

Daniel's *End-Time* 2300 Days Prophecy

A most mysterious prophecy in the book of Daniel involves a period of 2300 “evenings and mornings.” It relates on several levels to our modern END-TIME generation! It is a most astonishing prophecy for things yet to happen! What do these enigmatic days represent?

William F. Dankenbring

I received a most interesting letter recently from Nick Pull in England asking about the prophecy found in the eighth chapter of Daniel involving 2300 mysterious “evenings and mornings.” He brought up some very interesting points.

The letter declared:

“In light of the recent letter from Nick Wood concerning the exact date when the Jews officially gained independence on the 14 May 1948, I am sure God was behind the timing of this most magnificent and significant event. There is no doubt that God is in charge of the times and the seasons Acts 1:7 with particular respect to the nation of Israel and the Jewish people who reside there.

“I would like some guidance and clarification over what appears to be two sets of days in Daniel 8 and Daniel 9 culminating towards the same event in a final latter day literal fulfillment of Bible Prophecy.

“In Daniel 8:13-14, 17, 19—‘How long will the vision be concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot? And he said to me, “For **two thousand three hundred days**; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.” Understand son of man that the vision refers to the time of the end. 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.’

“Then in Daniel 9:27—‘Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for **one week**; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.’

“Then taking the Olivet prophecy in Matthew 24:15—‘Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads let him understand).’

“Could it be possible that the one week of Daniel 9:27 refers exactly to a time period of 2520 days as is indicated in Numbers 14:34 ‘According to the number of the days in which you spied out the

land, forty days, **for each day you shall bear your guilt one year**, namely forty years, and you shall know my rejection.’

“This principle is repeated by God to emphasize the importance of this matter and analogy again in Ezekiel 4:4-6—‘Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. According to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. **I have laid on you a day for each year.**’

“Could there be a dovetail of two sets of days quoted in Daniel 8:14 2300 days and Daniel 9:27 being one week on a day for a year principle 7 days of one week equaling 7 years and when taken as literal days this would be 7 times 360 days of a biblical year to equal 2520 days?

“Would these days at some point in the countdown to the return of the Messiah become simultaneous, harmonizing and gelling together? Does all of this hinge on the seven year agreement being struck by the beast and the nation of Israel to allow a temple to be rebuilt in or near the position of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem?

“Would we then knowing when this agreement and deal has been made and confirmed that we would then be in a position to begin counting down to the return of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords ?

“For the Jews to begin the building and completing of the temple and to allow for the Jews to re-introduce sacrifices on the temple mount of Daniel 8:13-14 this would mean that the 2300 days are encapsulated within the 2520 days of the 7 year agreement. With the count of 2520 days to the 2300 days point before the return of the Messiah we have a period of 220 days for the Jews to rebuild the temple and then with 2300 days to go to commence sacrifices.

“When we arrive at the midpoint of the 2520 days of the 7 year agreement the abomination of desolation would be set up in the holy place Mark13:14 and the sacrifices would cease which would then leave 1260 days until the return of the Messiah as mentioned in Daniel 12:7.

“Would this scenario seem feasible in light of knowing when the confirmation of the covenant is made?

“2520 days of 7 year agreement

“A gap of 220 days prior to the commencement of the daily sacrifices to rebuild the temple?”

“2300 days of daily sacrifices reinstated

“This would indicate that the sacrifices were going on for 1040 days when we arrive at the 1260 days

“1260 days in the midst or middle of the week of the 7 year agreement

“The Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21-22, Revelation 13:5-6, Revelation 11:2-4, Revelation 12:6,14

“I hope you and Cappy are keeping well and the brethren attending and assisting in the work. I would like to thank you for all of the literature and messages that you feed the scattered flock with, it is really appreciated and my heart goes out to all the brethren in prison who really have it tough.

“Keep going with the Great Work of God that he is guiding and leading you in.”

-- Nick Pull, England

The Amazing Prophecy for Our Day

The letter presents some very interesting scenarios. It is possible, of course, that the 2520 days (7 years) and the 2300 days both end at the same time, meaning that the 2520 days begins 220 days before the 2300 day prophecy. Both prophecies would end or terminate with the coming of the Messiah.

