

Kingdom Clashes

Daniel 8

In my preparation for preaching God's Word, after some initial personal study, I consult several commentaries to see what others have gleaned from the passage. As I read one of my favorite Bible teachers, I was surprised by his first sentence in his comments about Daniel 8. Quote, *"Daniel chapter 8 is a preacher's nightmare."* How encouraging!

Well, I do not agree with this servant of God on that particular point, yet I understand why he wrote it. This passage is filled with complicated imagery and so the interpretation is difficult. It is true that many good Bible teachers disagree with the understanding of many parts of it. Furthermore, this passage may seem distant from our everyday life in our times.

Despite its difficulty, God placed Daniel 8 in His Book to help us to know Him, to know His eternal plan and to live our daily lives in faith and worship. **I believe this chapter so very valuable that my greatest difficulty will be to limit my comments to the time that we have together.** (And as you know, most Sundays I find that nearly impossible.)

Daniel 7-12 is very different from Daniel 1-6. The first half of Daniel has some important prophetic messages to us, but it is also filled with story that inspires our faithfulness to God. **Stories make God's revelation so readily accessible to everyone . . . children and adults, the unschooled and the scholar, the social influencers and the socially influenced . . . all connect to story.**

The last half of the book of Daniel is **almost entirely prophetic**. The book becomes increasingly requires focused attention to glean its message. When you study the prophecies of the Bible there are almost always **Three legitimate lanes upon which to drive our thoughts when we study Bible prophecy:**

Lane #1: The Near Fulfillment Lane. We are right to think about the message that is given to the people to whom the passage is written. There is often some near event that fulfills a portion of the prophecy.

Lane #2: The Far Fulfillment Lane. We are also right to the about the message that is given to the people who will read it in the distant future. There is often some distant event that is the ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy.

Lane #3: The Spiritual Encouragement Lane. We are right finally to think about the spiritual instruction, correction and encouragement that flows from the prophecy to believers in every age.

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4 [ESV](#))

This morning I am going to attempt to take us on all three lanes. We have made available to you a sermon outline. This outline primarily focuses our attention on The Spiritual Encouragement Lane.

Before we dig into that sermon outline, **let us first consider the vision and its meaning** . . . its meaning both for its near fulfillment . . . a fulfillment that has ALREADY happened . . . and for its far fulfillment . . . a fulfillment that is still YET TO COME. Let us dig in.

Main Idea: Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not lean upon your own understanding, nor upon the understanding of kings or human governments. In all your thoughts, words and pursuits, acknowledge Him and He will go before to you to clear your path to life.

"In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first." (Daniel 8:1 [ESV](#))

Daniel jumps backward in time to the year 551 BC. King Belshazzar's experience with the hand writing on the wall is around 12 years in the future from the vision of this chapter. Daniel has been in Babylon for 54 years and he is now in his mid-60s.

"Daniel 8:2 And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal.

Daniel is transported in this vision to Susa. Susa is a small little place in Daniel's day, but the next kingdom . . . the Persian kingdom will make Susa its capital. You may remember that the book of Esther takes place right here in Susa.

3 I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. 4 I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could

stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

This brings to mind the vision of Daniel 7. That vision took place two years earlier in the first year of King Belshazzar. Daniel saw four beasts in that vision, but in this one he sees only two. Again, the beasts represent God's view of human kingdoms. The LORD sees human kingdoms as beastlike . . . powerful, violent, unreasonable, without internal restraint.

The first beast in this vision is a ram . . . notably the ram had two horns, but one was higher than the other. The ram of Daniel 8 corresponds to the bear in Daniel 7 that was raised up on one side. More on that in a moment.

Then Daniel tells us upon a second beast.

Daniel 8:5 As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes.

The male goat is swift . . . My grandson and I have fun talking about who is faster Sonic or Flash or Dash from the Incredibles. Well, we have not settled on the answer, but this goat gives them all a good run for the money.

Daniel 8:6 He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath.

The goat runs at the ram with fury and violence.

Daniel 8:7 I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power.

The ram meets a swift death under the power of the goat.

