

The End Times and The Return of Jesus—Part II

November 5, 2023

Main Passage: Matthew 24:15-22,29-31, NIV

1. Remember: _____

Matthew 24:15, NIV – Jesus said, “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand...”

The Book of Daniel:

Daniel 8:4-7, NLT – He (the ram) did as he pleased and became very great. While I was watching, suddenly a male goat appeared from the west, crossing the land so swiftly that he didn’t even touch the ground. This goat, which had one very large horn between its eyes, headed toward the two-horned ram that I had seen standing beside the river, rushing at him in a rage. The goat charged furiously at the ram and struck him, breaking off both his horns. Now the ram was helpless, and the goat knocked him down and trampled him. No one could rescue the ram from the goat’s power.”

- The Ram =
- The Goat =
- The Large Horn on the Goat =

Daniel 8:8a, NLT – The goat (Greece) became very powerful. But at the height of his power, his large horn was broken off.

Daniel 8:8b-9, NLT – In the large horn’s place grew four prominent horns pointing in the four directions of the earth. Then from one of the prominent horns came a small horn whose power grew very great. It extended toward the south and the east and toward the glorious land of Israel.

Daniel 8:10-12, NLT – Its power reached to the heavens, where it attacked the heavenly army, throwing some of the heavenly beings and some of the stars to the ground and trampling them. It even challenged the Commander of heaven’s army by canceling the daily sacrifices offered to him and by destroying his Temple. The army of heaven was restrained from responding to this rebellion. So the daily sacrifice was halted, and truth was overthrown. The horn succeeded in everything it did.

Daniel 8:23-25, NLT – [Gabriel interprets:] “At the end of their rule (the four horns), when their sin is at its height, a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power (the small horn). He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders and devastate the holy people (Israel). He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning. He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power.”

So, who is the “small horn”? King _____

Epiphanes, a title Antiochus gave himself, means _____

Daniel 9:27, NLT – The ruler will...put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.

What is the “abomination that causes desolation”?

- _____
- _____

Matthew 24:21-22, NIV – [Jesus said,] “For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”

Daniel 8:26b, NLT – But none of these things will happen for a long time...

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4,9-10, NLT – “...that day [of Christ’s return] will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God. ... ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰ and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”

Daniel 8:27, NLT – Then I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for several days. Afterward I got up and performed my duties for the king, but I was greatly troubled by the vision and could not understand it.

Five firm reminders from God’s Word to build faith during uncertain times...

- **God is** _____ – Job 42:2, NIV – I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
- **God is** _____ – Romans 8:28, NIV – And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
- **God is** _____ – Isaiah 26:3, NLT – You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!
- **God is** _____ – Matthew 28:20b, NIV – [Jesus said,] “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- **Jesus is** _____ – Daniel 8:25b, NLT – He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power.
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:8, NLT – Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11, NIV – But since we belong to the day [the light of Christ], let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that...we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.