

< Introduction >

「The Horn of Greece.」 By Jeremiah

Today, we are studying the book of Daniel Chapter 8 from the perspective of *“The Horn of Greece”*

< About the book of Daniel >

What is written in the Book of Daniel?

This book documents how to prepare for the End of Days spiritually and the Great Tribulation. We can see the important clues and teachings in this book. For example, in Chapter 3, we read how Daniel’s three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego faced the burning furnace after refusing to worship the Idol created by the King of Babylon. This gives us a clue that we will come to the days of tribulation as we refuse to worship the antichrist, also referred to in the book of Revelation as the image of “the beast”.

Revelation 13:15 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

As Christians, how should we respond to the call to worship the image of the beast, the antichrist, in the days of tribulation? The correct answer is shown in Daniel where those three faithful warriors said, *“But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”*

Despite the fact that Daniel's friends were thrown into the blazing furnace on that day, they were miraculously rescued by what appeared to be a son of the God. In the same way, we will face persecution when we refuse to worship the antichrist during the Great Tribulation but there will be a miraculous intervention by the Son of God. The message from the book of Daniel is about the second-coming of our lord Jesus Christ in the last days.

Now, nowhere in the book tells us that there was divine intervention before Daniel's friends were thrown into the furnace by taking them to heaven and bringing them back once the trouble was over. Instead, it describes that the Son of God miraculously intervened after they faced the trouble. Yes, God's help comes after the tribulation.

So, we can clearly see that the pre-tribulation rapture doctrine which teaches a two-stage return of Christ before and in the middle of the tribulation is different from God's message in the book of Daniel, therefore it is a non-biblical teaching. Surely, there is the important clue given about the End of Days in this book.

This also applies to Daniel's own trial. In Daniel Chapter 6, Daniel was thrown into the lions' den because he didn't obey the order not to bow to any other God other than the king's idol. This chapter highlights how a man was forced to pray to another human (king) and we may also be forced to pray to the antichrist in times of the Great Tribulation.

Again, this book never describes that the son of God came down to miraculously save Daniel from trouble, and brought him back to the earth after the trouble was gone.

On the contrary, Daniel who remained faithful to God was thrown into the lions' den and went through the trouble. But what is described here is that God later sent the angel to

shut the mouths of the lions. That was God's miraculous help and intervention. This means that the book of Daniel clearly tells us that the help for the saints will come after the Great Tribulation by the End of Days.

So, we can see how it is non-biblical to talk about what will happen "before" or "in the middle of" the Great Tribulation, and teach that the saints will not have to face the tribulation. In this way, the book of Daniel gives us the light and answers which we need with respect to the important subject or question about the End of Days.

<The Horn of Greece>

Let us examine the Horn of Greece in Daniel Chapter 8.

Daniel 8:3: "I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later."

What is interesting about this chapter is that it describes the extensive period from Media-Persia to the End of Days with only two animals, a Ram and a Goat—. There are no other animals here. The entire chapter 8 describes these two animals only.

So, what do the ram and goat represent in Daniel Chapter 8? They primarily represent Media-Persia (ram) and Greece (goat). However, Revelation describes the Bible as "a scroll with writing on both sides" which means there are two types of interpretations, therefore we would like to understand "the other side" of the interpretation as well.

<The Ram represents the real Christian while the Goat represents the antichrist-like Christian.>

There is another part of scriptures where the ram and goat are described.

Matthew 25:32: All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Matthew 25:33: He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Here, it describes the sheep as people on the side of Christ and the goats as the antichrist. Therefore, we can interpret in the same way for Daniel Chapter 8, as the ram being people on Christ's side and the goats representing the antichrist who would oppose them. It is understood that Chapter 8 describes the history of the battle between these two parties, therefore we would examine this chapter from this perspective.

Daniel 8:3: I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later.

A ram with two horns is described here. Also, there is "the beast with two horns like a lamb" described in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 13:11: Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.

Previously, we understood that this beast symbolizes the Christian Church with two horns representing its two major powerhouses, Protestants and Catholics. Based on this, the ram in the book of Daniel can be interpreted as the Christian Church, and the two horns as its two major powerhouses.

Daniel 8:4: I watched the ram as it charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against it, and none could rescue from its power. It did as it pleased and became great.

Now, there is advancement of the ram (i.e. Christian Church) described here. It “charged toward the west, the north and the south”. In history, the Church’s mission work began in Europe which is situated in the western part of the world, therefore it matches this description. Also, the ram is not advancing towards the east here and it matches the scripture of the book of Acts where it describes that the Holy Spirit prohibited the gospel spreading to Asia (east).

In fact, the gospel was spread towards the west and it hasn’t reached to Asia (east) for a long time. Advancement of the gospel/Christianity was so significant that it changed the western society as well as the rest of the world. Certainly, it was exactly like “No animal could stand against it, and none could rescue from its power”.

