

THE 2300 DAYS OF DANIEL 8:14

In lesson 15 we studied the great parallel prophecies of Daniel 2, 7, and 8. It is remarkable to discover how God revealed the near and far-distant future to Daniel over twenty-five hundred years ago, and how, with the passing of time, the history of both nations and religions has shown the precise accuracy of these prophecies as they have slowly been fulfilled. There are still some points in the chapters to be fulfilled. But the accuracy of past fulfillment leads us to the belief that the few remaining details will also be accurately fulfilled.

Last time we concluded at the point of Daniel 8:14. The angel who came to Daniel in verses 15-17 told Daniel what the ram, the goat, and the horn referred to, but not the part dealing with the 2,300 days. Can we discover what it means? The purpose of this study is to examine this part of the prophecy and attempt to see where it falls in history, and its significance.

1. In studying Daniel 8, it is important to note that Daniel "saw," in vision, the ram, goat, and horn. But after "seeing" that, he "heard" (verse 13) a heavenly being speaking in verses 13 and 14.

- (a) In verse 13, what question did he hear asked? _____
- (b) In verse 14, what answer did he hear given? _____
- (c) In verses 26,27, how did Daniel react? _____

(Note carefully that the question deals with an attack on the sanctuary and its services (as in verses 11,12), and the answer deals with a promise for the cleansing or restoring of the sanctuary (We will study this in the next two lessons.) It is very significant that the "how long" of verse 13 might better be "until when," emphasizing not the time span of 2,300 days, but what would take place at the end of the time span and beyond.)

2. What about the time--the 2,300 days? Many Bible scholars have tried for centuries to find a fulfillment that took exactly six years, four months, and twenty days, but such is yet to be found. Did the kingdoms of Daniel 2, 7, and 8 cover short or long periods of time? In Daniel 8 as in the previous historical outline visions of Daniel 2 and 7, the march of world empires and their following political and religious powers cover centuries. This is evident again in Daniel 8 which begins with the world empire of Medo-Persia, followed by Greece, etc. Thus the 2,300 evenings and mornings (or "days") are expected to cover a long period of time commensurate with these lengths of time. This initial expectation is supported by the question of the heavenly being of Daniel 8:13: "How long (literally, "until when") shall be the vision?" The Hebrew term for "vision" is used for the first time in the chapter in verse 2 which begins the "vision" of the ram, the goat, and the little horn to "the time of the end" (verses 17, 19), clearly indicating that the 2,300 days cover centuries beginning somewhere during the Medo-Persian (ram) empire period and continuing through the historical phases of Greece (goat) and pagan and papal Rome ("little horn"), to "the time of the end" (verse 17).
3. Having observed this, we can now turn to Daniel 9 for further explanation of the time element, and the year-day principle in Bible prophecy. Some ten years passed from the close of chapter 8 to the time of chapter 9. The Babylonian kingdom had been taken by Medo-Persia, and the 2300 year prophecy needed further explanation.
 - (a) In Daniel 9:2, what was on Daniel's mind? _____
 - (b) In his great prayer in verses 3-19, what is his concern in verse 17? _____
 - (c) Who returns, and why, in verses 20-23? _____

4. Beginning with Daniel 9:24, the angel begins to explain the previously unexplained 2,300 days by introducing its first "leg," a specific section of the longer period. ("Determined" means "cut off"--from the longer period of time.)
- How much time does this first leg contain? _____
(Many Bible scholars here see clearly that each day represents a year.)
 - What was the purpose of this specific section of time, as given in the rest of verse 24? _____
 - According to verse 25, with what coming event was this first time period to begin? _____
 - According to Ezra 7:11-13, this was the decree of _____ which took place in 457 BC.
 - From the date in (d), how long would it be until the coming of "Messiah" according to Daniel 9:25? _____
(In AD 27, at the end of this specific time, the Messiah, or Christ, or the Anointed One, was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism in Jordan. (See Acts 10:38; Luke 3:22; and Mark 1:14,15.)
 - What do verses 26 and 27 say would happen to Messiah during the seventieth week, or last seven years (27 AD to 34 AD) of the 490 years? _____
 - The 490 years ended in AD 34, marking the end of Jewish probation, and the early apostles turned fully to the spreading of Christianity among the Gentiles. (See Matthew 10:5; Acts 7:51-60; Acts 9:15; Acts 10:34-48; and Acts 13:46.)
5. If the 490 years ended in 34 AD, and was the first leg of the 2,300 days (clearly years) of Daniel 8:14, then when would the longer period end? _____ AD. That was not so long ago, was it?
6. If the explanation of the time period of Daniel 8:14 comes so close into our own days, how would we then understand the idea of a "sanctuary" and a "cleansing" of that sanctuary in connection with a modern-day date of 1844? Our next study will deal with the question, "What is the sanctuary?" Then, in the following study we will seek to find an answer to the question, "What is the cleansing?" in connection with the sanctuary, and in connection with 1844. These will be exciting and revealing studies.

