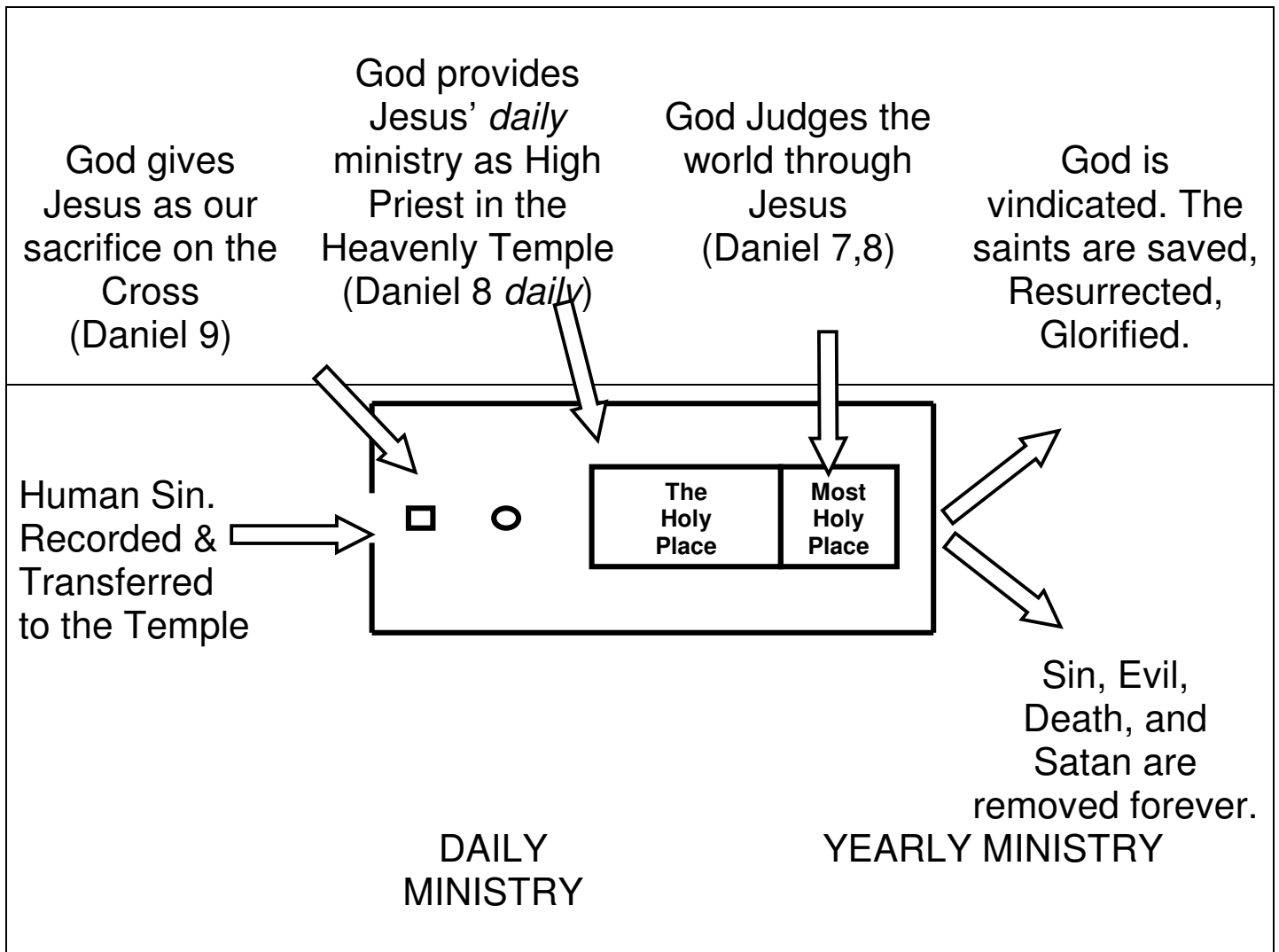


Summarising the Meaning of the Ancient Sanctuary in Daniel. The Plan of Salvation: How God deals with Sin.



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Prophecy Guide

Daniel 2

Daniel 7

Daniel 9

Daniel 8

Revelation 12

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Daniel 8

The Sanctuary

Exploring Daniel 8

Read Daniel 8. Fill in answers to the following questions.

What is said about the Ram's horns and where does he conquer?

Who does Gabriel the angel say is the ram (vs. 20)?

He-goat (vs. 5-7). What does he do? Where does he come from?

Who does the Gabriel the angel say is the He-goat (vs. 21)?