As a result, “It did as it pleased and became great”, which means the Christian Church became arrogant and did whatever they wanted. This is the historical truth, the Christian Church also gained worldly power as it developed and started to behave arrogantly. The Pope of Rome gained worldly power and had to have absolute authority above all the kings of the world. Great example of this is the incident called “Walk to Canossa” when a king of a European country was expelled by the Pope, he stood outside the court, asking for forgiveness.

Daniel 8:5 As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between its eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground.

Daniel 8:6: It came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at it in great rage.

Now, we see the goat (i.e. Greece) rising up as the opposition force to the ram (Christian Church)

Daniel 8;7: I saw it attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering its two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against it; the goat knocked it to the ground and trampled on it, and none could rescue the ram from its power.

This part describes how Greece defeated the ram/Christian Church. What then does the goat represent here? My understanding would be western rationalism, scientism, and intellectualism which originated from Greece, the birthplace of western civilization. Their way of thinking and Greek western rationalism which prioritizes intelligence contradicts Christianity. Rather, they are the ones which would destroy and kill Christianity by placing it under the control of the world. This has already happened in history.

Although Christianity spread around the West, it has been defeated by rationalism, scientism, and intellectualism which originated from the West, and even the most important part is almost being destroyed. The resurrection of Jesus Christ and His miracles have been denied and eliminated as nonscientific superstitions by Europeans who worship western civilization. At the theological school, Greek western civilization is so influential that the Bible and the teaching of Christ are under the attack at the moment. The resurrection and Christ's miracles are regarded as nonscientific and almost being denied. Also, the Pope who is badly influenced by western scientism says that he can't deny the evolution as it is actually scientific. What he implies is that the Creation in the book of Genesis is only nonscientific superstition.

It is obvious that western civilization and western rationalism which worships science and human intelligence destroys the doctrine of Christianity and its foundation, not Buddhism or Islam but Greek.

Daniel 8:8: The goat became very great, but at the height of its power the large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven.

In this verse, "the four winds of heaven" can be also interpreted as "four breaths", therefore it can be seen as the Holy Spirit. This illustrates that Greece and western civilization will also disturb and attack the work of the Holy Spirit. This is the truth, and the theological schools and churches which are badly influenced by western scientism are neglecting the work of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, Greek western civilization is preventing the work of the four winds of the Holy Spirit.

Daniel 8:9 Out of one of them came another (or "strong" in The Septuagint) horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land.

Here, we have a strong horn, the Septuagint. This is the beast symbolizing the country which will be the center of the End of Days. The country is the United States of America who has the strongest military force in the world.

Daniel chapter 8 clearly emphasizes that the United States is a descendant of Greece, but what is the Bible trying to tell us through this? The answer is that this country is just like Greece and the way it tries to destroy Christianity by the End of Days, this will be no different from the ways of Greek.

So, we should expect that during the Great Tribulation, American logic will become that the teaching of the Bible and Jesus Christ are nonscientific, nonintellectual, and unconventional, hence they are seen as a cult.

For example, there has been great emphasis on accepting homosexuality in the United States. It claims that homosexuality or sexual minority is the unique nature and it has nothing to do with sin or sinfulness. It is nonscientific to violate the right and interest of “scientifically proven” sexual minority, therefore Christianity is regarded as a cult and a fanatical heretic religion. Based on this logic, President Obama made homosexual marriage legal.

For the United States, as a country of the beast, he decided that accepting homosexuality is completely legal, reasonable, and scientific. Therefore Christians who follow the Bible and are opposed to this idea are considered to be cult believers because they deny Greek science, sense, and intelligence.

This logic is more emphasized to the point where a pastor or teacher in the church who points out the sinfulness of homosexuality based on the Bible will be recognized as “a cult who is stuck in the nonscientific superstition” and punished. This movement has already started in the United States, and Christians who were against the meeting held by homosexuals and preached the Bible have been arrested.

Daniel 8:10: It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.

It describes how the Greek descendant, the United States will become bigger, having more influence on Christians and threatens their faith. “...it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them”. This means that heavenly Christians are going to be dragged down to the earth. This has become true as American TV programs and worldly trends have infiltrated Christian Churches, changing it to be more worldly existence. These days, some churches in the United States even have musicians like U2 playing during their communion service.

Daniel 8:11 It set itself up to be as great as the commander of the army of the LORD; it took away the daily sacrifice from the LORD, and his sanctuary was thrown down.

What does the army represent? Christians represent Israel in the New Testament and Israel means the army of God. When we think of who the commander of the Christian army is, there is only one person. It is our Lord Jesus Christ. But it is horrifying to know that there will be the antichrist rising from the Greek descendant, the United States. This person will control all the churches in the world, causing the Bible's rightful message to be disregarded and the basic doctrine and teaching of the Christian Church will be turned upside down.

Daniel 8:12 Because of rebellion, the LORD's people and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.