The 2300 day prophecy in Daniel speaks of a great apostasy which will occur, even as occurred in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes. Let us examine that ancient historical event, which was a “forerunner” of the END-TIME fulfillment of this incredible prophecy!

A New Look at Daniel, Chapter Eight -- The Shaggy Goat and the Ram

In the book of Daniel the prophet is a most puzzling prophecy that has dumfounded Biblical students and researchers for thousands of years. It is found in chapter 8. We read: “In the third year of King Belshazzar’s reign, I, Daniel, had a vision . . . In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal. 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. I watched the ram as he charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against him, and none could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

“As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the WEST, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground. He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at him in great rage. I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power. The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven” (Dan.8:1-8).

The angel Gabriel explains to Daniel the basic meaning of this vision. In verse 20, he says, “The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia” -- that is, the Persian Empire. “The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king” -- that is, Alexander the Great. “The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power” (vs.20-22). After the death of Alexander by fever in Babylon, his natural brother and two sons were murdered. The kingdom was therefore divided up between Alexander's four top generals, with Seleucus obtaining Syria and Babylon in the east, Cassander ruling Greece and Macedonia in the west, Ptolemy ruling in Egypt to the south, and Lysimachus ruling over Thrace, Cappadocia, and northern Asia Minor in the north.

This prophecy was amazingly fulfilled. Alexander's forces -- composed of 30,000 mobile cavalry -- moved so rapidly it was as if they traveled "without touching the ground" (v.5). He attacked the Persians with fury and unheard-of violence, representing the concentrated wrath of Greece against the Persians because of previous Persian invasions of Greece and the cruelty they had shown, as well as Darius's attempts to seduce Alexander's soldiers to treachery. In the Greco-Persian battles, Adam Clarke tells us in his commentary:

"The conflicts between the Greeks and the Persians were excessively severe. Alexander FIRST vanquished the generals of Darius, at the river Granicus, in Phrygia; he next attacked and totally routed Darius, at the straits of Issus, in Cilicia; and afterwards at the plains of Arbela, in Assyria. One can hardly read these words, says Bishop Newton 'the ram -- which I had seen standing by the river, ran unto him in the fury of his power,' without having the image of Darius' army STANDING AND GUARDING THE RIVER GRANICUS; and of Alexander on the other side, with his forces plunging in swimming across the stream, and rushing on the enemy, with all the FIRE AND FURY that can be conceived" (Clarke's Commentary, vol.1, p.597, emphasis mine throughout).

The date of Alexander's world-changing, bench-mark invasion of Asia was 334 B.C. Thus the date of the vision of the shaggy goat smashing the two-horned ram begins with this incredible victory of the Greeks over the Persian army in 334 B.C.

But after Alexander's lightning-like conquests, he mysteriously died in Babylon and his kingdom was divided. The prophetic vision of Daniel 8 then continues: "Out of one of them [the four horns or kings that divided up the Empire] came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. 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 set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him and the place of his sanctuary was brought low. Because of REBELLION, the host of the saints, and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.

"Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, '*How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled* -- the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?' He said to me, 'It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated'" (Dan.8:9-14). What is the real meaning of this strange vision?

The Role of Antiochus Epiphanes

All Bible students and commentators recognize that the "little horn" that grew up and became powerful, and which invaded the Holy Land, took away the daily sacrifice and desolated the Temple of God in Jerusalem, was Antiochus Epiphanes, the king of Syria. His empire spread across the whole Middle East, and he hated the religion of the Jews. Says the *Critical, Experimental Commentary* by Jamieson, Fausett and Brown:

“This horn is explained (v.23) to be ‘a king of fierce countenance,’ etc. Antiochus Epiphanes is meant. Greece, with all its refinement, produces the first -- ie., the Old Testament ANTICHRIST. Antiochus had an extraordinary love of art, which expressed itself in grand temples. He wished to substitute Zeus Olympius for Jehovah at Jerusalem. Thus, first, heathen civilization from below and revealed religion from above came into collision. Identifying himself with Jupiter, his aim was to make his own worship universal (cf. v.25 with ch.11:36): so mad was he in this that he was called Epimanes (maniac) instead of Epiphanes (illustrious). None of the previous world rulers . . . had systematically opposed the Jews’ religious worship. . . . He is the forerunner of the final Antichrist, standing in the same relation to the first advent of Christ that Antichrist does to His second coming” (vol.1, p.427).

