

“How Could a Good God do That...!?”

Daniel 8

“Christians remain one of the most persecuted religious groups in the world. While Christian persecution takes many forms, it is defined as any hostility experienced as a result of identification with Christ. Christians throughout the world continue to risk imprisonment, loss of home and assets, torture, beheadings, rape and even death as a result of their faith...perhaps the most vulnerable are Christian women, who often face double persecution for faith and gender.

Every month on average in 2018:

255 Christians are killed

104 are abducted

180 Christian women are raped, sexually harassed or forced into marriage

66 churches are attacked

160 Christians are detained without trial and imprisoned

215 million Christians experience high levels of persecution

During the World Watch List 2018 reporting period, thus far: 3,066 Christians were killed; 1,252 were abducted; 1,020 were raped or sexually harassed; and 793 churches were attacked.”

www.opendoors.org

2 wks ago – 5 Keys to INTERPRET the Apocalyptic Literature > END of Daniel
If you have Trouble SLEEPING at Night – Go BICF Website Listen my Sermon
Hope be HELPFUL as we SLOG thru Strange Chapters in Daniel Several Weeks

vs. 1,2 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar *a vision* appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. And I saw in *the vision*; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in *the vision*, and I was at the Ulai canal.

Ch 5 Historical Narrative > FINAL Episode Belshazzar’s Life - EPIC PARTY
Old Trusted Advisor Daniel called in READ Handwriting of DOOM on WALL
OBVIOUS Daniel does NOT HAVE Warm, Fuzzy feelings for Boy-King Belsh..
Chs 7 & 8 Daniel ENDURED lots of Stress – Terrifying Dreams – over Belshaz

Step Ch 8: Apocalyptic LIGHT > VISION > MORE SCARY than STRANGE
From PANORAMIC View of History Ch 7 > Zoom IN on ONE Terrible KING

Like APOSTLE JOHN is in the SPIRIT on LORD'S DAY on isle of PATMOS
PROPHET Daniel is in the SPIRIT 100's of KM's EAST of Babylon > SUSAN
CENTER of FUTURE Power of PERSIAN Kings > by Man-Made ULAI Canal

1. Kingdoms in Conflict

a. Decreed

vs. 15,16 When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision..."

Ch 8 is one of MOST CLEAR of this Apocalyptic Section of Book of DANIEL
As DANIEL Interpreted Dreams of Kings / ANGEL Interpret Vision of Daniel
Meets GABRIEL > Centuries later will Announce ADVENT to Virgin MARY
CLEARLY Told – 2 FEARSOME Animals DEPICT 2 MIGHTY Kingdoms

vs. 20-22 As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power.

Ch 2 Statue	Ch 7 Beasts	Ch 8 Animals	Kingdoms
Head of Gold	Lion w/ Eagle's Wings		Babylon
Body of Silver	Ravenous Bear	Ram, 2 horns	Medo-Persia
Thighs of Bronze	Leopard, 4 wings & heads	Goat, 4 Horns, and Little Horn	Greece
Feet of Iron & Clay	Robo-Beast, 10 horns		Rome and beyond

3rd time STUDY of Daniel we Learn about GREAT ANCIENT Empires

Chapters 2 & 7 GLIMPSE at ALL 4 – Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome

Ch 8 FOCUS on just 2 – Persia & Greece – Zoom In just 1 Obscure Greek King

b. Distant

v. 17 But he said to me, “Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end.”

Daniel Sees down CORRIDORS of CENTURIES NOT Very END of History
Like Peter spoke of JOEL’S LAST Days – Then & There on PENTECOST

v. 19 He said, “Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end.

Daniel looks FORWARD in his VISION to Kingdoms of PERSIA and GREECE
“END” of Antiochus, Siege of Jerusalem, Attack on God and His People

‘Time of the end’ is the general prophetic expression for the time which, as the period of fulfillment, lies at the end of existing prophetic horizon – which in this case is the time of Antiochus.
Carl Friedrich Keil

v. 26 “...seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”

FORESHORTENING of History > typical of APOCALYPTIC Writings

Daniel is SEEING more than 300 years in the FUTURE of the WORLD

Just 2 KINGDOMS – BABYLON is LONG GONE – ROME is NOT YET

Alexander’s rise to power was two centuries after Daniel made this first prophecy – two hundred years! These four kingdoms could not be imagined by any normal human mind...it is because God wrote the book of Daniel through the prophet Daniel.
Rodney Stortz

