



DANIEL 8:14-27

The Danger of Being Spiritually Desensitized to God's Truth and the World's Pain

Daniel 8:8-27

When was the last time you heard someone respond to an incident or piece of information by saying, “That’s shocking!”? Shock (emotional disgust, offense, and aversion) has been diminished due to a widespread exposure to facts and images.

The Danger of Being Spiritually Desensitized to God's Truth and the World's Pain

Daniel 8:8-27

Things get too easily relegated to a file in our brains marked, "I've already heard this before." It's a sad day (and dangerous) when we become *spiritually desensitized* to God's truth and the world's pain.

DANIEL'S VISION

Daniel had a vision of the future from God and it shocked him to the core

Four world-governing empires from Daniel's time through the coming of Jesus Christ in the future

In chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar saw a statue that represented four kingdoms

DANIEL'S VISION

In chapter 7, Daniel saw a vision of four ravenous beasts that represented the same four kingdoms

In chapter 8, Daniel saw a vision of a goat and a ram

DANIEL'S VISION

God is giving this vision to Daniel for two reasons

Two rulers will come out of the Grecian Empire

The second one will be really bad in how he treats the Jewish people and defies God

He will be a lot like the coming Antichrist in the end days; he is a prototype of the Antichrist

Tools To Put in Your Interpreting Prophecy Toolbox

1. Verb tense

Sometimes God uses past tense to describe a
future event

The coming of Messiah and His suffering

Isaiah 53

God is so sure it will happen that it's already
done

Tools To Put in Your Interpreting Prophecy Toolbox

2. Perspective

Prophetic foreshortening

3. Types

An event or a person becomes a type—a shadow, a picture, or a model of something like it, but in a greater way, later on

Tools To Put in Your Interpreting Prophecy Toolbox

3. Types

The Passover—a picture of Jesus Christ slain on
the cross

In Daniel 8, is a prototype—a Grecian king who
came and was a prototype of the Antichrist—
Daniel sees this, understands it, and is shocked

The vision

Horn speaks of authority and strength

A king that is coming

A ram comes and conquers the known world

From the West comes turbo goat with a notable
horn (the first king of the Grecian Empire)

The goat defeats the ram

The vision

The horn—the king—is broken

In its place came four horns

One has a little horn that grows up—this is a type of the little horn that will come in the end times (the Antichrist)

Principle: God likes to reveal stuff

God reveals Himself and reveals truth to
humanity

Through creation—general revelation

Psalm 19:1

Through the Word—special revelation

Psalm 19:7

3 Reasons Why So Many Christians Are Illiterate in Biblical Knowledge

1. Laziness

2. Indifference

3. Don't want to hear it

Only 19% of Protestants know that salvation comes through faith alone and is not of works

45% of Protestants can't name the four gospels

Only 55% of Protestants know that the golden rule is not one of the Ten Commandments

The Interpretation of the Dream

Daniel gets help from heavenly interpreters

The large horn was Alexander the Great

The horn was broken on June 10, 323 BC when
Alexander the Great died

What to do with the kingdom?

"Give it to the strong"

The Kingdom Was Divided Among His Four Generals

Cassander took Greece and Macedonia

Lysimachus took Asia Minor

(modern-day Turkey) and Thrace

Ptolemy took Egypt, North Africa, and Arabia

Seleucus took Syria and Babylon

The Small Horn

Antiochus IV

Model of the antichrist

He tried to completely eradicate the religion of
the Jews

The desecration lasted 2300 days and

Hanukkah ended the desecration

Principle: God wants us to know what to do with
truth—how to interpret the truth

Become a Student of the Word

Be students of the Word and seek to discover its
meaning

The study of prophecy should produce four
things in us

The Study of Prophecy Should Produce Four Things In Us

1. Confidence in God as you study prophecy and see it fulfilled
2. Cleanness of lifestyle—holiness; holy fear or happy anticipation based on your relationship with Him

The Study of Prophecy Should Produce Four Things In Us

3. Comfort in sorrow; there is a coming kingdom, a reunion

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled...I will come again" (see John 14:1-3)

4. Conviction for service

POINTS TO PONDER

C.S. Lewis said, "We all reach the future at the same rate—60 minutes per hour"

Imagine how shocked some people will be when they stand before God and He says, "Depart from me, I never knew you"

Matthew 7:21-23

Challenge:

Become proactive in
sharing your faith