

* * * * *

Authorities Speak

- **Anesthesia:** The abolishment of pain in surgery is a chimera. It is absurd to go on seeking it today. *Knife* and *pain* are two words in surgery that must forever be associated in the consciousness of the patient. To this compulsory combination we shall have to adjust ourselves. - *Dr. Alfred Velpeau, 1839*
- **The Atomic Bomb:** That is the biggest fool thing we have ever done. The bomb will never go off, and I speak as an expert in explosives. - *Admiral William D. Leahy to President Truman, 1945*
- **Aviation:** The demonstration that no possible combination of known substances, known forms of machinery, and known forms of force can be united in a practical machine by which man shall fly long distances through the air, seems to the writer as complete as it is possible for the demonstration of any physical fact to be. - *Simon Newcomb, astronomer, 1903*
- **Insanity:** We are gradually approaching, with the decadence of youth, a near proximity to a nation of madmen. By comparing the lunacy statistics of 1809 with those of 1909, an insane world is looked forward to by me with a certainty in the not far distant future. - *Dr. Forbes Winslow, 1910*
- **Invention:** The advancement of the arts from year to year taxes our credulity and seems to presage the arrival of that period when further improvement must end. - *Henry L. Ellsworth, U.S. Commissioner of Patents, 1844*
- **Population:** The population of the earth decreases every day, and, if this continues, in another ten centuries the earth will be nothing but a desert. - *Montesquieu, 1743*
- **War and Violence:** To kill a man will be considered as disgusting as we in this day consider it disgusting to eat one. - *Andrew Carnegie, 1900*
- **The West:** I have never heard of anything, and I cannot conceive of anything more ridiculous, more absurd, and more affrontive to all sober judgment than the cry that we are profiting by the acquisition of New Mexico and California. I hold that they are not worth a dollar! - *Daniel Webster, Senate speech, 1848*
- **World Collapse:** My figures coincide in fixing 1950 as the year when the world must go to smash. - *Henry Adams, 1903*

Leadership, Winter Quarter, 1984, p. 76

* * * * *

Lesson #4
Of Little Horns
The Prophecies of Daniel

Focus Verse: Daniel 11; 9:23-27

Memory Verse:

Daniel 7:13-14 (NLT)

13 As my vision continued that night, I saw someone who looked like a man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, honor, and royal power over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

Has the demise of the USSR putting an end to the East-West struggle made way for a revival of the North-South struggle of Daniel 11?

Do the struggles of today in the Middle East fit within Daniel's picture?

We have, so far, considered the purpose and meaning of prophecy. We have looked at the covenants given to the Israelites, covenants that form the basis of their future, and, thus, are part of the foundation of prophecy. And, we have investigated the centrality of Jesus in all prophecy. Today we will consider the history of the Jewish nation as outlined in more detail by Daniel.

Daniel is a book of prophecy mixed with history. The stories of Daniel and the lions' den and the Hebrew boys and the fiery furnace are designed to show us the faithfulness and truthfulness of God, thus, pointing us to the truth and faithfulness of the prophecies.

For all practical purposes, the prophecies of chapters 2, 7, 8, 9, and 10-12 all build upon one another. They all, ultimately, are about not the current events of Daniel's day nor the general flow of history, but rather are about the end times (8:17, 19, 26). Gabriel's announcement to Daniel (9:23) focuses on the vision of chapter 8 to show that the events in the near future were not to be viewed as the beginning of the end.

How much has God revealed to us?

Daniel 9:23 points to a vision, of which there is none in chapter 9. The vision must look back to the first explanation of Gabriel (chapter 8). Daniel 9:24-27 therefore gives further insight into the "little horn" of chapter 8, who opposes the Messiah.