PREDICTIVE Prophecy > Future Spoken as FACT > God of the Bible is TRUE

Daniel speaking of EMPIRES Centuries BEFORE they even EXISTED

If God of BIBLE NOT TRUE > Another BIGGER/Greater God stands ABOVE

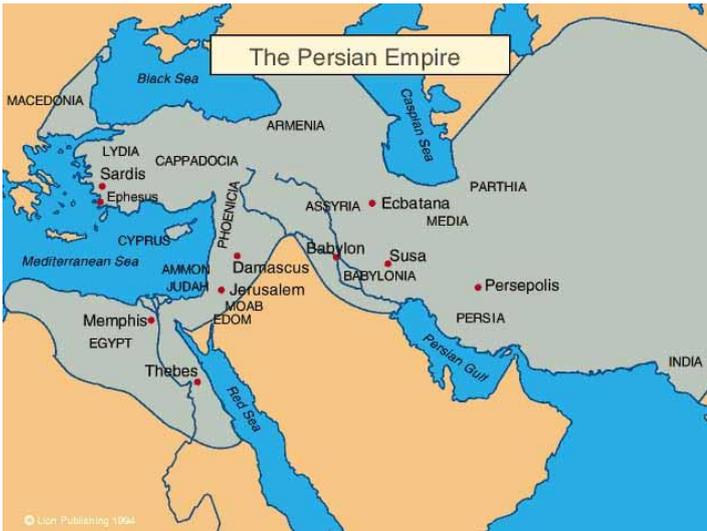
THEN God of BIBLE CanNOT Control what Happens

BUT if these Prophecies COME TRUE > God of Bible – One True Sovereign

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55.8,9

c. Destructive

See these SYMBOLIC Animals – RAM & GOAT Representing Persia & Greece
Destructive: Galloping & Gobbling CITIES, COUNTRIES, CITIZENS A.N.E.



vs. 3,4 I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

6th Century BC – King CYRUS – Thrust ACROSS ASIA MINOR at WILL

Nearly two hundred years of history and political aggrandizement, such as the world has not before seen, are summed up in this verse. Joyce Baldwin



v. 5 As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes.



vs. 6,7 He came to the ram with the 2 horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his 2 horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power.

SIGHT & SOUND of Horns Breaking > BRITTLE Nature of POLITICAL Might

Great POWER > Great PRIDE > leads to GREAT DOWNFALL

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones Luke 1.51,52

No matter how menacing an empire...it is simply an actor in a play written by someone else...Earthly thrones and dominions come and go in a ceaseless round; only the kingdom of God is forever. Iain Duguid

2. King and Anti-Christ

Great EMPERORS CYRUS & ALEXANDER play Small Roles in this Vision

MAIN Focus on OBSCURE King from History > Great Crimes > God & People



vs. 8,9 Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven. Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land.

Alexander's Kingdom – from ITALY to INDIA – like Lightning Across SKY

Alexander DIED Suddenly at age 33 > Empire divided by 4 of his GENERALS

vs. 22,23 As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power. And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise.

4 CONSPICUOUS Horns – FEARED in their Day – FORGOTTEN Today

Only ONE of those KINGS Matters for this VISION

Knows RIDDLES = Intellectually GIFTED > THOTS lead to DEATH Not LIFE

LITTLE HORN = 1 GREATEST Enemies of JEWISH People in HISTORY

Greek king Antiochus IV “Epiphanes” – God has Appeared!



Israel SMALL Nation often CAUGHT in Struggle between Titans of A.N.E.

Carried Away into EXILE as EMPIRES swallowed their FRAIL BORDERS

Most of their PAGAN Conquerors wanted GOLD Not GOD

Wanted Israel’s TRIBUTE, TAXES, TREASURES, Not Care @ THEOLOGY

God’s people had never before faced what they met under Antiochus – a systematic program designed to eradicate completely every trace of Israel’s faith, worship and life. Hence the extreme emergency justified the detailed prediction. The day would come when Israel would need this revelation. Robert Dick Wilson

ANTIOCHUS among LONG LIST of Anti-Christ’s – AGAINST God & His X
God-less man who ATTACKS God & Apple of His Eye – Covenant PEOPLE

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 2.18

Special Warning HERE in Scripture AND a Special place in HELL

For those WORLD Leaders turn their Attacks angst GOD and HIS SAINTS

a. Defiled God's Place

v. 9 a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land.