What happens to the prominent horn and what follows (vs. 8, 21,22)?

What does the little horn do in verses 9-13? Note what he attacks.

How is he described in verses 23-25?

In verse 13 a holy one asks how long until this is all fulfilled – what is the answer in verse 14?

So what does all this mean? How shall we interpret it?

Sweet as Honey, Bitter in the Belly

Daniel's scroll of prophecy was like honey in their mouths, but as John acts out, it turned bitter in their stomach. Jesus didn't come back and the event is known as the Great Disappointment. It was a bitter experience. They had to then prophesy again, this time like John, about the temple. These believers came to realise that the Sanctuary/Temple was the heavenly one (not the earth), which God would cleanse by his judgment at the time of the end.

God Foreknowledge and Grace

God foresaw the misinterpretation of Daniel's time prophecies by faithful believers and included their experience in Revelation 10. This is so they would not give up but "prophesy again" to the world (Rev 10:11). God often uses human misunderstanding and disappointment. God did not despise but rather worked through their mistake. God does not prevent us from making mistakes but allows them to come. The important thing to remember is that he is still with us and we can keep going. These students, called Adventists, went on to unlock more and more of Revelation's mysteries and have prophesied again to nations, tribes, languages and people.

As we see from this comparison, it is clear that the two visions are related. Revelation 10 explains Daniel 8 and 12 for us. Daniel describes the sealing of the scroll and Revelation its opening. It is clear that a similar being, in similar circumstances and with similar actions seals the book and later on opens it.

Daniel	Revelation
In Daniel his scroll of prophecies are <i>closed</i> and <i>sealed</i> until the time of the end	In Revelation a little scroll (Daniels prophecies) is open. This is describing what will happen in the Time of the End
In Daniel the question is when will all these events and time prophecies be finished	In Revelation the message is that there will be no more time (time prophecies have been fulfilled and ended)

So what happened when Daniel's Time Prophecies were understood?

In vision, John is next made to act out what would happen to the people who study Daniel's time prophecies at the end of time. What does Revelation 10:8-11 describe?

1. John is commanded to take and eat the little scroll (Daniel's time prophecies).
2. John eats the little scroll
3. The scroll is sweet as honey in his mouth
4. The scroll turns bitter in his stomach
5. John must prophesy again (indicates the eating symbolised an initial prophesying that was bitter / went wrong)

John is given a reed to measure the temple

What does this mean?

At the end of Daniel's 2300-year prophecy, which we have seen ended around 1844, an extremely large group of Bible students all around the world believed Jesus would come back in 1843 or 1844. This group interpreted the Sanctuary of the verse "unto 2300 days and then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" to be the earth. They didn't realise it was talking about God's Heavenly Sanctuary. They thought Jesus would cleanse the earth with fire by his Second Coming.

Interpreting Daniel 8

Daniel 8, like chapters 2 and 7, gives a prophetic outline of future history, but with a different emphasis. In Daniel 7 the nations are symbolised by bizarre 'unclean' wild beasts that are hostile to God's reign. In Daniel 8 two 'clean' animals, a ram and a goat, symbolise the nations. These clean animals were used in the temple as sacrifices, and both were used in the important once a year ministry of the temple on the Day of Atonement. Daniel 8 is full of allusions to the sanctuary. This should alert us to the focus of the chapter.

- Daniel 7 focuses on God's judgment on *political* powers that oppose God
- In Daniel 8 the focus shifts to a *religious* attack on God that are *ritual* (from sanctuary) or *spiritual* in nature

Another difference to notice is that in Daniel 7 none of the beasts move, but in Daniel 8 everything moves. Re-read Daniel 8 and see if you can detect the different directions that the Ram, He-goat and Little Horn move.

Who is the Ram, the He-goat and the Horns (vs. 1-8)

- The angel tells us that the ram is Medo-Persia and the He-goat is Greece (vs. 20,21). The Ram comes from the east (vs. 4) and the Goat from the west.
- The prominent horn on the Goat is none other than *Alexander the Great*, one of the greatest military generals ever. He died (was broken) at the height of his power, in his early thirties, after conquering most of the ancient world.
- He appointed no successor and his kingdom split into four (and later into two warring kingdoms of North and South, see Daniel 11). After the period of division within the Grecian kingdom what happens? In Daniel 8:9 the Hebrew text says that from out of one of the winds of heaven (one of the four compass points) comes a little horn.

