

Daniel 8:15-27—God’s Unstoppable Kingdom-God Works, You Work

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: A politician recently said: “Knowledge is the key to a better life.” Doesn’t that sound reasonable? But is it really true? Man knows that cigarettes cause cancer, but he still smokes. Man knows that eating too much makes him fat, but he still eats too much. Man knows that worrying will kill him, but he still worries. Christians have the truth that saves the world, but they often don’t share it. You see, **you must apply truth to gain the benefit**. So today, as illustrated in God’s prophetic revelation 先知的启示 to Daniel, you will learn how to properly use God’s truths that he revealed.

Our headings are: **The Kingdom is Unstoppable-Spread the news**, **The Kingdom is Unstoppable-The Nations will be destroyed**, and **The Kingdom is Unstoppable – Live Like it**.

Our goals are: **That you must learn to receive, cherish, study, and apply God’s revelation for Christ’s unstoppable kingdom to come**.

The Kingdom is Unstoppable – Spread the News

15 Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was **seeking the meaning**, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "**Gabriel, make this man understand the vision**." 17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came **I was afraid and fell on my face...**

1. **Daniel did not fully understand the meaning of the vision he received; he did not have the historical perspective** 洞察力. **You do. From the last sermon you heard the explanations and saw their historical fulfillment – what Antiochus would do to the people of God and how God would destroy him. So Daniel asked for himself and for the Jews for the meaning of his vision. So God brought 3 witnesses -Jesus Christ, an angel, and Gabriel to reveal the truth. Three witnesses confirm any truth beyond doubt. Lord Jesus called out for Gabriel to reveal the full meaning of the vision.**

2. **As Gabriel came near to reveal the truth, Daniel became afraid and fell on his face in surrender. Was he afraid? He wasn’t afraid of Gabriel. Daniel had courage to stand up to Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and other tyrants 暴君. Daniel was afraid because he suspected that the vision was bad –very bad -for his people. They would fall into sin again.**

...but he said to me, "Understand, **son of man**, that the **vision refers to the time of the end**."

18 Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and **stood me upright**. 19 And he said, "Look, I am **making known** to you **what shall happen in the latter time** of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be.

3. **Before explaining the future events that Daniel had to spread, Gabriel called Daniel “son of man.” Why? Main reason: As a “son of man” or “son of Adam” Gabriel wanted to reconfirm the message of the Savior, as God promised Adam in Genesis 3. (Son of Adam was a trigger phrase.) Daniel had to continue that message. Jesus was going to be the prophet of God...or the Word of God...and is rightly called the 2nd Adam. God was not abandoning his covenant. Daniel had to receive the message, commit it to memory, and teach it to the Jews so they would recall it when they faced persecution and were tempted to think that God had abandoned them.**

4. **In the message Gabriel spoke of the “the time of the end.” When would this be? Based on Gabriel’s explanation in the next verses, you will see that this was not referring to the end of the world. He made it clear that these things would occur in the time of the Medo-Persian and Greek Empires. So Daniel had to pass on this message for years to come through the prophets who would follow. They could not take it lightly. BTW, those who try to do gymnastics with Verse 18 are misusing the Bible. Why use any other sense when common sense can work?**

5. **Why did Gabriel raise up Daniel from his knees? People are raised up when they have work to do. He was really saying to Daniel: “Learn from God, then go to work...teach...spread this news.” This is your warning too!**

The Kingdom is Unstoppable – The Nations will be Destroyed

20 "The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the **kings of Media and Persia**. 21 "And the **male goat is the kingdom of Greece**. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. 22 "As for the **broken horn 角 and the four that stood up in its place**, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

1. **What message did Daniel have to spread? God was ruling and he would send Messiah to conquer and rule the world. How can you see this message? And the message was fuller than saying: Christ will rule. Gabriel showed Christ’s**

rule! Chris would do what Adam was told to do but could: Have dominion!

2. The Medo-Persian Empire- the ram公羊— who used an ensign of a ram, and sheep eaters, **would be a powerful and keep the Jews as servants. The Greeks, the goat, would destroy Medo-Persia. Then wicked Jewish people would help the Greeks.** History records how Jaddas the High Priest went out to meet Alexander, surrendered to him and showed him in history from Daniel that God would use him to destroy the Medo-Persians. But God was still ruling. After Alexander defeated the Persians Empire God would split it into 4 parts, with 1 part would become most powerful.

23 "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, **A king shall arise, Having fierce**凶猛**features, Who understands sinister**危险的**schemes**计划. 24 His power shall be mighty, **but not by his own power**; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. 25 "**Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule**; And he **shall exalt himself in his heart**. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; **But he shall be broken without human means**.

3. Antiochus, who ruled the 4th part, would set his sight on Jerusalem, stop worship there for a time, and persecute God's people. In three days he killed 80,000 in Jerusalem, 40,000 were put in chains, and 40,000 sold. Historians used some strong words to describe Antiochus' character: fierce, insolent侮慢的, furious暴怒的, without fear of God or man, versed in dark practices, conniving密谋, dishonest, master of dissimulation and deceit, and **a man intimate with the depths of Satan**. Henry said that Antiochus was guilty of "pretence of treaties, leagues, and alliances, encroachment on rights, and trick people into a subjection to him." Some Jewish leaders collaborated with him. As God predicted, he was most arrogant. Antiochus **removed God's name from the temple and renamed it after his god** "Jupiter Olympius." He stopped the morning and evening sacrifice to Jehovah and murdered his priests. But God would stop him. **He died a horrible death without human hands**, as God predicted and ordained判定. He was not killed in war, nor was he assassinated暗杀, as tyrants often were. He fell into God's hands of vengeance复仇. History: Antiochus heard that the Jews had cast the image of Jupiter Olympius out of the temple. He was enraged and vowed he would immediately make Jerusalem a common-burial place. But he was struck with an incurable plague in his bowels; worms bred so fast in his body that whole flakes of flesh sometimes dropped from him. The stench of his disease such that none could endure to come near him. He died in 160BC.

