

Change in World Monarchies, Daniel 8 Pt.2

By Charles Feinberg

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Notice that the interpretation is going to go beyond the scope and time of the vision. Especially what I've just read in verse 19, because it talks about the last end of the indignation and the last end of the indignation was not the designation for the awful persecutions and ravages of Antiochus Epiphanes. It goes from that point on; you see the prophets of God, lead of the Spirit of God, are the greatest historians in the entire world because they see that events in history are not just like links in a sausage that may be cut off at will at just any single point. No, history is not so departmentalized, it is not so segmented. It is a unit so that if you see a certain judgement in time it is a step in the [inaudible] judgement of God upon men, upon individuals, upon nations. Upon those who are ungodly. And if you ever see a deliverance of God, a blessing of God in time it also in the general pattern of history, of God's outworking of his will and purpose and program in the world. It is too a link one step from one plane to the next, from one stage to the next. In God's ultimate deliverance. That's why when the prophets speak of blessing for Israel in any historic time past they inevitably allow the spirit of God who leads them from that then present deliverance to the ultimate deliverance of all, in the great deliverer and redeemer and rescuer the Lord Jesus Christ.

So verse 19 and actually verses 17 and 23 and 26 will go beyond just what was in the second century BC because understand oh son of man, verse 17 for at the time of the end shall be

the vision. It goes on specifically friends to the tribulation time which starts after the rapture of the church mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. It's after the rapture that this time of the end comes. And then we read of the last end of the indignation at the time appointed the end shall be, going on to the tribulation period before the personal appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth which we call specifically his second coming. Now, when Daniel sees in the vision and seeks for meaning, and that's what we should do, we shouldn't allow these visions just to lie dormant here in the Bible where they've been for so many centuries. Godly men as with Daniel have sought for a meaning to it. Then when he sought, there was the appearance of a man. It's the interpreting angel, this commission just as in Zechariah, the angel spoke with me and just as the interpreting angel in the revelation with the apostle John, he was so marvelously helpful that in the 19th chapter of the Revelation the apostle John was constrained about [inaudible] worship this one, he said see thou doest not I am also a fellow servant. I don't get this from myself, I'm not a source. I am just a channel for this. I am just giving you what God has indicated. I'm just an interpreting angel, a mediating, a go between angel.

And so it is the angel Gabriel, mighty one of God is what it means in the Hebrew, "Gavri'el" He is the one who gives in the first chapter of Luke, gives Mary the mother of our Lord, the Virgin Mary, the wonderful promise concerning the son that's to come, the son of the most high, the one who is to be great, the one to whom God is going to give the kingdom of his father David. He's going to rule over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there shall be no end. It's the same Gabriel; it's this Gabriel who will be seen in the next chapter, in the 9th chapter, in the marvelous prophecy of the 70 weeks which is the very backbone of all the prophetic scriptures from this point on.

So here is the angel Gabriel giving Daniel this information. Angels minister to the people of God, that's why when Jacob saw the ladder with the angels he saw the angels going up from earth. You and I might expect to have seen the angels coming down from heaven to earth and then going back. But the angels are seen on earth for a reason. The area of their main operation is to minister among men. And that's why they're seen going up from earth. So Gabriel ministers to the man of God Daniel. And he tells him to understand please, not misunderstand but understand and Daniel was frightened, fell on his face because here were supernatural workings of God, and man must always stand in awe and must be in a state of humility and child-likeness. Friend, if you want to understand what God reveals in these things it's not getting more degrees and more academic learning. That's very important but it has its place. It has to be a secondary place to humility of heart, to submission so that God may reveal. We must be in the attitude of Samuel, who was called of God, and Eli finally told him when he perceived that it was God calling him. He said you go back and lie down and if you're called again say speak Lord, for thy servant heareth. That's the attitude of heart we should be in. Understand. He says to Daniel oh son of man, for at the time of the end shall be the vision.

And then you remember in verse 20 we had the identity of these participants or actors. The ram which thou sawest having two horns, these the kings of Media and Persia. They are the kings of Media and Persia. 21, and the rough he goat is the king of Greece and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. Now, that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. How remarkably accurate and with tremendous detail not only will Alexander's empire not remain intact, as did the Babylonian, as did the Medo-Persian. It will not remain intact until its end but it will break up, there will be a break up, dissolution, a disruption of the Grecian Empire that Alexander built up

and did so rapidly. It was extensive, but he hadn't had time to dig in and make it very intensive but, just a scripture says it broke into four kingdoms. The four kingdoms. Into which Alexander's empire was divided again Macedonia, Syria, Egypt and Asia Minor in broad geographical designations. I've already spoken then of these and they have been historically fulfilled. Notice, but not in his power. Not anyone of those four generals, neither Ptolemy or Seleucids, nor Lysimachus nor Cassander. Not one of them approached in the least measure the power and the force, the sovereignty that Alexander had. They were all inferior. Now we come to a very very important further disclosure. Just as in verse 9 we read about a little horn so now in verse 23 and this is the area where so many, for some reason or other have not realized that the prophecy goes on beyond the time indicated earlier in the chapter.

