

Daniel 8

Daniel's Vision

- ◆ At the palace at Shushan, in the province of Elam, by the river of Ulai
- ◆ A ram with two horns stood before the river and pushed westward, northward, and southward; did according to his will and became great

- ◆ He goat came from the west with a notable horn between his eyes and ran into the ram with fury, broke his two horns, cast him down and stamped him
- ◆ Waxed very great, his great horn was broken and four notable one came up, and out of one of them came forth a little horn

The Little Horn

Daniel 8:9

- ◆ Waxed exceedingly great toward south, east, pleasant land
- ◆ Waxed great to the host of heaven
- ◆ Cast down of the host and of the stars to the ground and stamped upon them
- ◆ Magnified himself to the prince of the host, the daily was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down

- ◆ Host was given him against the daily and it cast down the truth to the ground and it practiced and prospered.

Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? (Daniel 8:13)

THAT is, How long will this wicked, desolating power be permitted to carry out its cruel work against the cause and people of God? (Lesson note)

- ◆ Verse 10—who is the it that waxed great, that cast down of the host and of the stars?
- ◆ Verse 10—waxed—means to grow —it grew great
- ◆ Verse 10—host of heaven—host can mean army, troops—this is not the armies in heaven
- ◆ Verse 24 tells us the host and stars are the mighty and holy people
- ◆ Verse 10—waxed—and verse 11—magnified from same root word

- ◆ Verse 11—prince of the host—Jesus
- ◆ Verse 11—by him can also be translated from
him
- ◆ Verse 11—the daily

Then I saw in relation to the “daily” (Daniel 8:12) that the word “sacrifice” was supplied by man’s wisdom, and does not belong to the text, and that the Lord gave the correct view of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry. When union existed, before 1844, nearly all were united on the correct view of the “daily”; but in the confusion since 1844, other views have been embraced, and darkness and confusion have followed. (PT November 1, 1850, par. 12; also EW 74.2)

The “old view” or “pioneer position” of the “daily” interpreted it, as did almost all the Millerites, to refer to ancient Roman **paganism**, while the “new view” interpreted the term to refer to the taking away of the knowledge of Christ’s priestly mediation in the heavenly sanctuary by instituting a false sanctuary system. (Bert Haloviak, “In the Shadow of the Daily,” p. 18)

- ◆ How long shall be the vision concerning the *daily* and the *transgression of desolation*?
- ◆ To give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?
- ◆ And the answer is: And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. (Daniel 8:14)

Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, “the mystery of iniquity” carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. (GC 49.2)

The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. **Paganism**, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church.

Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ. (Ibid.)

This **compromise** between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of “the man of sin” foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That **gigantic system of false religion** is a masterpiece of Satan’s power—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.

(GC 50.1)

- ◆ He came to the Son of God in the wilderness of temptation.
- ◆ But Satan meets with greater success in presenting the same temptations to man. To secure worldly gains and honors, the church was led to seek the favor and support of the great men of earth; and having thus rejected Christ, she was induced to yield allegiance to the representative of Satan—the bishop of Rome.
(GC 50.2)

◆ It is one of the leading doctrines of Romanism that the pope is the visible head of the universal church of Christ. . . . The doctrine of papal supremacy is directly opposed to the teachings of the Scriptures. The pope can have no power over Christ's church except by usurpation. (GC 51.1)

◆ "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Luke 4:8

- ◆ In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men, and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in **ignorance of the Scriptures**. . . . The people were forbidden to read it or to have it in their houses, and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their pretensions. (51.3)
- ◆ And now the papacy was to “think to change times and laws.” Rome presumed to expunge from the **law of God** the second commandment, forbidding image worship, and to divide the tenth commandment, in order to preserve the number.
- ◆ Essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified

- ◆ Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians; it was the emperor's policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. (53.1)
- ◆ 1260 years of persecution

2300 Years

1260 days—538–1798

Dan 9:26 "Messiah be cut off but not for himself"
 Isaiah 53:5 "Wounded for our transgressions"
 1 Peter 2:24 "Bare our sins"
 Luke 23:33 "They crucified Him"
 Dan 9:27 "Cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease"
 Luke 23:45 "Veil in temple was rent"