4. You can learn of his judgment from the Maccabees' account. *1Ma 6:8* When the king heard this news, he was astounded and badly shaken. He took to his bed and became sick from grief, because things had not turned out for him as he had planned. *9* He lay there for many days, because deep grief continually gripped him, and he concluded that he was dying. *10* So he called all his friends and said to them, "Sleep departs from my eyes and I am downhearted沮丧的 with worry. *11* I said to myself, 'To what distress I have come! And into what a great flood I now am plunged陷入! For I was kind and beloved in my power.' *12* But now I remember the evils I did in Jerusalem. I seized all her vessels of silver and gold; and I sent to destroy the inhabitants of Judah without good reason. *2Ma 9:5* But the all-seeing Lord, the God of Israel, struck him an incurable and unseen blow. As soon as he ceased speaking he was seized with a pain in his bowels for which there was no relief and with sharp internal tortures—6 and that very justly, for he had tortured the bowels of others with many and strange inflictions罚. *7* Yet he did not in any way stop his insolence, but was even more filled with arrogance, breathing fire in his rage against the Jews, and giving orders to hasten加速 the journey. And so it came about that he fell out of his chariot as it was rushing along, and the fall was so hard as to torture every limb of his body. ...*9* And so the ungodly man's body swarmed with worms, and while he was still living in anguish痛苦 and pain, his flesh rotted away, and because of his stench臭气 the whole army felt revulsion厌恶 at his decay腐烂...*10* Because of his intolerable stench no one was able to carry the man who a little while before had thought that he could touch the stars of heaven.

5. Antiochus was powerful, but he was merely *flagellum Dei*—the rod in God's hand. Antiochus was God's pawn. What a wonderful message that the Jews had to receive – and pass on! Yes, Daniel started to shake when he saw this vision, but truth must be received and told – even harsh truths. Shiver颤抖 and weep when you see persecution... and Christians being hanged...but don't be scared to talk about eternal damnation罚入地狱 in hell. Both are real. Receive it and live accordingly. God's kingdom is unstoppable. Christ shall have dominion.

Hebrews 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— If you refuse to receive harsh truths, you will be disappointed, and others won't hear it from you! This is a key part of teaching: You have to show God's power over his enemies! Remember, when God showed his power over the Egyptians, the Canaanites were shaking in their boots, and some like Rahab, surrendered to the Lord. So the world!

God's Unstoppable Kingdom-Live Like it

26 "And the **vision of the evenings and mornings** (sacrifices) Which was told is true; **Therefore seal up** 密封 **the vision**, For it refers to many days in the future."

1. **The Jews had to receive the message of God and keep it for future generations. Yes, Daniel was reassured that the sacrifices of the evening and mornings, the things important to God, would be returned again – and the full sacrifice of Jesus Christ would be offered – and the kingdom would be restored and expand – that was the real message.** God was reassuring Daniel that the Babylonians would be defeated, the Medo-Persians would be defeated, and the Greeks would be defeated. He had to keep this message for future generations.

2. **But for the time being, Gabriel warned him to keep that message away from the nations, as they would not have reacted well knowing that God was predicting their destruction. (Don't boast about Christ dominion, believe in it and work for it.) Truth is sometimes hidden from the wicked. If those nations learned of their terrible end, one could imagine that they would have treated the Jews worse. Make no mistake about it, however. Gabriel was not saying: "Hide the message from the Jews." No, Daniel was to hide it for the Jews. It was reserved for God's people.**
Isaiah 8:16 Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples.

27 And I, Daniel, **fainted and was sick for days**; afterward I arose and **went about the king's business**. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.

3. **Daniel was so oppressed and overwhelmed by what he saw it literally made him sick...for days, not just for a short time. He could not believe how the Jews would turn against God. He could not believe how severe their punishment would be. He could not believe that God would allow the morning and evening sacrifices in the temple to be stopped by a pagan. He knew there was hope. He knew the kingdom would expand...but the birthing pains of Christ's new and expanded unstoppable kingdom were going to be strong.**

Jeremiah 4:19 O my soul, my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, Because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The alarm of war.

4. **What is unique is that with this knowledge, old Daniel went about his business. He kept his job and lived like a regular citizen. There was no sense of panic whatsoever.**

Conclusion:

The message of the glorious kingdom of Christ had to be received, preserved for future generations, and spread everywhere without fear, to give hope. It is true that the message had some sad parts, but the end would be greater than the beginning. Most kingdoms start-off great but end up in ruins, but not Christ's kingdom. It started as a barren woman and an old man and would be blessed to take over the earth.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: This is truth: **Messiah, the Son of Adam, has come and is establishing his unstoppable kingdom. He purchased your entrance into his kingdom by shedding his blood on the cross for you. You are now a full member in his kingdom. But God's Word records that sometimes you his children will suffer, egregiously suffer, yet his church can never be defeated. Do not fear, do not hide...live openly...even as Daniel. He lived as a citizen in the world doing his regular work, even while teaching and working for church of God as it gloriously marched on to victory.**

Finally: Christ's kingdom is unstoppable. Are you in? It is the only place in which you can be safe. But to come in, you have to make peace with God. And you can only make peace with God through the merits 功德 and works of Jesus Christ. Christ's blood is the payment God demands.