

Daniel Chapter 8 is an [incredibly detailed chapter](#) of the Bible. It gives insights to the workings of God's archrival, Satan, through earthly agencies. As illustrated in the prior lesson, Rome in its two phases defined by *the daily*, or paganism, and the Little Horn, plays a significant role in world events until the *Second Coming* of Jesus Christ. In this lesson, we will better understand the transformation of Pagan Rome into the Little Horn as described in Bible prophecy and confirmed through world history.

Recall that the chapter commences with Daniel being in vision near the banks of the river Ulai at the close of the Babylonian Empire. A saint [angelic messenger] in Daniel's hearing asks a question that introduces key terms, highlighting the personage, ascension, and reign of the Little Horn of Daniel 8. The question is as follows:

"How long the vision, the daily, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?" Daniel 8:13

The One to which the question is directed is Jesus Christ Himself, in the verse called *Palmowniy*, which in the Aramaic language is interpreted, "*The Numberer of Secrets*", speaking of His perfect revelation of prophecies based on time. Notice that the question on duration pertains to three things:

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

Therefore, the question refers to the duration of the entire vision, describing desolations brought upon both the "host"

and "sanctuary". This period encompasses desolations caused by paganism, **the daily**, practiced by the Assyrian/Babylonian Empires and all empires down through Pagan Rome, followed by the Little Horn that committed the **transgression of desolation** (v12). Each of the kingdoms during this era, in their succession, trampled upon the people of God as well as a sanctuary consecrated to God. In this lesson, we will seek 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" [adjective/adverb], is used 103 times in the Old Testament in reference to the daily morning and evening sacrifices, a foreshadowing of the sacrifice of our **Kinsman Redeemer**. However, based on the language and context of Daniel chapter 8, *tamiyd* is used as a noun. Consider that Daniel 8 describes ever-increasing greatness ([gadul](#) – lifting-up), humanistic self-exaltation, and contempt for God, all characteristic of paganism and magnified by each successive world empire (Ps 74:22, 23). *The daily*, thus here denotes **paganism**, practiced by world empires in contempt of God and the offering of His Son, Jesus Christ (1 Sam 17:10, 42-47). It was during the first phase of Rome, Pagan Rome, that this Satanic scourge was epitomized. Of the spirit of self-exaltation, consider the works of the ancient pagan nation Moab, described in Jeremiah 48:26, 29, 42.

History also confirms that Rome "*waxed exceedingly great*", exalting paganism through its melding of new and perverse forms of idolatry taken from each nation it conquered.

Unlike other conquering nations whose boast was in the superiority of their gods over the gods of those whom they subdued (Habakkuk 1:5-11; 2 Kings 18:28-35; Deut 32:26, 27), Rome rather, adopted the gods of the conquered nations (compare: 2 Chronicles 25:14, 15; 2 Samuel 5:17-21). Finding residence in the Roman Pantheon [house of the gods], the Roman *sanctuary* of pagan worship, each nation's gods and idols were extolled in the central Roman capital. Recall also, that Jesus, the King of the Jews, was tried under a Pagan Roman court, mocked, beaten, and ultimately condemned to die upon a Roman cross (John 18:28-19:24). Therefore, it is through Pagan Rome that *the daily* (paganism) was lifted-up [[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: The 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*)

By the two definitions above, the *transgression of desolation* spoken in Daniel 8:13 is an appalling, abominable rebellion, an affront to God. The offense causes both the *sanctuary* and

its *host* to be trampled underfoot (made desolate or of no effect). The Bible speaks specifically of three instances when an awful offense is committed against God, His people, and a sanctuary. Let us review each occurrence.

- I. Daniel wrote as a captive in a foreign land, just reproof for 490 years of rebellion against God by his people, the Children of Israel. The divine chastisement was pronounced upon Israel, resulting in the desolation of the nation and destruction of the earthly sanctuary
 - Daniel 1:1, 2; 2 Chronicles 36:5, 8, 14; Ezekiel 8:1-18
 - Daniel 9:2; Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10, 32:28-36
- II. In Matthew 23:37-39, Jesus lamented over the Nation of Israel that had rejected Him, the Messiah and *true Glory* of the *earthly sanctuary*. In turn, Jesus foretold the resulting utter destruction of the earthly temple, the spoiling of Jerusalem, and the demise of the Nation of Israel in A.D.70, (Matthew 24:1-22; Jeremiah 50:6, 7; Acts 13:40, 41) while juxtaposing two other prophetic themes:
 - a. A subsequent set of desolations that were to befall *Spiritual Israel*, the Christian Church, for a period of 1,260 years (see Luke 21:20-24; Revelation 11:1, 2)
 - b. Events to occur at the *End of the World*
- III. Daniel foretold a pompous world power that would speak blasphemous words, usurp the authority of the Almighty God, persecute the saints of God, and seek to change times and laws; all bringing reproach to God and His heavenly sanctuary (See Daniel 7:8, 24, 25; 8:23-25)

