

“BEING PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE”

Daniel 8:1-2; 15-19; 26-27

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INTRODUCTION

How well do you know your Bible?

Twenty-first century Christianity is extremely shallow.

Daniel was to preserve the vision God gave him (v. 26)

If the preservation of the Bible depended upon me and you, would the next generation still have a Bible, or would much of it be forgotten?

I. GOD’S REVELATION

A. Source: God

Vision

What an honor—God communicates with men; better hear and heed!

B. Place

1. Susa—the capital, in the province of Elam
2. Ulai Canal—Connects the Choastes and Coprates rivers—canal 900 feet wide.

C. Time Reference

1. To the past (v. 1) [3rd year of Belshazzar; 2nd vision of Daniel]
2. To the future [“time of the end”—v. 17; “final period of the indignation”—v. 19; “appointed time of the end”—v. 19; “many days”—v. 26

II. ANGELIC INTERVENTION

A. First Two Angels (13)—Question asked for Daniel’s benefit

B. Second two angels (15-18)

1. Appearance: human—15; voice of a man—16
2. Identities
 - a. Gabriel (16)= “Man [strong man] of God”
 - b. Yahweh who gave the command
3. Functions
 - a. Give understanding (v. 16)
 - b. Strengthen (v. 18—touched and made to stand upright)
 - cf. Jesus in the garden strengthened by angels
 - They help us too (Heb. 1:14)
 - We have a greater Helper (Jn. 16:7; 14:26)

III. DANIEL’S PARTICIPATION

A. Intense Interest

- “Looked used 3 times in v. 2
- “Me, Daniel”—v. 1
- “Sought to understand”—v. 15

- **How intent is our interest when God sends His word to us?**

B. Infirmity

1. "Son of man" (cf. "Gabriel")—human frailty—v. 17. **We have trouble understanding and applying God's Word!**
2. Fear: "Fell on his face" (v. 17)
3. Fainting (v. 18)
4. Exhaustion and sickness (v. 27)
5. Astonishment (v. 27)
6. Perplexity (v. 27)

Compare I Cor. 2:1-15—the inability of the "natural man"

C. Involvement: "King's Business"—v. 27

D. Preservation (v. 26)

- Are we prepared for the future?
- Are we helping others to be?

CONCLUSION

God has revealed His Word—What a privilege! Angels have mediated—What a help!
The Holy Spirit intercedes—What a mercy!

But, are we interested, Involved, and Preserving God's Word?

Yes, we are weak—so was Daniel! **But God is strong!**

Are we involved in our King's business? Are we preserving God's word for days to come—for our offspring and those who need to hear?

Seal the vision—It is **Precious, Important, Indispensable.**