The prophecy of Daniel was fulfilled to the very letter. Many in Israel were adopting Hellenistic customs, erecting theaters, gymnasiums, began regarding all religions as alike -- much like our modern western world and its new-found thrust for "church unity" and respect for all religions. Jews sacrificed to God, but also sent money to pay for sacrifices to Hercules. In the book of Maccabees, we read: “Many also of the Israelites consented to his [Antiochus’] religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the Sabbath” (I Macc.1:20-53).

The Critical, Experimental Commentary continues the story of Antiochus:

“Returning from Persia Antiochus came to Ecbatana, after having been put to flight by the people of Persepolis. 'Swelling with anger he thought to avenge upon the Jews the disgrace so done to him, and threatened proudly that he would come to Jerusalem and make a common burying-place of the Jews. . . . He not only opposes God's ancient people, but God Himself. *The daily sacrifice* -- one lamb was offered in the morning and another in the evening (Exo.29:38,39). *was taken away* -- by Antiochus” (*ibid.*).

The first book of Maccabees tells us the details: “The King forbade burnt offerings and sacrifice and drink offerings in the temple, and [ordered] that they should sacrifice swine's flesh . . . Now in the fifteenth day of the month Kislev, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar . . . and they did sacrifice upon the idol-altar, which was upon the altar of God” (I Macc.1:20,24,54, 59).

These calamities were directly due to the rebellion of many Jews to the laws of God and a widespread apostasy afflicting the land. The first book of Maccabees relates further:

“In those days went there out of Israel wicked men, who persuaded many, saying, 'Let us go and make a covenant with the heathen that are round about us . . . Whereupon they built a place of exercise (a school) at Jerusalem, according to the customs of the heathen; and made themselves uncircumcised and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do mischief’ (I Macc.1:11-16).

The Mysterious 2300 Days

In Daniel’s vision, he saw one angel say to another that the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion, and the host being trampled underfoot, was to be “2300

evenings and mornings.” To what does this enigmatic expression refer?

The Critical, Experimental Commentary gives us the historical answer. Notice!

“Unto two thousand and three hundred days -- lit., *mornings and evenings*, specified in connection with the morning and evening sacrifice. Cf. Gen.1:5. SIX YEARS AND 110 DAYS. This includes not only the *three and a half years* during which the daily sacrifice was forbidden by Antiochus (Josephus *Bellum Judaicum*, i, 1, sec.1), BUT THE WHOLE SERIES OF EVENTS whereby it was practically interrupted: beginning with the ‘little horn waxing great toward the pleasant land,’ and ‘casting down some of the host’ (vs.9-10); viz., WHEN IN 171 B.C., or the month Sivan . . . THE SACRIFICES BEGAN TO BE NEGLECTED, owing to the high priest Jason introducing at Jerusalem Grecian customs and amusements -- the palestra and gymnasium; ending with the DEATH OF ANTIOCHUS, 165 B.C.” (p.428).

In other words, the period of 2300 days meant literal days in the fulfillment which occurred during the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes. This was the period of APOSTASY or REBELLION which began in 171 B.C. and ended in 164 B.C. with the cleansing and restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem by the revolt led by Judas Maccabeus and his brothers. The period of wholesale apostasy lasted 6 years and 110 days -- or 2300 days.

The second book of Maccabees tells us, “Jason. . . labored underhand to be high priest . . . he forthwith brought his own nation to the Greekish fashion. . . . For he built gladly a place of exercise under the tower itself, and brought the chief young men under his subjection. . . . Now such was the height of Greek fashions, and increase in heathenish manners through the exceeding profaneness of Jason, that ungodly wretch and no high priest; that the priests had no courage to serve any more at the altar, but despising the temple, and NEGLECTING THE SACRIFICES, hastened to be partakers of the unlawful allowance in the place of exercise, after the game of Discus called them forth” (II Macc.4:7-14).

