



Life More Abundant Bible Study

Bible Prophecy: Daniel Chapter 8B

Consider that the beasts described at the commencement of Daniel Chapter 8, a ram and a goat, are clean animals as compared to their prophetic parallels given in Daniel Chapter 7 of a bear and a leopard respectively. Understanding the significance of clean animals as it relates to the priestly ordinances of Ancient Israel, one may infer that the prophecies given in chapter 8 could be viewed through spiritual lenses or rather, the activities of the beasts, representing kingdoms or nations, should be viewed in light of their religious practices. In describing the activities of the Little Horn, Daniel 8:13 highlights terms of particular interest in illuminating the character, persona, and ascension of the little horn of Daniel 8:9-12:

“How long [shall be] the vision [concerning] the daily [sacrifice], and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary [Qodesh – Hebrew] and the host to be trodden under foot?” Daniel 8:13

The question being asked by a holy angel (messenger) to none other than Jesus Christ [*Palmoni* (Heb): meaning “*The Wonderful Numberer of Secrets*”], refers to three things:

1. The Vision
2. The Daily
3. The Transgression of Desolation

Therefore, the question needing to be answered refers to the duration of the entire vision, namely, the vision commencing in Daniel 8:1 and encompassing: the rise of the Medo-Persian, Greek, and Pagan Roman Empire, the Little Horn power as well as the removing of the daily (v11) by the transgression of desolation (v12), all of whom in some manner trample upon the people of God. In this lesson we will strive to understand the meaning and interplay of the **daily** and the **transgression of desolation**:

The Daily:

The Hebrew word *tamiyd*, translated daily or more accurately, continual (adj or adv), is used 103 times in the Old Testament, often with reference to the daily services in the sanctuary, and signifies a continual event or act. Based on the usage of the language and the context of Daniel chapter 8 which speaks of ever increasing “greatness” – (*gadal- Hebrew*) or self-exaltation, the **daily** (used as a noun) is given in reference to the culmination of the **continual** portrayal of self-exaltation (*gadal* - lifting-up) through paganism by each successive world empire, leading ultimately to the first and second phases of Rome, both pagan and papal (see Psalm 74:22, 23; 14:1). With each successive empire and conquest illustrated in the vision of Daniel 8, the **pagan practices** and worship were exalted and glorified all the more. On the acts of self-exaltation, consider the works of the ancient pagan nation Moab as described in the book of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 48:26, 29, 42). Similarly, history confirms that Rome particularly “*waxed exceedingly great*” in exalting paganism through its practice of incorporating new and perverse forms of idolatrous worship that it adopted from each successive nation it conquered. Unlike other conquering nations who boasted in the superiority of their gods over the gods of those they had subdued, Rome adopted the gods of the conquered nations as their own (compare 2 Chronicles 25:14, 15).

Finding residence in the Roman Pantheon (house of the gods), the sanctuary of all pagan worship, each nation's gods were extolled and glorified in the central Roman capital. Therefore, it is through pagan Rome that the *daily* (paganism) is lifted-up high (*ruwm* – Hebrew; see Daniel 5:20-23) and made to depose even Jesus, the Prince of the Hosts (Daniel 8:11, 25).

Transgression of Desolation:

Transgression: violation of a law or command; defection or rebellion [against God] – Strong's Dictionary; Webster's Dictionary

Desolation (or causing desolation): to be stunned; to be appalled or astounded; to be put to silence; to be made desolate or barren - Strong's Dictionary; Webster's Dictionary

Given the definitions above, the transgression of desolation spoken in Daniel 8:13 is an appalling, astonishing, abominable rebellion or blasphemous affront to the God of Heaven that causes both the sanctuary and its host to be trampled underfoot (made desolate or of no effect). The bible speaks specifically of three instances where an appalling offense (desolation) is committed against God, His people, and the sanctuary.

- I. Daniel writes as a captive in a foreign nation as a result of 490 years of rebellion by the Children of Israel against God. Divine punishment is pronounced upon Israel, resulting in the destruction and desolation of the nation and the earthly sanctuary. See the following verses for background and details:
 - Daniel 1:1, 2; 2 Chronicles 36:5, 8, 14
 - Daniel 9:2; Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10
 - Leviticus 26
 - Ezekiel 8:1-18
- II. In Matthew 23:37-39, Jesus laments over Israel who has rejected Him, the Messiah, the Desire of Nations, and the *true glory* of the earthly sanctuary. Jesus foretells the destruction of the earthly temple, the spoiling of Jerusalem and the demise of the Nation of Israel as a result of its transgression in rejecting Him (Jeremiah 50:6, 7; Acts 13:40, 41; Habakkuk 1:5). Jesus, in Matthew 24:1-22 juxtaposes events at the “end of the age” [end of the world] with the Nation of Israel's desolation to occur in 70 A.D. at the hands of the Roman Emperor Titus with a subsequent set of desolations that were to befall Spiritual Israel (see *Scriptural Facts Regarding the Jews*) for a period of 1260yrs (see Luke 21:20-24; Revelation 11:1, 2).
- III. Daniel foretells of a pompous world power that would speak blasphemous words against the Most High God, persecute the saints of God, seek to change times and laws, rise against the Prince of princes (Jesus); all bringing offense to God's heavenly sanctuary. See the following verses for background and details:
 - Daniel 7:8, 24, 25;
 - Daniel 8:23-25

It is the last two instances of desolation that the prophet Daniel highlights in his description of appalling desolations (Daniel 8:10-12). Daniel, like Jesus Christ, identifies two desolating powers, both of which would depose God and his people. The first desolator, working in conjunction with apostate Jewish Leaders (John 18:29-32), would exalt himself against the

Prince of princes in crucifying Jesus Christ. This desolator would in time also wage war against the Nation of Israel and annihilate it, a result of its rejection of the Messiah. History confirms that **Pagan Rome** is none other than the first desolator responsible for the 2nd desolation listed above (II).

