

Week of April 9, 2017

Questions for Ohana

Living in Babylon: “An Eerie Little Horn” Daniel 8

Ice Breaker: What are some of global challenges today? What concerns you the most in this world?

Historical Background: The fall of Jerusalem, the destruction of the Temple and deportation of Judah in 586 B.C. was the most catastrophic event in both Israel’s and Judah’s history. It also fell to Daniel a young deportee of the first phase of Babylonian conquest in 605 B.C. He served in the Babylonian and Pasian royal court throughout his life.

Read Daniel 8 carefully and answer the following questions.

- A.** The vision in chapter 7 was recorded in Aramaic (the popular language of the day) and chapter 8 in Hebrew. What is the significance of it?
- B.** The vision of chapter 8 should be understood in relationship to the vision of chapter 7. What relationship exists between the two visions?
- C.** What does Daniel tell us about the timing of this vision (chapter 8)? Why do you think both visions (chapter 7 & 8) are given to Daniel during the reign of Belshazzar? Think in light of the account described in chapter 5.
- D.** Where did Daniel receive this second vision? Why did he tell us of the place? (cf. the books of Nehemiah & Esther)
- E.** What is unique about this vision? What did Daniel see? What are they? What do they represent? What does he want us to pay attention to in this vision?
- F.** What makes this vision so difficult to understand for both Daniel (and us)? Identify some of the problems.

- G.** What are some of the characteristics of the “little horn?” What does the “little horn” represent? What would “it” do?
- H.** What does “the time of the end” (verses 17, 19, 26) mean? Does it mean the final end of God’s plan or the end of something or ...?
- I.** Why did God reveal a vision to Daniel he couldn’t understand and which made him physically and emotionally sick for days? Why couldn’t he tell anyone about it?
- J.** What is the theme of the vision? Do you think this vision would affect the remnant of Israel? If yes, in what ways?

TOUGH QUESTIONS to think about: Does the presence of so much injustice and evil in the world disprove Daniel’s affirmation that God is the Sovereign King over the earth? Doesn’t God sometimes indiscriminately destroy the righteous along with the wicked (cf. 8:24-25)? Doesn’t sin have adverse consequences and frequently even the innocent must suffer because of the misdeeds of the wicked?

APPLICATION:

Many of us still react to tough times as if God had either forgotten about us or were punishing us. Perhaps you are dealing with tough times right now. There are no formulas to make the problems disappear, but read the following NT passages (Hebrews 12:5-11, Philippians 3:10-11; 2 Corinthians 3:18, Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4). Encourage one another to accept the realities of life in a fallen world. Pray for one another, nations and all those in authority. Remember God remains absolutely sovereign!