What was so abominable about having a sports stadium near the Temple of God? Gymnastics, running, throwing, and athletics was not the problem as such -- but, as Werner Keller writes in *The Bible As History*, “True to the Olympic pattern, games were played COMPLETELY NAKED. The body could only be ‘covered’ with a thin coat of oil!” (p.313). Naked athletes, only a few steps from the Temple and the Holy of Holies, and in full view, must have been regarded as a moral outrage.

The First “Great Tribulation”

In 168 B.C. Antiochus plundered and desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem. Writes Werner Keller,

“The worship of Olympian Zeus was set up in the Temple of Yahweh. For taking part in any Jewish religious ceremonies, the traditional sacrifices, the sabbath or circumcision, the penalty was death. The holy scriptures were destroyed. *This was the first thoroughgoing religious persecution in history*” (*The Bible As History*, p.315).

The cutting off of the sacrifices lasted 3 1/2 years (see also Dan.9:27 and 12:7). Josephus declares in *Wars of the Jews*:

“He [Antiochus Epiphanes] also spoiled the temple, and put a stop to the constant practice of offering a daily sacrifice of expiation for *THREE YEARS AND SIX MONTHS* . . . Now Antiochus . . . compelled the Jews to dissolve the laws of their country, and to keep their infants uncircumcized, and to sacrifice swine's flesh upon the altar” (Bk.1, 1,1-2).

In *Antiquities of the Jews*, Josephus adds these points of fact:

“. . . he ventured to break the league he had made. So he left the temple bare, and took away the golden candlesticks, and the golden altar . . . He also emptied it of its secret treasures, and left nothing at all remaining; and by this means cast the Jews into great lamentation, for he forbade them to offer those daily sacrifices which they used to offer to God, according to the law. And when he had pillaged the whole city, some of the inhabitants he slew, and some he carried captive, together with their wives and children, so that the multitude of those captives that were taken alive amounted to about ten thousand. . . . And when the king had built an idol altar upon God's altar, he slew swine upon it, and so offered a sacrifice neither according to the law, nor the Jewish religious worship in that country. He also compelled them to forsake the worship which they paid their own God, and to adore those whom he took to be gods; and made them build temples, and raise idol altars, in every city and village, and offer swine upon them every day. . . . but the best men, and those of the noblest souls, did not regard him . . . on which account they every day underwent GREAT MISERIES [a type of the Great Tribulation to come!] and bitter torments: for they were whipped with rods, and their bodies were torn to pieces, and were crucified, while they were still alive and breathed: they also strangled those women and their sons whom they had circumcised, as the king had appointed, hanging their sons about their necks as they were upon the crosses. And if there were any sacred book of the law found, it was destroyed . . .” (*Ant.*, Bk.XII, V, 4).

The period of the abomination of desolation itself -- when the Temple itself was defiled -- lasted exactly three years, from Kislev 25, 168 B.C. to Kislev 25, 165 B.C. Josephus tells us,

“Now it so fell out, that these things [the restoration of the Temple by Judas Maccabeus and his army] were done on the VERY SAME DAY on which their divine worship had fallen off, and was reduced to a profane and common use, AFTER THREE YEARS' TIME; for so it was, that the temple was MADE DESOLATE by Antiochus, and so continued for THREE YEARS . . . And this desolation came to pass according to the prophecy of Daniel, which was given four hundred and eight years before . . .” (*Ant.* XII,VII, 6).

This prophecy came to pass, just as Daniel foretold it over four hundred years previously! But that is not all. As most Bible students are well aware, Bible prophecy is often DUAL! There is often a previous forerunner fulfillment, and there will be a final, climactic END-TIME fulfillment as well! Daniel was actually told by the angel Gabriel, “Son of man, understand that the VISION concerns the TIME OF THE END” (Dan.8:17).

