

The Great Propagandist

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Daniel 8.

B. The double fulfillment of prophesy occurs in Daniel.

1. This also happens in the New Testament.

2. The fall of Jerusalem has a historic and future fulfillment. (Matthew 24)

II. The vision of the historic fulfillment.

A. Daniel traces the flow of power from Persia to the west.

B. Gabriel interprets the dream.

1. The lamb is the Persian Empire to follow the Babylonians.

2. This is to apply to the time of the end as well, which is the latter time of God's indignation over Israel.

3. The he-goat is the king of Greece and the great horn is the first king of Greece—this describes the rise of Alexander the Great who challenged the power of Persia.

a. The kingdom was divided among four generals.

b. A longstanding rivalry occurred between Seleucid and Ptolemy.

c. Antiochus Epiphanes was the eighth king of the Seleucid dynasty. He defiled the Jewish sanctuary.

III. The future application.

A. Jesus refers to the abomination standing in the holy place alluding to the figure in Daniel fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes but looking to the future. (Matthew 24)

B. Syria would be reinstated as a nation and transgression would reach its fill suggesting that it was the time of the end.

C. The figure will be characterized by great derived power aimed at the saints.

D. This figure is the beast of Revelation 13.

a. He makes deceit prosper.

b. He is the great propagandist.

c. This is the Antichrist who will rise up against Jesus.

E. Every single Christian will be judged by how seriously he reacts to the end time's revelations whether he is in the end times or not.

F. We must be available to God. (II Corinthians 5)

Application questions:

1. How has Scripture consistently treated end times events from the Old Testament to the New?

2. What does double fulfillment mean with regard to prophesy? What is the speaker's main example of this?

3. How would you respond to someone who says that he or she has little to worry about as a believer because the end times have not yet occurred? Explain.