Now that's not unusual. In chapter 2 things went from the then present uh empires to the far far future one when the stone cut out without hands would become a mountain and fill the face of the whole earth, the kingdom of our Lord Jesus. That happened in the 7th chapter. We need not be tremendously concerned that these chapters go over a wide gamete that's God's purpose. And we should be grateful that God has so indicated his will in such detail that he has told us his plan beforehand. I call you not servant but friends because no master tells his servant all that's in his heart but he does reveal, he does disclose his wonderful plan to his friends. Now verse 23 it's the king of fierce countenance who is prominent here. And in the later time of the kingdom. If you have your Bible open before and I trust you have, please underline those two phrases, in the latter time of their kingdom when the transgressors are come to the fold, a king, not the first king, the rough he goat no no no it's a king in the latter time of their kingdom a king of fierce countenance is going to stand up in understanding dark sentences he is going to come on the scene of history. I want to read that again because this verse is very vital in this chapter

because it's of events that are ahead of us today, and the latter time of their kingdom, the Grecian kingdom that was broken up, when the transgressor are come to the full. Notice it's a time of wickedness, of deep iniquity in the earth as a king of fierce countenance. It doesn't speak of tenderness, it doesn't speak of Godliness, and it doesn't speak of humility. A king of fierce countenance, severe, stern. Harsh. Godless, understanding dark sentences, he's going to stand up.

Now what is the latter time of their kingdom? We mean here the latter time of the four kingdoms from the Grecian Empire left by Alexander on his death. And my dear friends just as the Roman Empire will be revived in the last days two of the four horns of the divided Grecian dominion will arrive once more on the stage of history in that time of trial and out of one of them will come the enemy of the returned Jews of that time. Follow it now, just as the Roman Empire will be revived in the last days, two of the four horns of the divided Grecian Empire will arrive once more on the stage of history, in that time of trial and out of one of them will come the enemy of the returned Jews of that time. Now which two? From what area? Ptolemy's area? Lysimachus' area? Cassander? Or Seleucus? Specifically out of Ptolemy and Seleucus. And isn't it more than a passing interest that today there is the United Arab Republic connecting Syria and Egypt as in a vice. The land between it is held against the enemies on both sides.

And furthermore, there will be a revival of national consciousness and interest in this part of the world. My friends if you notice that since the end of World War II more nations have been born in this general area, in the near eastern area than in any other place in the world. The state of Israel, new. The many different republics in Africa. That continent has had more new nations than any other continent on the face of the earth. And that's going to be in keeping with some things we're going to read and study in the 11th chapter of Daniel in a later message. Yes. Oh it all is coming according to the exact word of our Lord Jesus Christ in Luke 21:29. Matthew talks

about the fig tree budding but we read he spoke to them a parable behold the fig tree and all the trees there's something happening here as in nature when all nature springs into bloom. When they now shoot forth you see and know yourselves that the summer is now near at hand. Yes. Luke 21:29 there is going to be a resurgence, a revival of national existence. Isn't that an amazing trend friends have you noticed this that there is one great movement in the world to unite all nations, to break down all barriers. There's a tremendous thrust at what we call internationalism in the UN. And in other areas, a united states of Europe, a breaking down of national barriers and yet at the same time an out flowering, a coming into being, an establishment of other nations, other nations are just now coming into bloom, into national prominence. Two of these trend that seem so opposite.

You see how some things in the Bible that are predicted that seem so contradictory nevertheless can happen. Those two things can exist at one and the same time and when God's hour of fulfillment arrives, nothing, absolutely nothing can hinder it even though it may seem contradicted to us. If we find it indicated clearly, definitely by sane Biblical principles of interpretation we must receive it. Now there are going to be three chief actors in the end time. The Roman beast, or the Roman power, political power, the Anti-Christ in the Holy Land. He's a religious power mentioned by the apostle John he's the only one who mentions him by name though there are prophecies of him as we're gonna see later in other portions of the Bible, Old and New testaments and then there is a king of the north spoken of. You read of him in Isaiah 10verse12. You read of the king of the north in chapter 14 of Isaiah. Verses 24 to 27 you read of a king of the north in Isaiah 30:27-33. Indeed you read of a king of the north in Micah 5:1 and following. This king of the north appears to be an enemy of the head of the resurrected Roman Empire. He hates Judah just as the beast, the little horn of Daniel 7 out of Rome

persecutes, hates the saints this one does. You see in that end time and you can see it coming, Israel will find herself bereft, empty of all so called friends. All my friends my loves have forsaken me. They'll feel just as [inaudible] all they that are in Asia have forsaken me. They don't want to be on the losing side no no no they want to be on the winning side and if they feel one is the underdog they will leave him to his own fate. The Roman beast then and the anti-Christ are in league. I take it the first and second beast of Revelation 13.