Antiochus Epiphanes lived 165 years before Christ's coming the first time. He did not live during the true “time of the end.” Therefore, his fulfillment of these cryptic

Biblical passages was only as a TYPE -- a FORERUNER -- of the true apocalyptic END TIME fulfillment to come in OUR DAY, today! Let's notice another fulfillment of this prophecy, which brings us down to our modern generation!

Daniel's 2300 Day Prophecy in History

It is commonly understood that there is a "day for a year" principle in understanding Biblical prophecy. That is, often when the Bible says a "day," the interpretation of prophetic fulfillment is a "year," or a "prophetic year" of 360 days.

When the Israeli spies searched out the land of Canaan for forty days, and then returned to Moses with a negative report, saying the children of Israel were not strong enough to overcome the inhabitants of the land, God was furious with their lack of faith. So He said to them, "For FORTY YEARS -- one year for each of the forty days you explored the land -- you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you" (Num.14:34).

This same principle of a day for a year is illustrated by Ezekiel the prophet. God told the prophet, "Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the house of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side. I have ASSIGNED you the SAME NUMBER OF DAYS AS THE YEARS of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel. After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you forty days, A DAY FOR EACH YEAR" (Ezek.4:1-6).

Taking this principle, then, Daniel heard the question of HOW LONG would it take for the VISION he saw in Daniel 8 to be fulfilled, or accomplished -- from beginning to end. That is, from the beginning moment when the Grecian "goat" attacked and pulverized the two-horned Persian "ram" -- till the END of the vision, when the "sanctuary" would be cleansed or restored, during the "TIME OF THE END" (Dan.8:17; also 8:13, and 5-7).

The prophesied length or duration of this vision was to be 2300 "days" (v.13-14). Using the "day for a year" principle, we have therefore 2300 YEARS of fulfillment.

Alexander the Great attacked and conquered the assembled Persian army at the river Granicus in 334 B.C., storming across the river with fury, with only 30,000 troops. In so doing, he changed the course of the history of the world from that moment, with one world empire falling, and another rising. Since the prophecy begins with this event, we must count the 2300 years from that very date. Beginning in 334 B.C., counting 2300 years, we come to the year of 1967 A.D.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2300 \text{ days} = \text{years} \\
 \underline{-334 \text{ B.C.}} \\
 1966 \text{ A.D.} \\
 \underline{+1} \quad (\text{no year zero})
 \end{array}$$

1967 A.D. = year of “Six Day War”

The END-TIME 2300 Days

The original 2300 days fulfillment began before the pollution of the Temple by the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes in 167 B.C. It began with the apostate changes in the Jewish high priesthood around 171 B.C. This apostasy led to the “great tribulation” of that time, which lasted three years (168-165 B.C.).

Even so, the Great Tribulation of our generation will be the last 3 ½ years of the final 7 year period, as the “abomination of desolation” is placed in a new temple midway through the 70th week of Daniel (final 7 years) – see Daniel 9:27. Thus we can expect to see some salient, significant apostate event occur 220 days after the beginning of the final “week” of years.

That is the final 7 years.

Now, I’ve been thinking that the final seven years could well be from fall of this year 2010 Feast of Tabernacles time going forward 7 years which will be the year 2017. Or if we count *spring to spring* from 2011 forward seven years, it will be 2018. So with either a fall to fall or spring to spring reckoning we then have 220 days which is seven months with 30 days to a month which gives us 210 days within that 7-month period.

We are talking about a period of 220 days which is ten days more than seven month’s time. So if the final seven years begins this year right about Feast of Tabernacles time, then the 2300 days would begin around Passover to Pentecost. But if we count seven years from spring 2011 then the 2300 days would begin around October 2011, seven months later.

For that matter, I don’t know which of these is correct *or if either one is correct*, because this is Biblical prophetic speculation based upon the time lengths and constraints of what we see happening. This 2520 day period of time could well begin this September-October. Then seven months later some great apostate event would occur to inaugurate the 2300 days prophecy.