Daniel 8:8 Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.” (Daniel 8:8 [ESV](#))

A horn, we will see, refers to a human king. And the one great horn (king) upon the goat is broken off and four horns grow up out of the head in its place! What a crazy vision! And these horns move toward the four winds of heaven . . . all to

separate directions . . . north, south, east and west. This goat is parallel to the Leopard in Daniel 7.

Question: What does this mean?

*“Daniel 8:15 When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. **(Remember that Daniel is a man of prayer!!)**.*

Illustration: George Washington Carver. The boll weevil was ruining the economy of the south by destroying the cotton crops. For many years, Carver urged farmers to put aside cotton and grow other crops, especially sweet potatoes and peanuts

Farmers open to the idea, but problem: What would they do with so many peanuts?

According to Carver’s early biographer Rackham Holt – whose book Carver reviewed before his death – the Tuskegee scientist long mused over these problems and took them to God in prayer.

“I asked the Great Creator what the universe was made for.

‘Ask for something more in keeping with that little mind of yours,’ He replied.

‘What was man made for?’

‘Little man, you still want to know too much. Cut down the extent of your request and improve the intent.’”

Finally, “Lord, will you teach me about the peanut?” And God did!

Illustration: Alexander.

Application: When you are in a bind and without understanding about ANYTHING . . . take it to the LORD for understanding!

*And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. Daniel 8:16 And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, **“Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.”** Daniel 8:17 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.”” (Daniel 8:15-17 [ESV](#))*

God gives Daniel understanding by sending the angel Gabriel. First time that Gabriel is mentioned. In our NT time, God sends His HS to indwell His people and

grant us understanding if we would open our Bibles and seek His counsel and illumination. What a gift God gives when He gives us His HS!

*“Daniel 8:18 And when he had spoken to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground. But he touched me and made me stand up. Daniel 8:19 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. Daniel 8:20 As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia.” (Daniel 8:18-20 [ESV](#))*

God chooses King Cyrus to be the man who takes power from Babylon. The Medes and Persians are together for a time. But then the Persians eventually dominate and rule. Thus the two horns with one being higher.

Isaiah the prophet also prophesies about King Cyrus and he uses his name!

*“who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’””
(Isaiah 44:28 [ESV](#))*

Isaiah prophesies about him **150 years before he takes power!**

*Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: “I will go before you and level the exalted places. . . that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. **For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me.**” (Isaiah 45:1-4 [ESV](#))*

That is the vision of the ram. But now Daniel is given the interpretation of the vision regarding the goat.

*“And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king.”
(Daniel 8:21 [ESV](#))*

Daniel predicts the rule of Alexander the Great. He is pictured as so fast that his feet did not even touch the ground. What a perfect description of Alexander’s rise to power. He conquered all the known world in 6 short years. If you have time to read of Alexander’s exploits, he was a marvel as a military general. He did not overpower his enemies so much as drive right through them. I urge you to read

more about Alexander the Great's conquests to see how accurate Daniel's vision is about him.

Think about this . . . two hundred years before Greece became the dominant empire ruling the world . . . God told us clearly that it would happen!

But there is more! God foretells of Alexander's death at a young age at the height of his power.

"Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven."
(Daniel 8:8 [ESV](#))

Having conquered all the known world's Alexander dies at the young age of 32. Notice what the Bible says happens after the Greek king dies.

"As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power." (Daniel 8:22 [ESV](#))

When Alexander dies, he has no heir to his throne. So the Greek empire was divided into four parts. Alexander's four military generals (Cassander, Lysimicus, Ptolemy and Seleucus) each command a part of the empire: Again, what accuracy describing an event some 200 years before these four guys take power.

Main Idea: Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not lean upon your own understanding, nor upon the understanding of kings or human governments. In all your thoughts, words and pursuits, acknowledge Him and He will go before to you to clear your path to life.

There is one more part of the vision that is really, really important. It has to do with a very evil man who comes to rule over the land of Israel during the Greek kingdom. But it also points the far fulfillment of a future man whom the scriptures call "the man of lawlessness" or the "anti-Christ".

*Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, **and toward the glorious land**. Daniel 8:10 It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them."* (Daniel 8:9-10 [ESV](#))

Notice that Israel is now in view. Israel is called "the glorious land". Other translations read, the "Beautiful Land". This is the place that Daniel faced three

times every day as he prayed to the LORD. **It is beautiful and glorious to Daniel and other Jews because the LORD ordained this land to be the location of His revelation of Himself throughout the OT and the NT.**

If you put on your Hebrew glasses for a moment, you would see that Daniel switches back to writing his book in the Hebrew language. He writes chapter 2-7 in Aramaic because those chapters have to do primarily with the Gentile nations. Now he reverts back to Hebrew because the nation of Israel becomes prominent.

Who is this “little horn”?

*“Daniel 8:23 And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. Daniel 8:24 His power shall be great—**but not by his own power**; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and **the people who are the saints.**” (Daniel 8:23-24 [ESV](#))*

Notice two key elements here:

First, he rises to prominence NOT BY HIS OWN POWER. **I believe that Satan is the one inspiring, controlling and empowering this king.**

Second, he has a particular hatred for “the saints” . . . the Jewish people. Satan hates everyone . . . but he knows that God Himself specially created the Jewish people for His glory and he has a particular hatred for them.

“By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand.” (Daniel 8:25 [ESV](#))

This One will specifically oppose the Prince of Princes . . . God’s King . . . the LORD Jesus.

This vision describes a specific act of this Prince that is particularly offensive to the LORD

*“Daniel 8:11 It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and **the place of his sanctuary was overthrown.** Daniel 8:12 And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. Daniel 8:13 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?" Daniel 8:14 And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."" (Daniel 8:11-14 [ESV](#))

The near fulfillment of this prophecy points us to a Greek ruler named Antiochus Epiphanes who ruled from 175-163 BC.

His name means "*Antiochus, God Manifest*".

He was so cruel to the Jews under his rule that they named him "Antiochus Epimines" which means, "*Antiochus, the Madman*".

Antiochus killed 80,000 Jews in taking Jerusalem and put 40,000 into slavery. **He wants one religion to prevail throughout the Greek empire** and so he made the worship of Yahweh illegal. He outlaws sacrifices made to God in the Temple, he burns the Law of God . . . the Bible, he places a statue of Zeus inside the Temple, he outlaws Sabbath keeping and the dietary laws.

When he bans circumcision, two mothers disobey his new law. I will spare you the gory and terrible details, but he has the babies killed in front of their moms and then he murders the two ladies in public. The details behind this one story are so horrible and yet they typify the violence and cruelty of this man.

Antiochus' ultimate insult to the Jews occurs when he takes a pig and slaughters it on the Temple altar and sprays the pig's blood all over the Temple. Daniel calls this act "*the transgression that makes desolate.*" Daniel will speak of this event in 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11. The Jews will ultimately revolt against Antiochus and that is the story of Hannukah. I wish we had time to tell it. Antiochus was

Jesus speaks of this act of desolation as being yet future,

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. "So when you see **the abomination of desolation** spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."* (Matthew 24:14-16 [ESV](#))

So who is the future Antiochus? If we drive for a moment in the Far Fulfillment Lane our attention is drawn to the Anti-Christ who will rule over the world at the end of the age. We talked about this future king last week in Daniel 7. He is the "little horn" that rises up in the midst of the final stage of the Roman empire.

20 and about the ten horns that were on its head, **and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions.** 21 As I looked, **this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them,** 22 until the Ancient of Days came, **and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High,** and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom . . .

25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall **wear out the saints** of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

26 But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.” (Daniel 7:20-22, 25-26 [ESV](#))

From Daniel 7-8, we begin to get a picture of this future king . . .

Characteristics of the future world ruler:

This world ruler will begin modestly, but grow in power by subduing others.

This world ruler will appear to be so powerful that he cannot be resisted. (8:24)

This world ruler will be extremely intelligent and persuasive (8:23, 25)

This world ruler will use his words to deceive many. (8:25)

This world ruler will speak defiantly against the LORD and will oppose Jesus.

This world ruler will set his heart to harm and kill God’s people, especially the Jews.

This world ruler will defile the sanctuary of the Jews.

This world ruler will be empowered and inspired by Satan himself.

This world ruler will change laws to suit his evil desires.