The Little Horn is Rome (vs. 9-13)

- The little horn is political and religious Rome.
- The Empire of Rome came from the west (vs. 9) and conquered what remained of the Greek Empire. It attacked the 'glorious land' or ancient Israel. This was Rome in its *political* stage.

- As the prophecy progresses it mentions that the little horn (Rome) changes and begins a vertical or upward attack on Prince, his 'daily' (the word 'sacrifice' is not in the Hebrew), and his Sanctuary. This is *religious* Rome.

Attack on the Daily and the Sanctuary

What does the little horns attack on the Prince's 'daily', and his Sanctuary mean?

- The Sanctuary is the heavenly Sanctuary (Heb 8:1,2; 9:11). The Prince is the heavenly Priest, Jesus Christ. Note the *vertical* movement of the little horn who attacks the stars (vs. 10) and casts *down* the place of his Sanctuary and truth.
- The 'daily' (*tamid*) refers to the daily ministry of the priest in the Temple (not limited to just sacrifice). This prophecy is saying that Rome would eventually attack Jesus' daily Priestly ministry. It did this by instituting its own human priests, who claimed to be able to forgive sins. It also claimed infallibility. In scripture, both claims belong *only* to God.
- Religious Rome also persecuted God's people (vs. 24).

The Vision asks how long will this happen?

The answer to how long is 2300 evenings and mornings. The vision covers a very long time from Daniel's day to the '*time of the end*' (vs. 17 – not the end of time but a period called the 'time of the end'!). Knowing the vision is for the 'time of the end' helps us see the 2300 days are *actually 2300 years* (remember the year/day principle in Daniel 9's 70 weeks?). At the end of the 2300 years the Sanctuary is 'cleansed' (or restored, purified, set right - the Hebrew Word has a broad range of meanings).

What is the Cleansing/Restoration of the Sanctuary?

From Daniel 8 we can see that it is a restoration from the attacks and defilement by the little horn! So at the end of the 2300 years the heavenly Prince's Sanctuary would be cleansed and the truth about it would be restored. This is what we can tell from Daniel 8 itself. But what does this mean, and what other clues can we find to help explain this? Firstly, Daniel 7 can help us, and secondly, studying the same ancient sanctuary system that Daniel was familiar with will also help us.

How does Daniel 9 help us understand the 2300 days?

Both Daniel 8 and 9 involve time periods, both involve Gabriel, both involve the Sanctuary. The starting point for Daniel 9 is also the starting point for the 2300 days. Thus the 2300 days start in 457 BC and end in 1844 AD.

STUDY NOTE: What happened on Earth at the end of the 2300?

Did you know that Revelation predicted a major bitter experience that would occur in the interpretation of Daniel's time prophecies? In vision, God shows John (actually gets John to act out) what would happen when the sealed time prophecies of Daniel would be opened. Have a read of Revelation 10 and compare it with Daniel 12.

Comparison of Daniel 12 (and Daniel 8) and Revelation 10

Daniel 12 (and Daniel 8/ 2300 days)	Revelation 10
<p>A Scroll A man tells Daniel to <i>close up and seal</i> the scroll until the <i>Time of the End</i> (Dan 12:4,9 see also Dan 8:17, 26)</p>	<p>A Scroll An Angel holds and a little scroll which is <i>open</i> (Rev 10:2)</p>
<p>'Man' above Water A man clothed in linen standing above the waters of a river (Dan 12:6,7 see also Dan 8:16)</p>	<p>Angel Above Water An angel with one foot on water one on the land (Rev 10:2)</p>
<p>Concern over Time How long will it be until these things are fulfilled? (Dan 12:6; and 8:13 = 2300, 1260,1290, 1335 days)</p>	<p>Concern over Time No more delay or no more time (<i>Chronos</i>) (Rev 10:6)</p>
<p>Raised Hands Man raises right and left hands to heaven (Dan 12:7)</p>	<p>Raised Hands Raises right hand to heaven (Rev 10:5)</p>
<p>Oath Swears by him who lives forever (Dan 12:7)</p>	<p>Oath Swears by him who lives forever (Rev 10:6)</p>
<p>Promise of completion All these things will be completed (Dan 12:7)</p>	<p>Promise of completion The mystery of God will be finished (Rev 10:7)</p>

STUDY NOTE: When the 2300 days end

No starting point for the 2300 days is given in Daniel 8. All we know is that it is a very long period that reaches past the kingdoms of Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome and to the very 'Time of the End.' Fortunately, we can find the starting date. You see Daniel could not endure all the explanation for the vision of chapter 8. Daniel 8:27 tells us that Daniel was sick for several days after this vision. It says he was appalled and didn't understand it. What didn't he understand? Using the diagram below we can see that Daniel understands part A and B (the angel explained them) but he cannot understand part C and is told to seal it up.