What could that great apostate event be? On July 26, 2010, President Ahmadinejad of Iran is quoted as saying that the Americans in the U.S. plan to launch an attack on two countries in his region within the next three months, only hinting that their senior military ally in the region, Israel, was directly involved. He is predicting by the end of October, war in the Middle East. That would be right about the time of the 7-year final week of Jacob’s trouble—Daniel’s 70th week, the beginning of the first half of the Great Tribulation on a scale never before seen on earth.

Then the last half of that tribulation will be the really BAD half! So then what could this initial event be that sets off the 2300 day prophecy six to seven months later? Whether it’s around Pentecost 2011 or October 2011, could it be the final installation of

the final Roman Catholic Pope? That's the question. Could it be the final unveiling of the beast that consolidates the power of the Anti-Christ in 2011 after the U.S. elections?

The 2300 days of tribulation in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes was when an end-time *apostasy reigned in the land of Israel*, a type of apostasy that will reign in our end-time of today.

Could it be the installation of the final Pope? Or could it be the unveiling of the final Antichrist/Beast of Revelation? Could it be a great move toward "one world religion" in our day? Could it involve an agreement between the Jews of Israel and the Western Powers to "rebuild the temple," with Masonic and New World Order backing? Will it be triggered by a new round of WAR in the Middle East?

The key point to remember is that the original 2300 days prophecy, fulfilled in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes, involved a MASS MOVEMENT INTO APOSTASY AND AWAY FROM THE LAWS OF ALMIGHTY GOD!

No doubt the END-TIME fulfillment will be something very similar involving RELIGIOUS APOSTASY!

Isaac Asimov and the Prophecy

Isaac Asimov in his book, *Asimov's Guide to the Bible*, he has written two volumes in one, and he has a lot to say about the days of Antiochus Epiphanes. Those days were a type of the coming Great Tribulation. It is very instructive to read about what happened at that time in *The Antiquities of the Jews* and the *Wars of the Jews* by the Jewish historian, Josephus. You can also read about Antiochus Epiphanes in books 1 and 2 Maccabees.

In *Asimov's Guide to the Bible*, in volume 2, page 48, he introduces us to Antiochus Epiphanes, who had been sent as a hostage to Rome, well treated there, and had grown to admire Roman institutions. When his older brother Seleucus was assassinated, he "Antiochus had been released (or slipped away) and was making his way back to Antioch. He hastened his steps and managed to seize the throne from the usurper and to take over the kingship. He became Antiochus IV Epiphanes."

The Jews of that time were not immune to Greek cultural influence, any more than their ancestors had been to Canaanite culture centuries earlier. The culture was very attractive and widely popular. Says Asimov, "In the time of the Seleucids, there were many among them who wanted to assimilate, and to establish gymnasia after the Greek fashion" – something at which Orthodox, Bible believing Jews stood aghast.

The writer of I Maccabees reported: "In those days went there out of Israel wicked men, who persuaded many, saying, *let us go and make a COVENANT WITH THE HEATHEN that are round about us*" (I Macc.1:11). Thus the apostasy began with a drum-roll and a flourish and fanfare of trumpets.

Then, in 170 B.C., Antiochus invaded Egypt and defeated them. In 169 B.C. he left Egypt and entered the Holy Land, “entered proudly into the sanctuary and took away the golden altar” (I Macc.1:21).

He later invaded Egypt a second time in 168 B.C. Rome, however, had had enough, and ordered him to withdraw. The book of Daniel mentions this: “For the ships of Chittim [Rome] shall come against him [Antiochus IV]: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant” (Dan.11:30).

Antiochus withdrew in great anger and utter humiliation. He rampaged through Jerusalem and the Temple. Says Asimov, “With Jerusalem taken and sacked, Antiochus further decided that Hellenization was to proceed with all possible speed. . . . As a climax of the new policy, the Temple was profaned. Antiochus decided that Judaism should be brought into line with Hellenism by identifying Zeus and Yahveh and erecting a statue to Zeus-Yahveh in the Temple itself, supplying it, very likely, with his own royal face” (p.53).

He erected the pagan statue, the “abomination of desolation,” in the Temple in 167 B.C. (I Macc.1:54, Asimov, p.53).