Antiochus GREW Exceedingly GREAT > Advanced in EVERY DIRECTION

Glorious Land = ISRAEL > Only LAND where God's Spirit dwelt

GOD'S Land was GLORIOUS esp to those EXILED FAR from It

A's 1st Act as King > INVASION of NEAR EAST – RUTHLESS CONQUEST

Imposed HARSH Rule on Jerusalem > tried to SUPPRESS Jewish WORSHIP

vs. 11,12 It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression,

PRIDE Swelled so Mightily > GREATER than LORD of Kings & Constellations

TRIAL of STRENGTH between a MAN and GOD HIMSELF

Became GREATER than God: Shut Down his Temple, Stopped Sacrifices to him

The temple was more than a building; it was a symbol of God's presence with his people, hence a source of life and hope. Its desecration at the hands of Antiochus was an assault against God and cause for despair among the faithful.

Tremper Longman III

b. Destroyed God's People

v. 10 It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them.

NOT just Battle of Flesh and Blood – WARFARE in HEAVENLY Places

HOST of Heaven = STARS / Kings – Little Horn is GREATER than STARS!

HOSTS Delivered Over – Attacked & Defeated ARMIES of ISRAEL

And like the FATHER of LIES he THREW some Down to the EARTH
 a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven
 diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the
 earth. Revelation 12.3,4

v. 24,25 His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause
 fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men
 and the people who are the saints... Without warning he shall destroy many.

Went off to FIGHT Romans for ALEXANDRIA > LOST, came back ANGRY
 Took OUT Frustrations on JEWS he held CAPTIVE in their OWN City
 Entered city w/ 20,000 more Troops – Slaughtered 40,000 ISRAELITES

c. Denied God's Proclamation

v. 12 and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper.

God's TRUTH was DRAGGED in the MUD

ORDERED Public BURNINGS of SCROLLS of the TORAH – LAW of God
 Stifled the Study and Transmission of His SCRIPTURE

v. 25 By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own
 mind he shall become great.

REMOVED Jewish High Priest – REPLACED w. GREEK Hellenist
 ENDED Sacrifices @ TEMPLE / Forbade Circumcision / Banned SCRIPTURES

Erected Statue of ZEUS in TEMPLE

Offered SLAIN PIGS on Altar of GOD of ISRAEL

Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take
 away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that
 makes desolate. Daniel 11.31

3. The King our Confidence

Structure of Daniel	
Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapters 2-7	Destiny of Nations
Chapters 8-12	Destiny of Israel

Aramaic
Hebrew

Daniel wrote in LANGUAGES of People he
PRIMARILY wanted to Reach

ARAMAIC

2-7 GENTILE Nations – God Rules WORLD

1,8-12 HEBREW – Covenant Lord brought Judah
to Babylon will bring Back Home Again

God is Sovereign: POUNDED chs 1-6 > Truth even Declared by PAGAN Kings

NOW Daniel must do what we have HARD Time Doing

TRUTH in his HEAD must FALL DOWN and TRANSFORM his HEART!

a. Despair and Sorrow

v. 27 And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days.

v. 17 I was frightened and fell on my face.

“As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.” Daniel 7.28

NOT that Daniel was UNABLE to Understand > INTERPRETATION is Clear

Daniel wants to KNOW WHY? Such Devastation, Destruction, Persecution

GOD takes His PEOPLE BACK to Homeland only to make the MISERABLE

How can People be SO BAD and Why should God’s Hand Fall so HEAVILY?

Seeing into Divine councils involves sharing something of the Divine sorrow at human wickedness and the compassion for the suffering of his people. Bob Fyall

What do Visions of ANIMALS, ANCIENT Kingdoms, Horns have to do w/ U?

NOT easy for DANIEL to WAIT on GOD – Not Easy for US EITHER!

How Long O Lord – Spiritual Attacks? Bad Health? Financial Problems?

Some Preachers promise PROBLEMS will END when U send them a CHECK!

Babylon had BAD INTERNET > No Hope of Watching TV Preachers!

STRUGGLE of God's Servants thru Centuries – Why do Wicked Prosper?

Why do RIGHTEOUS Suffer? Why Name of God TRAMPLED in Streets?

v. 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, “For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?”

HOW LONG will EVIL Triumph?

How LONG will RIGHTFUL Sacrifices to God be WITHHELD?

How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile your name forever?

Psalm 74.10

v. 14 And he said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state.”

ANSWER – Brief DURATION of ANTIOCHUS' Attack on God's PEOPLE

DAYS – Not Years, Months, Weeks – Days DECREED by God

What is CLEAR > Time is LIMITED, DEFINED, DETERMINED by God

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. Romans 11.33-36

b. Decision to Serve the King

v. 27 Then I rose and went about the king's business...

STAYCATION Over – God back on BABYLON Metro Monday morning...

NOT an EASY Decision > What are MONSTERS that fill our DREAMS?

