

Thursday Bible Class. How Do We Know It Is the Latter Times?

21st May 2020

Additional contributions to supplement Brother Derek's

Introduction

Point 1

In Daniel chapter 8, Daniel had a vision which concerned him greatly, after he had been told about it, we read he fainted, and was sick certain days. He was astonished at the vision, no one else understood it, but it was revealed to him, and in turn he revealed it to us, by recording all that he was informed. The vision was of events far in the future. It was a vision which involved a ram and a goat, and the ram was very powerful, pushing this way and that, thinking that all the earth was his dominion, when a goat came charging at him, and this goat had a prominent horn, with which he knocked over the ram, and stamped all over him. Something peculiar happened to the goat's horn after that, it broke off, but then four little ones started to grow, and out of one of them grew another very large horn, which grew so great it reached the army of heaven, (see verse 11 and 12) and it brought about the fall of some of the army and some of the stars to the ground, where it trampled them. It caused the daily sacrifice to be removed and whose sanctuary was thrown down. This is a vision of the Greek goat overcoming the Persian Ram, one empire superseding another. The prominent horn was Alexander the Great, and the four little horns his four generals amongst whom the Greek empire was divided. The great horn that grew from one of the little horns was the growth of the Roman empire which in turn superseded the Greek empire. The Romans were ultimately responsible for the casting down of the place of the sanctuary, where they left not one stone upon another, and they oppressed the army of heaven – Judea. Such was the enormity of all this to Daniel, that he was shown a further piece of information. In verse 13 of the same chapter, in his vision he heard two saints

speaking, one asking the other how long would all this be? Concerning this subjugation, the host, or army, that is Judah be trodden under foot? The answer was given in verse 14 *And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.* Clearly the prophet was not given a time period of literal days as it amounts to about 6 years, and the sanctuary was certainly not cleansed 6 years latter. In fact Daniel remained still in captivity, and the situation for Judea got much worse. Instead a quick look at Ezekiel 4:4-6, Numbers 14:34 and Luke 13:32,33 shows that in prophecy the Bible uses days to represent years. Remember prophecy is given in parables, and code, as it is not to be understood by the general unbelieving public. If we consider that the prophecy given in this vision to Daniel relates to the beginning of the Greek subjugation of God's people, and the question is how long would this oppression last for, then we would need to take the year that the goat with the notable horn smashed the ram. This was at the Battle of Issus when Alexander defeated the Persian led by Darius III in BC 333. Just the year before, Alexander had entered Jerusalem which capitulated to him as related by the famous ancient historian Flavius Josephus. How long till Jerusalem would be liberated from this oppression? 2300 years says the prophecy. 333BC +2300 years takes us to 1967, when the Jewish army defeated the Arab Muslim Gentile occupying armies and ejected them from the Jewish capital. No longer is the host being



trodden underfoot, we are living then in the latter times when further developments will take place as prophesied....

Soldiers resting after liberating the place of the sanctuary from being trodden underfoot, and bringing it back under Jewish

control, exactly 2300 years as Daniel recorded.

Point 2

Another passage in Daniel also pinpoints the end times as being in our own time period. This is in Daniel 12, verses 11 and 12. The chapter begins at that time shall Michael stand up – Michael means: who is like God?. Answer.. Jesus. The Lord Jesus is to return, and Daniel describes then the resurrection of the dead. Again the question arose, well, how long will it be until these things happen. A question that many who are watching on the walls, are eager to know. An answer was given in verse 11 and 12. *...from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waits, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.* One way of understanding this is to consider when was it that the daily sacrifice was first taken away, (as this happened several times). This was in the year 603 BC, at the time of the first temple, when the temple vessels were taken away by Nebuchadnezzar, and it would have been the year Daniel was taken to Babylon as a captive. When was it then, that *the abomination that makes desolate set up*, when did this happen. Well, the place of the sanctuary was permanently defaced and used as a worship centre to a false God when Abd El Malik a Muslim ruler built the shrine called today the Dome of the Rock in 688 AD. The number of years between is 1290 – exactly as Daniel was informed... *there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.* But 688 AD was years ago, what is that got to do with the latter days. Well, we note what the prophet was told... *. Blessed is he that waits, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.* $688 + 1335 = 2021$. This year is 2020. Jesus turned to his disciples in the garden, as he awaited his arrest and said to those who were sleeping *What, could ye not watch with me one hour?* The same question will be said to those now who are sleeping... What, could ye not watch with me one year?