The last two instances of desolation (II, III) are those spoken

Spiritual Transformers

Daniel Chapter 8 - Part 2 [Based on verses 9-13]



Lesson 20

by the prophet Daniel in chapter 8:9-12. Daniel, like Jesus Christ, identified two desolating powers, both of which would depose God and His people. Pagan Rome, working in concert with the apostate Jewish leaders of Jesus' time, exalted itself against the *Prince of Princes* in crucifying Him (John 18:29-32). With the removal of God's divine hand of protection for rejecting the Messiah (Matthew 23:37-39), Pagan Rome in time would turn and wage war against the Nation of Israel, annihilating it by A.D.70. History confirms that *paganism*, practiced by *Pagan Rome*, is the first desolator responsible for desolation II on the prior page.

The fall of *the daily*, the religion of paganism, would give rise to the second desolator, known for its proud and blasphemous words. Both apostles Paul and John, in their day foresaw the makings of the arrogant power responsible for desolation III, as they spoke of the "*man of sin*", "*son of perdition*", or "*antichrist*" (2 Thess 2:3-12; 1 John 2:18-23). Three prophets, Daniel, Paul, and John, concur on the nature of this final desolating power and its works. However, the prophets Daniel and Paul provide essential details in understanding the eventual decline of *the daily* [paganism], that would in turn prop-up the second and final desolating power, responsible for the *transgression of desolation*.

Paul informs us that the *transgress[or] of desolation*, which he called the "*man of sin*" and "*son of perdition*" would not arise until "*his time*" had come. Paul further states that something occupied the place of ("*letteth*") this power from arising in his day, namely, *the daily*, or paganism (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 6). Until paganism would be displaced,

the *man of sin* could not arise. Daniel adds more clarification on how *the daily* would be displaced in Daniel 11:31. The prophet brings understanding that through intelligence [flatteries, cunning, crafty alliances], the *transgress[or] of desolation* would receive arms, the military support of 7 of the 10 divisions [horns] of divided Pagan Rome. Through their conversion to Catholicism, they would oppose the *daily* [paganism] and depose the *daily's sanctuary of strength*. Paganism's sanctuary of strength was the city of Rome itself, where the Pantheon stood as paganism's exalted sanctuary and shrine [*Miqdash* - Heb; see Isaiah 16:12; Ezekiel 28:14, 18; 1 Samuel 5:2-5; Daniel 1:2]. The city of Rome was "*cast down*" [*shalak* - Heb. meaning forsaken] by Pagan Rome, and its seat yielded to power hungry bishops as early as A.D.330, when the Roman Emperor Constantine moved the empire's seat of authority from Rome to Constantinople, Turkey.

In "*polluting*" the *sanctuary of strength*, paganism was deposed and dispelled in order to make way for the rise of the *abomination of desolation*, Catholicism (Mark 13:14).

Therefore, seven of ten kings of the divided Roman Empire renounced paganism and converted to Catholicism, whose rites and doctrine are all essentially pagan. Each vowed their allegiance to the Bishop of Rome (A.D.491-508), committing the transgression, or sin of *spiritual fornication*, namely, aligning and unifying the interests of the church with that of the State, thus causing *the daily* to be deposed and the religion of the Papal See to be exalted. These seven kings, who pledged their military might to the papacy, were

responsible for uprooting three other barbarian kingdoms by A.D.538 that opposed the papacy and its doctrines (Daniel 7:8, 24).

Thus, the fall of *the daily* through the *transgression of desolation* gave rise to the Little Horn, and in effect, Pagan Rome morphed into Papal Rome. Rome emerged with renewed vigor as its bishops rode upon the morally aligned European states, their pledged military might, and the utter control of their subjects through a universal (*catholic*) faith. Four prophets, Jesus Christ, Daniel, Paul, and John foretold this gradual, subtle, and amazing transformation of the two Romes, affirming the prophetic truth that **Rome never died!**

"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, 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), 269, 270]

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