This was the greatest blasphemy imaginable to the orthodox Jews. Orders were given by Antiochus to destroy copies of the Torah, forbade circumcision, and the Jewish dietary laws, then executed those caught clinging to the old ways.

Writes Asimov, “To enforce the new policy, Antiochus ordered copies of the Jewish Scriptures to be destroyed, forbade circumcision and the Jewish dietary regulations, then executed those caught clinging to the old ways. For a time it looked as though Judaism would be destroyed and that those who held out uncompromisingly against Antiochus IV would die as martyrs.”

The Maccabees revolted and three years later they freed Jerusalem and cleansed the Temple on Kislev 15 (the month of December) in 164 B.C.

End-Time Repetition

This great apostasy began about 170-171 B.C. As the Critical-Experimental Commentary states of the 2300 days of Daniel 8:

“This includes not only the *three and a half years* during which the daily sacrifice was forbidden by Antiochus (Josephus Bellum Judaicum, i, 1, sec.1), BUT THE WHOLE SERIES OF EVENTS whereby it was practically interrupted: beginning with the ‘little horn waxing great toward the pleasant land,’ and ‘casting down some of the host’ (vs.9-10); viz., WHEN IN 171 B.C., or the month Sivan . . . THE SACRIFICES BEGAN TO BE NEGLECTED, owing to the high priest Jason introducing at Jerusalem Grecian customs and amusements -- the palestra and gymnasium; ending with the DEATH OF ANTIOCHUS, 165 B.C.” (p.428).

In other words, the period of 2300 days meant literal days in the fulfillment which occurred during the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes. This was the period of APOSTASY or REBELLION which began in 171 B.C. and ended in 164 B.C. with the cleansing and restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem by the revolt led by Judas Maccabeus and his brothers. The period of wholesale apostasy lasted 2300 days.

The book of II Maccabees tells us: “But when Seleucus departed from this life and Antiochus, who was called Epiphanes, succeeded to the kingdom, Onias’ brother Jason obtained the high priesthood by corruption, promising the king in his petition three hundred and sixty talents of silver, and eighty talents from other revenues. Besides this he promised to pay one hundred and fifty more, if he was given authority to set up a gymnasium and a training place for youth there and to enroll the people of Jerusalem as citizens of Antioch. When the king had consented and he had taken office, he *immediately brought his countrymen over to the Greek way of living*” (II Macc.4:7-10). Jason established friendly relations with the Romans, “and abrogating the lawful ways of living he introduced NEW customs contrary to the Law. . . . And to such a pitch did the cultivation of Greek fashions and the coming in of foreign customs rise, because of the excessive wickedness of this godless Jason, who was no high priest at all, that the priests were no longer earnest about the services of the altar, but disdain the sanctuary and neglecting the sacrifices, they hurried to take part in the unlawful exercises in the wrestling school” (verses 13-14).

Today, we have the movement toward one world religion again with world religious leaders coming together to forge a one world religion under the beast with the Pope claiming supremacy of power (Revelation 13). So the *coming event* of a great apostasy, beginning with the 220 days after the 2520 days is the beginning of a great apostasy which will culminate in the return of Christ and the Temple of God being restored once again, cleansed and purified by the Messiah. That means that a lot is going to happen this coming year of 2011.

But when will the prophecy begin to unfold and be fulfilled? Notice! Many prophetic timelines indicate that the second coming of the Messiah could occur in fall of 2017 or spring of 2018. Thus Daniel’s “70th week” – the final seven years of this present pulsating, tremulous age – would begin fall of 2010 or spring of 2011.

Depending on whether we use spring-to-spring or fall-to-fall reckoning, this event could occur about seven months after fall of 2010 (i.e. around Passover-Pentecost 2011), or fall 2011 (October-November 2011).

This would be true, if the second coming of the Messiah is in fall of 2017, or spring of 2018. Certainly, this is something to seriously think about, ponder, and pray about.

Although Yeshua the Messiah did say we would not know the exact “day” of His coming, He did not specifically say we could not know the “year” – in fact,, He wants His true servants to know, and not to be in ignorance, as the disbelieving world will be.

