

### 8:13-14 – The 2300 Days of Temple Desecration

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, “For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?” <sup>14</sup> And he said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state.”

Antiochus took away the daily offerings, stopping all temple sacrifices to God. He instead set up an idol to be worshipped, probably the supreme Greek god Zeus. Sacrifices will be stopped again, 3-1/2 years before the Second Coming of Christ. Antiochus desecrated the temple with unclean animals and temple prostitutes.

Antiochus sacrificed a pig on the altar, then sprinkled pig blood throughout the temple. This was the transgression of desolation, the evil act which made the temple desolate. It foreshadows Antichrist’s desecration. Dan.9:27; 2 Thes.2:4; Matt.24:15; Rev.13:14-15

Jews had to forsake God and obey Antiochus or die. 1 Maccabees 1:44-49 <sup>44</sup> And the king sent letters by messengers to Jerusalem and the towns of Judah; he directed them to follow customs strange to the land, <sup>45</sup> to forbid burnt-offerings, sacrifices and drink-offerings in the sanctuary, to profane sabbaths and festivals, <sup>46</sup> to defile the sanctuary and the priests, <sup>47</sup> to build altars and sacred precincts and shrines for idols, to sacrifice swine and other unclean animals, <sup>48</sup> and to leave their sons uncircumcised. They were to make themselves abominable by everything unclean and profane, <sup>49</sup> so that they would forget the law and change all the ordinances.

The sanctuary was brought low (8:11 KJV cast down); defiled but not destroyed. When Romans *destroyed* the temple in 70 AD, it was literally torn down. After Antiochus, the Jews rebuilt the altar & sanctuary. 1 Maccabees 4:42-48 <sup>42</sup> He chose blameless priests devoted to the law, <sup>43</sup> and they cleansed the sanctuary and removed the defiled stones to an unclean place. <sup>44</sup> They deliberated what to do about the altar of burnt-offering, which had been profaned.

<sup>45</sup> And they thought it best to tear it down, so that it would not be a lasting shame to them that the Gentiles had defiled it. So they tore down the altar, <sup>46</sup> and stored the stones in a convenient place on the temple hill until a prophet should come to tell what to do with them.

<sup>47</sup> Then they took unhewn stones, as the law directs, and built a new altar like the former one.

<sup>48</sup> They also rebuilt the sanctuary and the interior of the temple and consecrated the courts.

In Dan.8:12, the people of Israel and their worship were lost to the power of Antiochus. They were given over (Antiochus was allowed to transgress) by God’s permission.

The question in Dan.8:13 reminds us of Habakkuk’s complaint: How long, O Lord? Hab.1:2-6 Habakkuk lived in a time of destruction and violence where “justice never prevails”.

But there was no persecution from outside –Jews had *chosen* idolatry. Jer.22:17-19

After revival under Josiah, the Jews chose to obey a wicked king Jehoiakim. 2 Ki.23:34-24:5 Habakkuk was written about 607 BC, shortly before Daniel was taken captive to Babylon.

In 8:13, two holy ones discussed *how long God would let this evil go on*. The answer in 8:14 (2300 days until the sanctuary is cleansed) has been widely debated. 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists took the days to mean *years*; they predicted Christ’s return in 1843 (Miller’s Great Disappointment).

*Judas Maccabeus and Hanukkah*

Some Jewish “turncoats” went along with Antiochus in the early days, for their own gain. These hypocrites hoped to con their way to independence by striking a deal with Antiochus. Their “deal with the devil” backfired, as it will when the Antichrist tricks millions. Early in Antiochus’ reign, a priest named Mattathias was ordered to bow to a pagan god. Mattathias refused, and when he saw another Jew bow, he killed the Jew and the soldier. This was the beginning of the Maccabean revolt to restore the worship of God.

The priest’s son Judas Maccabeus defeated the Syrian army; he won Jewish independence. Antiochus was away fighting larger wars with the Parthians. His generals gave back the temple. Judas cleansed and restored the temple on Dec.25, 165 BC (3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the desolation).

When Judas Maccabeus began to cleanse the temple, he needed oil to light the lamps. The ceremony to reconsecrate the temple lasted 8 days, but he couldn’t find enough oil. He continued working in faith, and the small amount of oil miraculously lasted 8 days. Jewish people still celebrate the Feast of Hanukkah (“dedication”) in December. John 10:22 It is also called the Festival of Lights – candles in the windows symbolize the lamps.

Psa.76:10 God makes even the wrath of men to praise Him. (Human defiance only *enhances* his glory; he uses it as a weapon. NLT) Judo uses an opponent’s energy against him; God is master black belt. When Pharaoh tried to destroy the Jews, the result was the Feast of Passover. When Haman tried, the result was the Feast of Purim. Esther 3-9. When Antiochus tried, the result was the Feast of Dedication. When Hitler tried, the result was the re-establishment of the nation of Israel 3 years after WWII. When the Antichrist tries, the result will be the Millennial Kingdom.

A few months after the cleansing, Antiochus learned what the Jews had done. Enraged, Antiochus marched toward Israel, threatening to exterminate the nation. As soon as he said this, he was suddenly stricken with a fatal fever and died at Media. Even in his death (not by human hands) he foreshadows Antichrist. Dan.2:34; Rev.19:20

**8:15-19 – The Interpretation as Related to End-Times**

**Dan.8:15-19** When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. <sup>16</sup> And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.”

<sup>17</sup> So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, “Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end.”

<sup>18</sup> When he spoke to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground. But he touched me and made me stand up. <sup>19</sup> He said, “Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end.

This is the 1st time an angel is named in Scripture. Gabriel also speaks in Dan.9:21. Gabriel later announced the coming births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Luke 1:19, 26 The only other angel named (besides Satan) is Michael. Dan.10:13, Jude 9, Rev.12:7

Gabriel clearly states that the vision concerns the time of the end. Dan.8:17,19 The end of the times of the Gentiles, and God’s full wrath, will be the Tribulation. The Bible *never refers to the end of time*, but the end of the age and the time of the end.