The demise of the first desolator (Pagan Rome) would in turn give rise to the second desolator, known for its pompous and blasphemous words. Paul and John in their day foresaw the makings of the arrogant power responsible for the third desolation delineated above (III) as they spoke of the “*man of sin*”, “*son of perdition*”, and “*antichrist*” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-10; 1 John 2:18-23). All three prophets, Daniel, Paul, and John, concur on the nature of this final desolating power and his works. However, the prophets Daniel and Paul provide key links in understanding the eventual decline of the **daily** [paganism], the *religion* of the first desolating power which in turn props-up the second and final desolating power, the **transgression of desolation**.

First, Paul gives understanding that the **transgression of desolation** whom he calls the “man of sin” and “son of perdition” (2 Thessalonians 2:3), would not arise until “his time” is fulfilled. Paul further states that someone or something withheld or “restrain[ed]” this power from arising in his day (2 Thessalonians 2:6), namely the **daily**, or paganism. Until paganism would be deposed, the man of sin or son of perdition could not arise. Daniel adds more clarification on how the **daily** [paganism] would be deposed. In Daniel 11:31 the prophet helps us to understand through intelligence [flatteries, cunning, craft, allegiances], the **transgressor of desolation** [Papal See] would be given arms (armies) and allegiance (conversion to Catholicism) from 7 of the 10 divisions [horns] of Pagan Rome (See study on Daniel 7D) to oppose the **daily** [paganism] and depose the daily’s *sanctuary of strength*. Paganism’s sanctuary of strength (*Miqdash* – Hebrew; see Isaiah 16:12; Ezekiel 28:18; 1 Samuel 5:2-5; Daniel 1:2) is none other than the city of Rome itself, where the Pantheon stood as paganism’s sanctuary and shrine. Rome itself was cast down as the Roman Emperor Constantine moved the empire’s seat of authority from Rome to Constantinople, Turkey in 330AD. In “polluting” the sanctuary of strength, paganism is deposed and dispelled in order to place [establish] the abomination of desolation, the Papal See. So it was, as seven of ten kings of the divided Roman kingdoms renounced their pagan beliefs, converted to Catholicism, and vowed their allegiance to the papacy (491AD-508AD), completing the transgression of fornication [namely the union of church and state], paganism was deposed and the Papal See was exalted. These seven Kings, who pledged military support to the papacy, were fundamental in uprooting the three other barbarian kingdoms [completed in 538AD] that rejected the doctrines of the papacy (Dan 7:8, 24).

Thus, the fall of the **daily** gave rise to the **transgression of desolation** and in effect (Daniel 12:11), Pagan Rome morphed into Papal Rome. Rome emerged with renewed vigor as its Bishops now successfully rood upon (Revelation 17:3) the allegiance of the *European* states, their pledged military might, and the moral control of their subjects through a universal (*catholic*) faith. Four prophets, Jesus, Daniel, Paul, and John all affirm this gradually subtle and demonic transformation of the two Romes, affirming even to this day, that Rome has never died.

From the Book: *What is Christianity?* (1903)

“Whatever Roman elements the barbarians and Arians left... were... put under the protection of the Bishop of Rome, who was the chief person there after the Emperor’s disappearance... *The Roman Church in this way privily pushed itself into the place of the Roman World-Empire, of which it is the actual continuation*; the empire has not perished, but has only

undergone a transformation... This is no mere 'clever remark,' but the recognition of the true state of the matter historically, and the most appropriate and fruitful way of describing the character of this Church. It still governs the nations. ... It is a political creation, and as imposing as a World-Empire, because the continuation of the Roman Empire. The Pope, who calls himself 'King' and '*Pontifex Maximus*,' is Caesar's successor" {Adolf Harnack, *What is Christianity?* [New York; G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1903], pp 269, 270, italics in the original}

For a better understanding of prophetic imagery, terms and symbols used in this bible study, refer to the study, [Interpreting Bible Prophecy](#), also located on the Life More Abundant Bible Study website.

The Two Romes

Pagan Rome
168BC- 508AD

Morphs into

Papal Rome
538AD - 2nd Coming of Christ



The Monumental History of Christianity, **pp. 42,43**

**“Out of the ruins of
the Roman Empire
there gradually
arose a new order
of states whose
central point was
the Papal See.**



The Monumental History of Christianity, **pp. 42,43**

**Therefore, inevitably,
resulted a position
not only new, but
very different
from the former.”**