Paul wrote, “For that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, *and that man of sin be revealed*, the son of perdition” (II Thess.2:3).

Paul also wrote, “When people are saying, All is well and secure, and, There is peace and safety, then in a moment unforeseen destruction (ruin and death) will come upon them as suddenly as labor pains come upon a woman with child; and they shall by no means escape, for there will be no escape. *But you are not in* [given up to the power of] *darkness*, brethren, *for that day to overtake you by surprise like a thief*” (I Thess.5:3-4).

Paul adds, “Accordingly then, let us not sleep, as the rest do, but let us keep wide awake (alert, watchful, cautious, and on our guard) and let us be sober (calm, collected, and circumspect)” (verse 6).

Meant for OUR DAY

Notice Daniel 8:17. We read the awesome, staggering words – “Understand, son of man, that the *vision refers to the TIME OF THE END*”! And in verse 19, we read: “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*” (NKJV).

When will these 2300 days of APOSTASY and rebellion against the truth of God be fulfilled? How will the END-TIME “Antiochus Epiphanes” – the type of the end-time “Antichrist” – arise on the world scene? When will the END TIME “Great Tribulation” begin to settle upon the world like a dense fog of cruelty, brutality, bestiality, and martyrdom of righteous men and women?

The apostle Paul foretold a great End-time Apostasy from the truth of God, as occurred in Israel during the days of Antiochus. He wrote, “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the FALLING AWAY [*apostasia* in the Greek, from which derives our word “apostasy”] comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition . . . The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them *strong delusion*, that they should believe THE LIE, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (II Thess.2:3-12, NKJV).

The New Testament in Contemporary English has this passage in vivid detail, as follows:

“Before that day comes, a couple of things have to happen. First, the Apostasy. Second, the debut of the Anarchist, a real dog of Satan. He’ll defy and then take over every so-called god or altar. Having cleared away the opposition, he’ll then set himself up in God’s Temple as ‘God Almighty.’ Don’t you

remember me going over all this in detail when I was with you?
Are your memories that short?

“The Anarchist’s coming is all Satan’s work. All his power and signs and miracles are fake, evil sleight of hand that plays to the gallery of those who hate the truth that could save them. And since they’re so obsessed with evil, God rubs their noses in it -- gives them what they want. Since they refuse to trust truth, they’re banished to their chosen world of lies and illusions.”

This End-time Apostasy has already begun. It is already at work.

As Paul foretold, “You will also remember that I told you the Anarchist is being held back until just the right time. That doesn’t mean that the spirit of anarchy [lawlessness, rebellion against God’s Law, antinomianism, or “Apostasy”] is not now at work. It is, *secretly and underground*. But the time will come when the Anarchist will no longer be held back, but will be let loose. But don’t worry. The Master Jesus will be right on his heels and blow him away.”

Will there be an “end-time” WAR like that of Alexander the Great against ancient Persia, where the WEST ATTACKS a nation in the Middle East which has grandiose ambitions and which is related to the ancient Persian Empire?

Could this war be a dramatic attack by Israel and America on the nation of Iran – MODERN PERSIA – in the next few months?

Will this WAR lead to another period of 2300 days of utter apostasy, leading into the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord? Will it culminate in the final rebuilding and restoration of the END-TIME TEMPLE of God, in preparation for the coming of the Messiah Himself?

Pressures in the Middle East are building toward another round of war. The Sunni Arab states are fearful of a belligerent Iran becoming a nuclear armed “gorilla” on the block. Secret agreements have been made between Saudi Arabia and the Jewish state of Israel for fly-over rights for Israeli aircraft to attack Iran, and landing right as well. The pressure in the pressure cooker is rising. President Amadinejab of Iran warns that the West will attack two countries in the Middle East within the next three months. Is he referring to his own country Iran and its ally Syria, north of Israel?

No doubt END-TIME Biblical prophecy is beginning to speed up, and fulfillment of vital prophecies is beginning to accelerate.

Are YOU prepared? The most exciting days of our lives lie directly ahead.

The coming of the Messiah is getting closer and closer!

Are YOU ready?