And there will be a king of the north who will be in opposition as well. Notice he is a a king. He is one of regal authority, fierce countenance. He is a very vile, cruel, harsh ruler. We read that he understands dark sentences. He takes the place of a great teacher. Don't them all today. They're all teaching some new truth which is only error. Teaching some new method some new governmental policy some new economic way we hear more and more and more. We are in a time when so many claim to know dark areas and illuminate them. He takes the place of a great teacher. And it's not going to be a small thing because his power shall be mighty and not by his own power. Now that shows that it can't refer to Antiochus Epiphanes because he was an independent monarch. But notice the interesting additional statement here about this one being so powerful but not by his own power. This one is dependent upon another power and ruler. I will not say it dogmatically but it could well be that this king of the north has a power behind him that we know is so prominent in world politics today.

It could well be it could possibly be even possibly be Russia the great power in the north. Folk read Ezekiel 38 and 39 for years and said Russia why it is so segmented and the Ukraine and white Russia and Siberia and this and that and the other it is so divided but it has come alive as a monster reaching out to Asia and into Europe and it is a power to be conjured with no government on the face of the earth today takes any step in scientific areas in governmental areas

international politics no government on earth including our own would take a step without considering what will be the effect what will be the action and reaction the response of the Russian government.

So this power behind this king of fierce countenance, the king of the North could well be Russia. We're not saying it dogmatically but it's a strong possibility even a probability. And he shall destroy wonderfully you see his purposes are not benign. That's why it's stated he's a king of fierce countenance he has devilish intent just as Antiochus did. He means nobody good, he's out for self-aggrandizement. He's gonna prosper. In the strange provident of God he prospers. The people are being tested just as Job was tested of Satan by the permissive will of God and he continues on he practices, you have it in the authorized version he continues on he destroys the mighty and the holy people. They need to be purged. And so he's allowed he destroys the might and the holy people. Then verse 25, through his policy also he shall cause deceit to prosper in his hand. He will be a consummate politician. He will be a diplomat of the first order. He will know diplomatic tactics from A to Z. But his main stock and trade will you please notice it, is deceit. And how much of it?

We have seen today on every hand, in every continent you have communicates from parts of the world and there is deceit and I'm afraid that in some of our governmental dealings we have not always dealt openhandedly and open heartedly. Though I do believe our ultimate objective is for truth and for freedom because God's wonderful blessing has been upon this God blessed land of ours. But oh how Men and Women in high place and all of us need to be warned to avoid deceit. That is Satan's chief weapon. That's how he got the human race to fall away from God in Genesis 3 it was by deceit. And in the last opposition against God mentioned in the revelation 20 he goes forth to deceive the nations, and here's this deceitful one. No wonder he says one thing

but means another. He speaks lies at every conference tale and through his policy he causes deceit to prosper in his hand. He's gonna magnify himself in his heart and by peace shall destroy many. He comes openly and supposedly how? Why he comes claiming peace, peace he speaks. He is peace loving and all but underneath it, underneath the glove is a clenched fist. Yes he means destruction. That's why verse 24 says he shall destroy the mighty. TH same verse 24 earlier says he shall destroy wonderfully. Gonna be an amazing thing at the amount of destruction he's gonna be able to accomplish in the permissive will of God. Gonna magnify himself in his heart gonna be lifted up with pride because he sees so many deceitful plans are working so beautifully. He's getting away with this deceit. And by peace he's gonna destroy many. When their guards are down he's gonna strike them. He shall also stand up against the prince of princes but he shall be broken without hand.

Now who is the prince of princes? That he finally decides to oppose. He's gonna stand up against the prince of princes. And in our versions the prince is capitalized and I think rightly so. He finally issues defiance against the blessed savior the Lord Jesus Christ, who's going to overthrow this power and every hostile inimical power, every Godless power in the end time, in the time of the end. He doesn't know that there is a difference between our Lord Jesus Christ and his power and all powers on earth but he's gonna have to learn. And eh shall be broken without hand. Now what's the meaning of that? Well, not by human instrumentality but by divine power. Christ is gonna put down all opposition to his rule. Now friends if we needed any further proof that the one spoken of in verses 23-27 is not Antiochus Epiphanes, here are the proofs. Not by his own power, verse 24 well Antiochus was independent as a monarchy. He wasn't dependent on someone on the outside, upon another ruler; upon another uh source of force and military prowess.