Vision (vs. 1-14)	Explanation (vs. 18-26)
A) Vs 1-8 describe the ram and he-goat and horns (prominent horn and four horns)	A) Vs 18-22 describe the ram, he-goat and horns (prominent horn and four horns)
B) Vs 9-12 describe the little horn and its heavenly attack on sanctuary	B) Vs 23-25 describe the little horn and its heavenly attack on sanctuary
C) Vs 13-14 describe the 2300 evenings and morning and the Sanctuary's restoration	C) Vs 26 describes the 2300 evenings and morning and the Sanctuary's restoration

Daniel 9 was given to help explain Daniel 8

When we get to Daniel 9 we find the angel telling Daniel to *understand the vision*. What vision? Well not Daniel 9 because it is not a vision but an audition. It is to understand Daniel 8. Both Daniel 8 and 9 are *concerned with time periods* and both *feature the angel Gabriel*. Daniel 9 is the explanation of Daniel 8.

Daniel 8:15,17,26,27. —————>

Daniel 9:22,23.

Daniel *does not understand* the vision
(*Mareh* - 2300 evenings and mornings)

Angels to *make Daniel understand* the vision (*Mareh* -2300 evenings and mornings)

Comparing Daniel 8 with Daniel 2 and 7

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Meaning
Iron	Lion	-	Babylon
Silver	Bear	Ram	Medo-Persia
Bronze	Leopard	Goat	Greece
Iron	Beast	Little Horn	Political Rome
	Little Horn	Little Horn	Religious Rome
	Judgment	Sanctuary Cleansed	Heavenly Judgment
Stone	Kingdom	-	Second Coming

Note that the cleansing of the heavenly Sanctuary directly parallels the Heavenly Judgment. This is the best clue we have to its meaning.

Cleansing the Temple in the OT Sanctuary

If we study the Old Testament Sanctuary we find a special service that was *both* a Judgment (like Daniel 7) and a Cleansing of the Sanctuary (like Daniel 8). This was the great *yearly* Day of Atonement service, which followed the *daily* services (Interestingly the cleansing of the Sanctuary in Daniel 8 follows the attack on the *daily*). Here's what happened:

Defilement of the Temple

The earthly sanctuary or temple was defiled or put wrong by several things:

1. The on-going sin and confession of God's people (whether intentional or unintentional sin). By the *daily* sacrificial system, sin was transferred from sinners to the temple. Sinner would lay their hands on the sacrifice and confess their sins, and then blood from the sacrifice would be taken by the priest and sprinkled in the Temple.

Sinner → Sacrifice → Priest → Temple

2. Extreme sin or apostasy and rebellion (confessed or not) defiled the Sanctuary (see Jer 7:30, 32:34; Eze 5:11). The little horn's activities fall into this category.

Sin / Extreme rebellion → **Temple**

This transfer of sin to God's temple continued throughout the year, until the Day of Atonement.

The Day of Atonement: Cleansing of the Temple

Read about the once a year *Day of Atonement* in Leviticus 16:16-22 and 30-33. What did the Priest do? What did it accomplish for Israel?

The High Priest sacrificed the Lord's goat. This cleansed both the Sanctuary itself, and, as a result, the collective sins of all the people that had been transferred there during the year. This collective Sin was then placed on the scapegoat and it was taken away from the camp into the wilderness to die. After this, Israel was completely clean before God and it was a time of great celebration!

Temple → **Scapegoat** → **Wilderness**
(Cleansed by Lord's Goat)

During this day the people had to fast and afflict themselves before God, because it is considered a Day of Judgment of all Israel.

Future Fulfilment

We need to remember that the Old Testament Sanctuary was a parable or symbol to teach both ancient Israel, and us, about future heavenly and spiritual realities. At the very end of time God will take *Sin* and place it on the true Scapegoat Satan who has in some sense played a part in everyone's sin. Then God will destroy Sin and Satan and Death and sorrow forever (see Revelation 20). Then not merely the tribes of Israel but the whole world will be clean.

Summing up

At the end of the 2300 days (see STUDY NOTE: ‘When the 2300 days end’ and ‘What happened on Earth at the end of the 2300’):

- The truth about the Heavenly Sanctuary will be restored from attack
- The Heavenly Judgment would begin
- The Heavenly Day of Atonement would begin which would cleanse the universe of sin

The Meaning of the Time Periods of Daniel 8 and Daniel 9

