keys to Thriving while Living in Babylon

1

_____ to the True King

We have *purposed* to follow God over all

Remember the _____ Wickedness in High Places

Ephesians 6:12-13 – “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

2

Deep Ties to _____

We need each other's fellowship and encouragement!

DANIEL CHALLENGE #1 – Heartfelt Community _____

Make a commitment to *at least* a monthly meal with fellow believers from church. (*Who will you invite? When?*)

3

Courageous Testimony: _____ but _____

We honor the earthly king – but we *obey* God

4

Reliance on _____: Daily and Urgent

Our *power* comes from God – not human might

DANIEL CHALLENGE #2 – Heartfelt Community _____

Make a commitment to pray *FOR* others and *WITH* others.
→ *When will your prayer time be?*

5

Gardening with an Eye on the _____

Make Babylon *better*, while we wait for the *Eternal* Kingdom

Trusting God _____ makes sense!

John 12:16 – “These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him”



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

How to Thrive while Living in Babylon

Part 14: “The War Against God”

TODAY'S TEXT: Daniel 8:1-27

8:1-2 – An Astonishing _____

- The vision takes place in approximately _____ BC in Babylon
Note: Belshazzar (and his father Nabonidus) came to power in a coup around 556 BC. At the time of this vision, Persia is a rising power in the East, but it won't conquer Babylon for another 14 years until 539 BC.
- In the vision, Daniel is in the ‘winter capital’ of the _____ Empire!
Esther 1:2 – “That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace.”

8:2-14 – The _____ of the Vision

- The _____
 - Has two Horns: one clearly dominant
Note: a ‘horn’ (*qeren*) is an ancient symbol of power / kings
 - The Ram pushes West, North, & South... and becomes great
- The _____
 - Comes swiftly from the west
 - Has a very notable horn
 - Destroys the Ram with great anger, and stomps it into the ground
- The _____ of the Goat
 - First horn broken off when Goat is strongest
 - First horn replaced by 4 notable new horns
- The _____ of the Goat
 - Emerges out of one of the 4 ‘Notable’ Horns
 - Little horn pushes South, East, and into Israel (*the pleasant land*)
 - At war with the ‘host of heaven’ (*faithful Jews*) and stomps them
- The _____ War of the Little Horn
 - At war with the God of Israel
 - Casts down the daily sacrifice and the sanctuary of God (for 2,300 days)
 - Casts down the _____!

8:15-16 – Some Help from the Angel _____

→ Daniel 8 is the first time an Angel is given a _____ in the Bible!

8:17-19 – The Time of the _____

→ This is answering the _____ in verse 13!

“How long will the sanctuary be trodden underfoot?”

→ “Time of the End” = ‘*ēṭ qēṣ*’ = Time/opportunity of the End/conclusion

→ “Time of the End” = often has ‘Prophetic Echoes’

For example: **Genesis 6:13** and **Matthew 24:37**

8:20-23 – The _____ of the Vision

- **The Ram** is the _____ Empire
 - = Medo-Persian Empire (Chest of Silver / Bear)
 - = Darius the Mede only rules 2 years, Cyrus the Persian quickly dominates
 - = Comes from the East – expands West, North & South.
- **The Goat** is _____
 - = Greek Empire (Belly of Bronze / Winged Leopard)
 - = Notable horn is Alexander the Great
 - = Revenge for Persian invasion of Greece. Burns Persepolis.
- **The 4 Horns of the Goat** are the _____
 - = Alexander dies in Babylon at 33 yrs old at the height of power
 - = Greek Empire split into the Diadochi (4 notable kings)
- **The Little Horn of the Goat** is _____ Epiphanes
 - = Became King of Seleucid Greek Empire (Eastern Horn) in 175 BC
 - = He nearly conquers the Ptolemaic Greek Empire (Southern Horn)
 - = He conquers Jerusalem in 167 BC

The Astonishing Evidence of Prophecy!

Critics and Skeptics say that Daniel was written around 170 BC, during the rule of Antiochus Epiphanes. This explains (*most*) of the incredible ‘prophecy’

But consider:

- ✳ **The Dead Sea Scrolls:** prove that Daniel was already part of the ‘Canon’ of Holy Scripture by 125 BC! WAY too fast if a 45-year-old book!
- ✳ **The Language:** Daniel uses perfect ancient Hebrew and Imperial Aramaic – both very different from what was spoken in 170 BC!
- ✳ **The History:** Daniel has cultural and historical details lost to history by 160 BC – but Daniel gets it all correct.
- ✳ **Jesus Christ:** Personally authenticated it (Matthew 24, Mark 13)

8:24-25 – The _____ War Against God

➤ His power is mighty... but “not by his own power”

Antiochus Epiphanes is empowered by _____!

See Also: Isaiah 14:4-15 – starts out as a proverb against “the king of Babylon” ends up with “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!”

See Also: Ezekiel 28:11-19 – starts out as a “lamentation upon the king of Tyrus” ends up at “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering,... Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth...”

The Bible often looks past the mortal kings to the demonic power behind them.

- Causes “craft” to prosper and “casts down the truth”
Craft = *mirmâ* = deceit, treachery, falsehood
- “Stands up _____ the Prince of Princes”
Stand up = ‘*āmāḏ*’ = stand against, hold your ground
Prince of Princes = *śar śar* = Lord of Lords: God

Note: Antiochus Epiphanes declared himself to be the “manifest God” and “image of god”!! He desecrated the Temple and banned the sacrifices. He then died in 164 BC from disease (“broken without hand”) and the Maccabean revolt captured Jerusalem and cleansed the temple.

8:26 – The Vision of the _____ and the _____

→ The Satanic power behind Antiochus is _____ at work

1 John 4:3 – “... this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already it is in the world.”

→ Antiochus Epiphanes is an embodiment of the future _____

Matthew 24:14-15 – “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. 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:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains...”

8:27 – Daniel’s _____ – even when he doesn’t _____

Jeremiah 17:7 – “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.”