And another reason, here that the individual cannot be Antiochus is verse 25. Antiochus didn't stand up against the prince of princes. Oh he was against God I grant you. He did take away the sacrifice, he did do many ungodly, vicious things but not in the sense of coming out openly and blatantly and defiantly as will this ruler of the end times. Now some connect this ruler of the end time with Rome but it cannot be, it cannot be cuz Rome is not in evidence, she's not on the scene of history here in the 8th chapter of Daniel. Only the secondly and the third and more particularly the things that came out of the third whereas in the 7th chapter the emphasis there was all four empires with even added details of the fourth because that's the one that God is going to deal with with Christ when he puts up his wonderful kingdom, the climax of God's monarchy there in chapter 7. But here, it is going from the second power again to the third. Broken without hand means without human hand. No human military force, no human army will put this one to rest but by divine power.

So how useless, in a very real sense beloved how useless it is for men to be so occupied with seeking to get this armament and that added weapon and another weapon and still another and to seek for secret weapons. My dear friends that is not the way of it. We are to look to God; God is the all sufficient one. He will be more than a match; Christ will be more than a match for this prince of princes. As the apostle John tells us greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. Thank God we are on the winning side. And as Paul indicates at the end of the epistle to the Romans God will shortly bruise Satan under your heel. That was the oriental custom, where those who were vanquished were subjugated to a further indignity because their conquerors would put their heels on their necks and that meant a crushing of them utterly unto the death. Christ is gonna put down all opposition to his rule. So verse 26, and the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true. This is not fantasy this is not imagination, this is not

hallucination. Therefore shut thou up the vision, notice here's another proof that not all of the 8th chapter was fulfilled in the time of the Medo-Persian Empire and the Grecian Empire, no. Shut though up the vision for it shall be for many days there remain some unfinished business. You be unfinished business for many days hence. Way beyond Daniel's day. And I Daniel fainted. Think of this human vessel. This human instrumentality. Having all these divine disclosures brought through his mind and heart in the crucible of his own experience. No wonder he fainted. It was so much for him. He was overwhelmed. He was sick certain days. Afterward I rose up and did the king's business.

Oh yes. We can't allow these things to just remain in our minds and to mull them over and just sit there and rethink and rethink and rethink we must be up and doing something about it. Afterward I rose up and did the king's business and I was astonished at the vision. But none understood it. My dear friends again, as at the end of the 7th chapter we do well to follow Daniel's example here. You remember at the end of the 7th chapter he says my thoughts troubled me my countenance changed in me but I kept the matter in my heart. He said I was astonished at the vision but none understood it. The amazing amount of truth. Why folk even today with the added revelation of the New Testament still do not understand these things. But we do. We do properly friends to follow Daniel's example here. Though troubled by the vision, yes. And it's interpretation true. We notice he did the king's business.

Are we, are you, and are you doing the king's business or carrying on your own business? It's so easy to get side-tracked. You say but I have to support my family. Yes and I, I conceive that God knows that. He'll allow you to care for your family but don't forget that that is not your primary business. And as dear William Carry said as he was cobbling shoes there in England he said I uh- somebody said you're paying so much attention to getting out the Gospel to the ends of

the earth and you have a map there and all your spending so much time concerned with that your business is gonna go to rack and ruin he said my business my primary business is to get the Word of God out. It's the business of all of us. It's so easy to get side tracked let's keep to our business that's God's business.

There was a young preacher in a college town, very embarrassed by the thought of criticism in his very cultured refined educated scholarly congregation so he thought he'd go and ask some advice from his father for this was getting him down. He knew his father was an old and wise Christian worker for Christ. So he said father, I'm trouble I'm hampered. I'm just hamstrung in my ministry in the pulpit that I'm now serving. Why son? Well if I pull anything from Geology, if I get an illustration from matter, say anything about that there's a teacher of science right before me he could trip me up. If I use an illustration from Roman mythology there sits a man who's able to trip me up for any little inaccuracy. If I instance something in English literature that interests me I'm just cowed by the presence of the learned man who teaches that study at eh college. What, what father shall I do. The wise old man replied do not be discouraged keep to your business and preach the gospel. They probably know very little about that. Friend, be occupied with God's business. Get the gospel out. And may God abundantly bless you and yours.