

THE BOOK OF DANIEL
"Russia in the Time of the End"
Daniel 8:1-27

Introduction

1. The main thoughts of Daniel 8 and the vision he received in the 3rd year of Belshazzar's reign are patent. Furthermore, they are true (v. 26).

2. To know what the vision meant, Daniel "sought the Lord" (v. 15), and the response of the Lord made him "afraid" and to fall on his "face" (vv. 17, 18). But God promised him understanding and this came through Gabriel the angel (vv. 16-19). Let us take notice: those who really want to know, God will show them (John 7:17).

3. The interpretation of Daniel's vision is given in the text. It includes the following important notations:

1. The TIME indicated.

Past history cannot account for the phrases which connote a future time. Mark:

- a. "The time of the end" (v. 17).
- b. "The last end of the indignation" (v. 19).
- c. "The latter time of their kingdom" (v. 19).
- d. "The transgressors are come to the full" (v. 23).
- e. "For many days" (v. 26).

A prayerful consideration of the remainder of the Word in these matters brings one to understand the great period of tribulation which shall fall upon the earth (Matt. 24-25; Jer. 30:4).

2. The CAUSE explicated.

It is of prime importance that this be understood or else one's ideas of the end time will be faulty.

God is concerned here with the time when "the transgressors are come to the full." This bespeaks Jewish sinfulness. As it was in the days of the Amorites, so it will be in Israel (Gen. 15:16). Do not forget: the great tribulation has the punish-

ment of Israel for her sins. What a challenge for Jewish evangelism today!!!

3. The MAN designated.

Several descriptive phrases are used in this chapter to denote the man who is the central figure in the drama presented to us.

a. Negatively.

Let it be clearly understood that the "little horn" here is one who rises from the north and springs from the third power of Daniel's visions (Greece). Therefore, he is NOT the Antichrist of the figure of Daniel 7.

b. Positively.

Without going into a detailing of his description (see next study), this personage is one who compares favourably with the "Assyrian" of Isaiah and the "king of the North" in Daniel 11. The "Assyrian" in Isaiah comes up for discussion in many chapters: Isa. 8:7, 8; 10:5-34 (note the 11th chapter for Messiah's reign); Micah 5:1-7, etc.

Behind the dreadful activity of this personage is the power of Russia and the powers of the north (Ezek. 38).

Conclusion

With the knowledge of these truths and their absolute certainty, let everyone who hears this word be reminded that God's Word is to be fulfilled for Jew and Gentile. Turn then to God for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord (Heb. 2:1-4).

NOTES