483 Years

7 Wks
 60 Wks
 + 2 Wks
 69 Wks / 483 Years



Dan 9:25–27

Christ's Baptism



Jewish Probation Closes

1810 Years



457 BC

Dan 9:24–27
 Ezra 7:11–13

27 AD

Mark 1:15
 Matt. 3:13–17
 Gal. 4:4

3½

31 AD

1 Wk = 7 Years

3½

34 AD

Acts 18:6, 13:45–46,
 7:54–60,
 Matt. 21:43

1844 AD

Dan 7:9–10
 Dan 8:14
 Investigative
 Judgment Begins
 in Heaven

70 Wks
 x 7 Days
 490 Days/Years
490 Years

Daniel 8:14

"And he said unto me, unto two thousand and three hundred days; Then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

Year / Day
 Principle:
 Ezekiel 4:6
 Leviticus 25:1-8
 Numbers 14:34
 11Q13

In the sixth century the papacy had become firmly established. Its seat of power was fixed in the imperial city, and the bishop of Rome was declared to be the head over the entire church. Paganism had given place to the papacy. The dragon had given to the beast "his power, and his seat, and great authority." Revelation 13:2. And now began the 1260 years of papal oppression foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-7. Christians were forced to choose either to yield their integrity and accept the papal ceremonies and worship, or to wear away their lives in dungeons or suffer death by the rack, the fagot, or the headsman's ax.

(GC 54.2)

Now were fulfilled the words of Jesus: "Ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake." Luke 21:16, 17. Persecution opened upon the faithful with greater fury than ever before, and the world became a vast battlefield. For hundreds of years the church of Christ found refuge in seclusion and obscurity. Thus says the prophet: "The woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three-score days." Revelation 12:6.

The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the **Dark Ages**. (GC, pp. 54.2, 55.1)

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As her power increased, the darkness deepened.

Faith was transferred from Christ, the true foundation, to the pope of Rome. Instead of trusting in the Son of God for forgiveness of sins and for eternal salvation, the people looked to the pope, and to the priests and prelates to whom he delegated authority. They were taught that the pope was their earthly mediator and that none could approach God except through him; and, further, that he stood in the place of God to them and was therefore to be implicitly obeyed. (55.1)

They were taught not only to look to the pope as their mediator, but to trust to works of their own to atone for sin. (55.3)

Image worship became more general. Candles were burned before images, and prayers were offered to them. (57.1)

Pope Gregory VII proclaimed the perfection of the Roman Church (infallibility) (57.2, .3)

The advancing centuries witnessed a constant increase of error in the doctrines put forth from Rome. Even before the establishment of the papacy the teachings of heathen philosophers had received attention and exerted an influence in the church. Many who professed conversion still clung to the tenets of their pagan philosophy, and not only continued its study themselves, but urged it upon others as a means of extending their influence among the heathen. Serious errors were thus introduced into the Christian faith. (58.2)

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Prominent among these was the belief in man's natural immortality and his consciousness in death. This doctrine laid the foundation upon which Rome established the invocation of saints and the adoration of the Virgin Mary. From this sprang also the heresy of eternal torment for the finally impenitent, which was early incorporated into the papal faith. (GC 58.2)

Purgatory, indulgences, the mass, the inquisition

“The noon of the papacy was the midnight of the world.” —J. A. Wylie, The History of Protestantism,
b. 1, ch. 4. (60.2)

And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, **a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences,** shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall **destroy the mighty and the holy people.** And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by **peace** shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he **shall be broken** without hand. (Daniel 8:23-25)

As the cleansing of the earthly sanctuary in the type was a work of judgment, and came at the close of the yearly round of service, so the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary is also a work of judgment, and constitutes the closing work of Christ as our great high priest. The 2,300 days, or years, reach, therefore, to the solemn scenes of the judgment . . . (Lesson note)

THE little horn, which "waxed exceeding great," symbolizes Rome throughout its entire history, till it is broken without hand. (See verse 25.) Hence it includes both Pagan and Papal Rome.

(Lesson note)