Daniel 8

Daniel 9

The "little horn" (8:12-14, 22- 25)	The "prince who is to come" (v. 26)
Gabriel is the interpreter (v. 16)	Gabriel explains the vision (v. 21)
Concerns events of the end time(vv. 7,19,26)	Events bring matters to conclusion (v. 24)
Opposes the "Prince of princes"	Messiah the Prince will be cut off (vv. 25-26)
Removes regular sacrifice (v. 12)	Stops sacrifice and grain offering (v. 27) "People of prince" destroy Jerusalem and the sanctuary (v. 26)
Destroys many (vv. 24, 25)	Destruction, abominations, desolation (v. 27)
Horn broken without human agency (v. 25)	Complete destruction poured out on him (v. 27)

Daniel 9:24-27 provides the great chronological timetable of Israel's future.

This section deals with Israel:

- "thy people" (9:24)
- "thy holy city" (9:24)

It deals with two different princes:

- The Messiah (9:25)

- The “prince that shall come” (9:26)

The timeframe commences with the commandment to rebuild and restore Jerusalem (9:25). Gabriel speaks not of these 70 years but of 70 “weeks.” The literal phrase is “seven seventies.” The issue of what the “seven’s” represent is usually determined by context. There are biblical examples of the concept representing both days and years. Daniel was thinking of years, the 70 years of captivity. The detail of chapter 11 outlining the history to come must cover years (490 years) not days or literal weeks.

Before the kingdom of God could come to the earth, there must be a solution to the great human dilemma of sin (9:24)

- “to finish the transgression”
- “to make an end of sin”
- “to make atonement for iniquity”
- “to bring in everlasting righteousness.”

The timeframe begins with the commandment to rebuild and restore Jerusalem (Dan 9:25). The only decree in Scripture that matches this is that of Artaxerxes in Neh 2:1-8. This occurred on March 14, 445 B.C.

At the end of the first two periods, 69 “weeks” or 483 years Messiah is “cut off.” By at least once theologian’s calculations, using 30 day months, the 483 prophetic years occur on April 6 A.D. 32, Palm Sunday. This would represent the presenting of Messiah to Israel as its King (Matt 21:1-11).

Dan 9:27 records the events between Israel and the prince yet to come, including an event in the “midst of the week.” This would appear to divide the final “week” into two parts. More details about the final week are found in Revelation.

Upon completion of the seventy weeks, Israel will see a time of everlasting righteousness (9:24).

There is clearly a gap between the 69th and 70th weeks. We, the church, are living in this gap. Scripture has several other such “gaps.”

Year of the Lord and Day of God’s Vengeance (Isa 61:2)

Interval between the original Roman empire and the one to follow (Dan 7:23-27; 8:24-25; 11:35-36)

Between Hosea 5:15 and 6:1

Between Psalms 22:22 and 22:23 and 110:1 and 110:2

Acts 15:13-21

Romans 9-11

The purpose of the gap is to deal with the Gentiles as children of God (Acts 15:14; Eph 2:7)

Daniel chapter 11 expands further upon the details of chapter 8 and the timeframe of chapter 9.

Chapter 11 does away with all of the symbolism

Chapters 10-11-12 are all part of the same final revelation provided to Daniel.

Chap 10 looks to the Lord

Chap 11 looks to the Kings

Chap 12 looks to Daniel and the faithful

Chapter 10 looks to spiritual warfare in the heavens

Chapter 11 looks to the earthly battles, including politics

The kings of the North and of the South pursue their own interests contrary to God's will "North" and "South" are reckoned with respect to the nation Israel and history shows us they generally represent Syria (North) and Egypt (South).

A very clear connection exists between the evil king of verses 11:21-45 and the "little horn" of chapter 8. The "king of the North" spoken of in verses 11:21-45 represents the little horn of chapter 8, although verses 21-35 are, in the first instance, the history of Antiochus IV Epiphanes in the time frame of 175-164 B.C. Epiphanes Marched against and defeated the Egyptians (v25). Then, he was humiliated in his second campaign against the Egyptians (v29). In his anger he ravaged the Holy Land and placed a statute of Zeus in the Temple (v31). The Jewish rebels through Epiphanes out of Jerusalem and cleansed the Temple. The modern day celebration of Hanukkah memorializes this event, an event not recorded by Daniel.