This world ruler will have power for 3.5 years.

This world ruler will be destroyed by God Himself.

“The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”” (Daniel 8:26 [ESV](#))

Truth: The future of human kingdoms will grow darker not brighter through the times of the Gentiles. But the LORD will not allow evil to last forever. His kingdom is coming!!

This little horn is identified in the NT in 2 Thess. 2 and Rev 13:

Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 [ESV](#))

*And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. **Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.** And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. **If anyone has an ear, let him hear;***

*10 If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. **Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.**"*
(Revelation 13:5-10 [ESV](#))

Application: The LORD tells us to expect much to be wrong with our present world. He calls His saints to endure the present evil age with faith, hope and love. He urges us away from bitterness, complaining, grumbling and destructive anger.

Three realities to live by:

Reality #1: God's Word is trustworthy.

God's prophetic Word is trustworthy down to the fine print. For instance, God said that the one Greek king would have his kingdom divided into four parts and that is exactly what happened!

Lots of sources to get our knowledge about life and answers to our most important questions. Books, blogs, podcasts, news commentary, friends, school teachers, pastors, Facebook, other social media, mystical experiences, emotional senses, personal opinions.

Friends, I am so concerned that our worldview . . . our attitude toward this world is shaped by sources other than God's Word. I do not think we are aware of it . . . I do not think we desire it . . . but we are listening too much to sources other than scripture to guide our thinking, our feeling and our behaving.

Illustration: When you heard about the Olympic opening ceremonies blasphemous depiction of Jesus' Last Supper . . . what did you think? **Many took**

personal offense and flew into a rage wanting some vengeance . . . some reprisal upon those who hate Jesus so much. But is this really the Christian response?

Are we not to have our hearts broken over the lostness of this world?

Are we not to yearn for God to be glorified and mourn when we see Him denigrated?

Are we not to feel our own our soul's vulnerability to Satan's power and lean in to the LORD in dependence and faith?

Are we not to pray for our enemies and ask the LORD to deliver them by His grace, even as He delivered us?

Are we not to pray that Jesus' kingdom would come and that Jesus would appear soon in the clouds?

I think of lots of responses that represent Christ well. But personal rage against the sinful people who did this is not one of them.

Question: What is feeding your mind as you think about **God and eternity**, about what is **right and wrong**, about what is **good and evil**, about the problems in society, about the problems in your own life, about the solution to our problems, about what family should look like, about who you are, about why you are here?

What you listen to will determine what you believe.

Truth: There is only one source for truth . . . God. AND He has spoken to us through His Son by His Spirit in His Book. Jesus as revealed by the Spirit in scripture is the only place where we will find 100% accurate wisdom, knowledge and truth.

Do not trust your feelings, your spiritual experiences, your favorite experts or your friends to lead you to the truth. Trust God by opening up His book and immersing yourself in it.

My wife Kimberly was talking with one of our teenagers and they were talking about her testimony. This teen had her Bible open and my wife noticed that it was filled with writing in the margins. When she reads the scriptures, she ornately writes verses in the margins that strike her heart. When I passed through our dining room where they were talking, I was able to see this precious sight as

well. So many pages marked and filled with her interactions with God's Word.
May her tribe increase!!!

Reality #2: God's rule is absolute.

God is working in human history to prepare His world for the coming of His King. He is in the details! Think of the details that He has already fulfilled in this one chapter!!!

We sang last week that He has the whole world in His hands . . . and in this one week since we sang that song we saw our President step away from his nomination for another term, we saw our Vice President step toward that goal, we saw three American flag burned and replaced by Palestinian flags in the historic metro transit hub in Washington D.C., we saw monuments defaced with the words, " Hamas is coming", we saw the Christian faith ridiculed openly on a world stage in Paris and we saw Hezbollah rain bombs down upon a soccer field killing children playing a game. One week!

Question: Does God have this in His hands? YES!!!!

If nothing else happens in our study of Daniel, I pray that God's sovereign working in the affairs of man is stamped deeply on our heart. I pray that every time we experience a trial of suffering, we will find hope in the truth that God is still on the throne and He is working all things for His glory and the good of His people.

Here is how the story ends!

"Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.' And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, 'We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.'" (Revelation 11:15-18 [ESV](#))

Three realities to live by:

Reality #1: God's Word is trustworthy.

Reality #2: God's rule is absolute.

Reality #3: God's enemy will be broken.

*"His power shall be great—**but not by his own power**; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints."*
(Daniel 8:24 [ESV](#))

John gives us more description of Satan's empowerment of the Anti-Christ.

*"And they worshiped the dragon, **for he had given his authority to the beast**, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"'"* (Revelation 13:4 [ESV](#))

***The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan** with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."* (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 [ESV](#))

Daniel then continues . . .

"And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand." (Daniel 8:25 [ESV](#))

Whatever victory Satan seems to have at the present time, it is only temporary and for a good purpose. He will not prevail.

God's enemy . . . Satan and his minions, his followers will be broken. They will not be allowed to rebel against the LORD forever. They will not be allowed to torment and kill God's people forever.

How is this a "reality to live by"?

First, know you have a very powerful enemy.

Second, know that your enemy is not as powerful as your God.

Both of these truths are very important for us and both are easy to forget. Many believers live life unconcerned about the spiritual enemy that one day empowers the Anti-Christ. He is active today!

Illustration: Imagine the head of the CIA comes to you (*as an aside I do not use this illustration to imply that our CIA is evil, but I use it because it has a lot of power*) and says, “Our government intends to ruin your life. We have made it our aim to devastate your existence in every way possible. We have money, we have a vast communication network of wiretaps and satellite surveillance, we have powerful allies, we have a staff of educated, intelligent people, we have influence all throughout the world, almost everyone you know is in our back pocket . . . and we will use all of these resources to take away any happiness that you and your family might experience in your worthless lives.”

What would you do? We would be a bit shaken that such a strong organization would set its sights on destroying our lives. Friend, I want you to know that you have an enemy that is more resourced and powerful than the CIA.

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith,” (1 Peter 5:8-9 [ESV](#))

What does Satan do to destroy our lives? **Five strategies of Satan to murder our soul.**

1. **He throws temptations in our path.** This is the easiest way to murder our soul. If Satan can get a hook of sin into our souls . . . nothing else is needed.
2. **He places discouragement in our lives.** He weakens us with unmet expectations and desires. He turns our thoughts inward so that we feel sorry for ourselves and take our eyes off of God’s goodness and mercy.
3. **He distracts us with the cares of this world . . . money, jobs, children’s successes.** He uses the good desire for stability to become an insatiable desire for more and more and more. He keeps us awake at night with the anxiety that flows from not believing that we have a Father who cares for us.
4. **He sows seeds of anger and discord in our relationships with others in Jesus’ church.** He uses things like gossip, slander and evil accusations to disrupt the fellowship of God’s family. If he can weaken the hive, he can kill the bees.
5. **He assaults our physical bodies.** God allows him to afflict His people with illness and Satan uses it to gain an opening to our soul.

Friends, let us put on the armor of God every day so that we are prepared to stand against this enemy who designs to destroy our soul. Let us remind one another to put on the armor of God so that we can battle against him together.

There are many believers who live in consciousness of Satan's active assaults upon our life. BUT then, they easily slip into the next strategy of the devil and that is to grow fearful of Satan's power. We begin to live in the fear that he is too strong and that he will overpower us.

Friends, let us remember that while Satan is a very powerful created being . . . he is a speck of dust when he stands before the LORD. The LORD overcomes him with a single word from His mouth.

"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4 [ESV](#))

Satan's destiny is the lake of fire and there is nothing he can do about it. He is overcome by the Lamb who was slain!

Main Idea: Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not lean upon your own understanding, nor upon the understanding of kings or human governments. In all your thoughts, words and pursuits, acknowledge Him and He will go before you to clear your path to life.

Conclusion:

"And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it." (Daniel 8:27 [ESV](#))

I think Daniel is overcome by the darkness that will descend upon the world. I think he is considering all the people who are without God and without hope. It moved him deeply to think about the deception of the future Anti-Christ and all the people who will come upon his dark spell.

I wonder if we are so similarly moved when we think about the future destiny of those who do not have Jesus as their Savior.

Gospel here.