We ALSO live at MERCY of RISE and FALL of Powerful World EMPIRES

But Sometimes the Dr.'s Appointment is MORE Immediately Terrifying

That SHADOWY Spot in the SCAN – that LUMP that you FELT

Your CHILD about to LEAVE Home into Big UNKNOWN World

That PHONE Call with BAD NEWS from HOME

I pray God will use DANIEL 8 to cut down your Monsters like He did Antiochus

ONE who wrote THIS Story is Writing YOUR Story too

The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.
Proverbs 16.4

Even after Daniel managed to stagger on to his feet and back to work it remained with him and for some time appalled him...He now had to find a new way of living victoriously with deeper unanswered questions than he had hitherto faced, with a conscience more sensitive to the rights and wrongs of history, and with a greater burden of sympathy for the victims of its ways and tragedies.

Ronald S. Wallace

c. Determined in the Struggle

Serving the KING does NOT Answer all our QUESTIONS

God's Judgements are Forever UNSEARCHABLE & INSCRUTABLE

He will NEVER HIRE any of us to be HIS COUNSELOR!

DANIEL climbs back UP on the KING'S HORSE but still...

v. 27but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.

vs. 15-17 When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, "Understand, O son of man...

MAN'S Voice – Not just ANY Man – Man who ORDERS Angel on MISSION
SERVANT of God – HEARS the VOICE of God – VISITS with ANGEL of God
STILL Struggles – Too Many Unanswered Questions – PROBLEMS and PAIN

...I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”
Revelation 6.9-10

EVEN those SO CLOSE to God – UNDER His Altar – Struggle with Questions

Daniel models IMPORTANT Lesson: We don't Follow God because Know ALL
Sometimes FIRST touch lacks CLARITY – See Men like TREES Walking!
Prayer of HONEST Disciple – LORD, I Believe! But HELP my UNBELIEF!

There are times of upheaval and demise. Nations seem to be both furious and fragile. And this is where the people of God have to live; this history is their address.
Dale Ralph Davis

THE NIGHT BEFORE they NAILED Him to a Cross, Jesus WARNED..

Jesus: “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.”
John 16.1-4

REMEMBERING Jesus makes ALL the Difference...

HE is TRUE TEMPLE of God – Not Destroyed by Antiochus > Almighty God
As was Determined Before Foundation of Earth > Son of Man came to SAVE
CROSS most Terrible act of INJUSTICE > Greatest display TERROR & Wrath
PIERCED for our Transgressions / CRUSHED for our INIQUITIES

SATAN: Ultimate ANTI-Christ > Poured out his FURY against Lord of GLORY
Plan BACKFIRED – his KILLING Brought his OWN CONDEMNATION
Divine JUSTICE Fully SATISFIED – Cup of Wrath FULLY CONSUMED
PARDON & PERFECTION given by RIGHTEOUS Son – Mercy AND Grace

SATAN landed KNOCK DOWN Punch – JESUS Rose Up won by KNOCK Out v. 25 and he shall be broken—but by no human hand.

Anti-Christ Antiochus Died SUDDENLY > Not in Battle, but by HAND of God

Final BOOK of Bible – REVELATION – APOCALYPTIC Style like Daniel

ONE Significant Difference between Revelation & Dan, Ezekiel, Zechariah

What is ADDED in Book of REVELATION is WORSHIP

Revelation EXTOLS Lamb who was SLAIN > Slain Lamb Now Standing

RULES and REIGNS from CENTER of THRONE Room of God

Join with REDEEMED who SING – Sometimes w/ Tears – Always w/ TRUST

“Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”
Revelation 15.3-5

Like DANIEL - We MAY still have our 70 yrs of STRUGGLE Ahead

No GUARANTEE that will Not Endure SUFFERING and PERSECUTION

NO Promise that we will be RAPTURED Out of All our PROBLEMS

ONLY 2 CHOICES

God has Good Purpose OR There is No God > BELIEVE or WALK AWAY

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”
John 6.66-69

Daniel 8.¹In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. ²And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal. ³I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. ⁴I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great. ⁵As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. ⁶He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. ⁷I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power. ⁸Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven. ⁹Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. ¹⁰It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. ¹¹It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. ¹²And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. ¹³Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?" ¹⁴And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state." ¹⁵When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. ¹⁶And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." ¹⁷So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end." ¹⁸And

when he had spoken to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground. But he touched me and made me stand up. ¹⁹He said, “Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end. ²⁰As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. ²¹And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. ²²As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his^enation, but not with his power. ²³And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. ²⁴His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. ²⁵By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. ²⁶The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.” ²⁷And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.