These verses, however, clearly are a picture of what will happen in the time of the antichrist, while verses 36-45 are solely about the antichrist. Verses 21-35 are a good example of double fulfillment.

The following charts demonstrate the clear relationship of the king of the north to the little horn (the antichrist).

Characteristics of the Two Villains

Initially insignificant	8:9	11:21,23
Wicked and evil	8:23	11:21
Very powerful	8:12,24	11:22-23, 36

Proud, glorifying themselves 8:11 11:36

Methods of the Two Villains

Use trickery and deception 8:12,23,25 11:21,23-27, 32

Take advantage of peace 8:25 11:21,24

Deeds of the Two Villains

Enjoy success 8:10,12 11:33,36

Oppose God and His people 8:10, 25 11:22,28,30,32,36

Threaten the "Beautiful land" 8:9 11:41,45

Exalt and glorify themselves 8:11 11:36-37

Destroy 8:24-25 11:44

Defile, bringing on the
abomination of desolation 8:11;
9:27 11:30-31

Accomplish divine objectives 8:19 11:35,36

Supernaturally defeated 8:25 11:45

Can you identify the antichrist? How?

Keep this question in mind and answer it after we have completed next week's lesson.

* * * * *

At the end of every December, when Father Time's odometer is ready to click in another year, experts seem compelled to forecast what the coming year will bring. Economists read their econometric entrails and predict hard times or happy days accordingly; psychics announce that this is the year the San Andreas fault will pitch California into the sea. Well, before you believe any of this year's predictions, consider these vintage prognostications:

- *Octave Chanute, aviation pioneer*, in 1904: "The [flying] machine will eventually be fast; they will be used in sport, but they are not to be thought of as commercial carriers."
- *The Literary Digest*, 1889: "The ordinary 'horseless carriage' is at present a luxury for the wealthy; and although its price will probably fall in the future, it will never come into as common use as the bicycle."
- Thomas Edison, on electricity in the home: "Just as certain as death, [George] Westinghouse will kill a customer within six months after he puts in a system of any size."
- Lt. Joseph C. Ives, Corps of Topographical Engineers, 1861, on the Grand Canyon: "[It] is, of course, altogether valueless...Ours has been the first, and will doubtless be the last, party of whites to visit this profitless locality."
- *Science Digest*, August 1948: "Landing and moving around on the moon offer so many serious problems for human beings that it may take science another 200 years to lick them."
- Physicist and mathematician Lord Kelvin (1824-1907), who seemed to have a corner on the wrongheaded one-liner in his day: "X rays are a hoax." "Aircraft flight is impossible." "Radio has no future." - Paul Dickson, *The Future File*, Rawson Associates, Reader's Digest, January, 1996, p. 90.
- "Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." - Lord Kelvin, President Royal Society
- "Everything that can be invented has been invented." - Charles H. Duell, Director of U.S. Patent Office, 1899
- "Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote." - Grover Cleveland, 1905
- "There is no likelihood man can ever tap the power of the atom." - Robert Milikan, Nobel Laureate in Physics, 1923
- "Who the heck wants to hear actors talk?" Harry M. Warner, Warner Bros. Pictures, 1927, quoted in *Bits & Pieces*, March 30, 1995, pp. 9-10
- Theoretically, television may be feasible, but I consider it an impossibility—a development which we should waste little time dreaming about. - Lee de Forest, 1926, inventor of the cathode ray tube.
- I think there is a world market for about five computers. - Thomas J. Watson, 1943, Chairman of the Board of IBM
- We don't think the Beatles will do anything in their market. Guitar groups are on their way out. Recording company expert, 1962

* * * * *