It will be the United States, descendant of "The Horn of Greece", who throws the Bible and the truth of the Christian Church to the ground, and preaches the worldly common sense in the church. They will insist that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is nonscientific and unacceptable, as well as it is unreasonable to teach that a person from 2000 years ago will come back to the present world therefore it needs to be eliminated from the doctrine of the church.

So, we need to know that Greek scientism, rationalism, and intellectualism will be widely used as the basis for blasphemy and the attack of the truth. Daniel chapter 8 tells us the message that the ram (Christian Church) will be defeated by the goat (The horn of Greece) and lose its life. We should be aware of this warning message for the near future and do what the Lord wants us to with respect to the End of Days.

So far, I have shared with you about “putting the word of God into practice” many times, but time and time again, I have felt that God has spoken to me about this so I would like to share with you here. This is what I shared in my testimony at the seminar in September which is what I thought that “God is speaking to Christians” and this is the scripture.

1st Timothy 1:13: Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

As it states, “**I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man**”, Paul used to live like this before he was called to God. Sure, Paul was living as one of God’s people but he didn’t follow the Bible and never put its word into practice. However, as you can read the underlined text, because it was something he “**acted in ignorance**”, Paul was able to receive God’s mercy. In the meantime, Pastor Jeremiah said that “But if you do know, you will find it more difficult to receive the mercy so you have to be careful”. This enlightened my spiritual eyes and I thought, “That makes sense”.

By the way, let’s change the topic here and think about the life after death. Of course, no one has ever been to see Christ and returned to continue his life. Sometimes we hear the story of people claiming they have been to the heaven or seen the hell, but the Bible clearly states:

Who has gone up to heaven and come down?

Whose hands have gathered up the wind?

Who has wrapped up the waters in a cloak?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

What is his name, and what is the name of his son?

Surely you know! (Proverbs 30:4)

Which means that Christ is the only one who has risen to the heaven then returned to the earth therefore no one else has. So, we can only imagine what the life after death is going to be like. Of course, the heaven and hell (lake of fire) exists, and we will enter either of them based on God's judgment. One thing for sure is that, as is written in 2nd Corinthians, we will stand before God and face judgment based on how we lived while on earth

What will be the basis of our judgment? "The word of the Bible". We will be asked if we knew God or not as well as whether we responded to God's calling or ignored it despite fully knowing God. In this case, I suppose we are going to have to face harsher judgment. After all, I think how we responded to the word of God or God's truth while we lived on the earth will be seen more important than we actually think when we face God. While people who don't know the truth therefore completely ignore the word of God will be judged, if you were to be a Christian who knows what is written in the Bible yet don't put that into practice, I think you will face harsher judgment. You can go to the church to listen to the message on your own will, read the Bible and other books, or get to know the truth through the internet or an audio message, but unless you can put the word of God into practice, you will end up causing the wrath of God.

I feel the Spirit has told me that once we have seen or heard the truth, we will take "responsibility". As I shared before, we read in the gospel of Luke that a servant who has not done the Master's will would be beaten with many blows. So, I think we have to

remember in our walks that if we know the truth but choose not to respond, we will face harsh treatment from God. It is great to hear the message at the church and get to know the truth by reading books or through internet resources, but at the same time I wonder if we will take **“responsibility”** as the result. Taking **“responsibility”** means once we have known the truth, we start living accordingly.

Again, we need to understand correctly that there is difference between knowing and not knowing the truth when it comes to how our lives will turn out in this world and also the lives afterwards.

I am not in the position to judge other people but I pray every day that I would be able to do the Lord’s will, and with the help of the Holy Spirit I am trying to follow what I have been taught in my prayer little by little. Also, I pray that the Lord would show me if there is any mistake or sin in me and lead me to repentance. What I really hope after all is to be able to stay in the teaching of God every day. Since it all depends on each one of your decision, there is nothing I can force you to do, but I recommend that once you have heard the truth, you would put it to practice.

God will be pleased to see us putting all of His words into practice and it will lead to more grace and blessing to us. Also, as we continue in this for our entire lives, we will be invited into the kingdom of God, so there should be no reason not to.

On the other hand, as you keep living your lives against God’s will, you will become less likely to enter the kingdom of God, so you must be careful. Now, if we are living against God’s will, then whose will are we following? Well, quite likely, we are following **“Satan’s will”**. It is obvious that non-Christians who do not believe in Christ or choose not to will never inherit the kingdom of God. They will be thrown into the **“lake of fire”** (eternal

pain), so if you think you are not doing God's will, I urge you to change your attitude. Otherwise, you will also be thrown into the "lake of fire" with Satan and non-Christians.

Yes, our Lord Jesus Christ is the only one who can take us to the kingdom of God, therefore we should not stand against Him or ignore His words because He is the one who decides which of us will go there. We should always follow what He says and not miss the opportunity of entering the kingdom of God.

Finally, I leave you with this scripture.

Ezekiel 33:5: Since they heard the sound of the trumpet but did not heed the warning, their blood will be on their own head. If they had heeded the warning, they would have saved themselves.

The glory and honor be to God Almighty who gave us this important message at a time like this.