



SERIES:	27 Daniel - I Dare You - 2013
MESSAGE:	I Dare You: Be Shocked!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Daniel 8:8-27

MESSAGE SUMMARY

When was the last time you heard someone respond to an incident or piece of information by saying, “That’s shocking!”? Shock (emotional disgust, offense, and aversion) has been diminished due to a widespread exposure to facts and images. Things get too easily relegated to a file in our brains marked, “I’ve already heard this before.” It’s a sad day (and dangerous) when we become *spiritually desensitized* to God’s truth and the world’s pain.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. People aren't shocked any more
 1. What causes you to cringe?
 2. Information overload, a phrase from Alvin Toffler's book *Future Shock*
 3. Too much information hinders our ability to make clear decisions
 4. Far worse is emotion overload
 - a. You can only see so much pain and heartache in one day
 - b. The emotional response that should be there is gone
 - c. One brain study shows that teenagers exposed to violent videos lose their capability to have an appropriate emotion
- B. Daniel wasn't exposed to TV or the internet
- C. He had a vision of the future from God and it shocked him to the core

II. Review of what has been covered in Daniel so far

- A. Four world-governing empires from Daniel's time through the coming of Jesus Christ in the future
- B. In chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar saw a statue that represented four kingdoms
- C. In chapter 7, Daniel saw a vision of four ravenous beasts that represented the same four kingdoms
- D. In chapter 8, Daniel saw a vision of a goat and a ram

III. Vision of Medo-Persia and Greece—a ram and a goat with a large horn

- A. Why is God giving this vision?
 1. Two rulers will come out of the Grecian Empire
 2. The second one will be really bad in how he treats the Jewish people and defies God
 3. He will be a lot like the coming Antichrist in the end days; he is a prototype of the Antichrist
- B. Tools to put in your interpreting prophecy toolbox
 1. Verb tense

- a. Sometimes God uses past tense to describe a future event
 - b. The coming of Messiah and His suffering (see Isaiah 53)
 - c. God is so sure it will happen that it's already done
2. Perspective
- a. Prophetic foreshortening
 - b. Mountain range from far away and up close—peaks and valleys
3. Types
- a. An event or a person becomes a type—a shadow, a picture, or a model of something like it, but in a greater way, later on
 - b. The Passover—a picture of Jesus Christ slain on the cross
 - c. In Daniel 8, is a prototype—a Grecian king who came and was a prototype of the Antichrist—Daniel sees this, understands it, and is shocked!
- C. The vision
- 1. Horn speaks of authority and strength
 - 2. A king that is coming
 - 3. A ram comes and conquers the known world
 - 4. From the West comes turbo goat with a notable horn (the first king of the Grecian Empire)
 - 5. The goat defeats the ram
 - 6. The horn—the king—is broken
 - 7. In its place came four horns
 - a. One has a little horn that grows up—this is a type of the little horn that will come in the end times (the Antichrist)
 - b. Skip's dad was a home-builder
 - i. He would build a model home (little—to scale) first
 - ii. Prospective buyers could take off the roof and see how the home would work
 - c. Chapter 8 is the model to the prophetic house of the Antichrist
 - d. One of the primary reasons God gives this vision is so the Jewish people will not be deceived at the very end of days
 - e. In Ephesus, Skip went to Fake Watches, a store that sells fake watches
 - i. They look like the real thing on the outside
 - ii. But not on the inside
 - iii. Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15)
 - 8. Principle: God likes to reveal stuff
 - a. God reveals Himself and reveals truth to humanity
 - i. Through creation—general revelation (see Psalm 19:1)
 - ii. Through the Word—special revelation (see Psalm 19:7)
 - b. In modern times, anything we want to learn about, we can get for free on the internet
 - i. Historical data
 - ii. Bible commentary

- iii. The problem is not lack of information, it's one of three things:
 - a) Laziness
 - b) Indifference
 - c) Don't want to hear it
- iv. Incredible the illiteracy among Christians
 - a) Only 19% of Protestants know that salvation comes through faith alone and is not of works
 - b) 45% of Protestants can't name the four gospels
 - c) Only 55% of Protestants know that the golden rule is not one of the ten commandments
- c. Do you expose yourself to what God reveals as much as you expose yourself to what the world deals out?
- D. The interpretation of the dream
 - 1. Daniel gets help from heavenly interpreters
 - 2. The large horn was Alexander the Great
 - 3. The horn was broken on June 10, 323 BC when Alexander the Great died
 - 4. What to do with the kingdom? "Give it to the strong"
 - 5. The kingdom was divided among his four generals
 - a. Cassander took Greece and Macedonia
 - b. Lysimachus took Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) and Thrace
 - c. Ptolemy took Egypt, North Africa, and Arabia
 - d. Seleucus took Syria and Babylon
 - 6. The small horn
 - a. Antiochus IV
 - b. Model of the antichrist
 - c. Alexander the great had a dream to unify the world
 - i. Make everyone just like him
 - ii. His four generals tried
 - iii. Antiochus IV unified the world against the Romans except for one people group—the Jews
 - d. Antiochus gave himself the name Theos Antiochus, Theos Epiphanes "I am god manifest most glorious"
 - e. He tried to completely eradicate the religion of the Jews
 - i. Attacked Jerusalem and killed 80,000 Jews in one battle
 - ii. Sold 40,000 as slaves
 - iii. Plundered the temple
 - iv. Ended the sacrifices
 - v. Dedicated the temple to Zeus
 - vi. Desecrated the temple by sacrificing a pig—the abomination of desolation (see Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11)
 - vii. Burned Hebrew Scriptures
 - viii. Prohibited the circumcision of male babies
 - a) Two Jewish women defied his order
 - b) Their babies were killed
 - c) They were thrown over the wall to their death

- ix. The Jews called him Antiochus the mad man
- x. This desecration lasted 2300 days
- xi. How did the desecration end?
 - a) Hanukkah
 - b) Judas Maccabeus, son of the Jewish priest Mattathias started a revolt
 - c) They overcame the Syrians and dedicated the temple back to the Lord
 - d) A single container of oil for the menorah in the temple miraculously lasted eight days

- 7. Principle: God wants us to know what to do with truth—how to interpret the truth
 - a. Daniel's vision only meant one thing
 - b. "No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation" (2 Peter 1:20)
 - c. Be students of the Word and seek to discover its meaning
 - d. Every text of Scripture has only one true interpretation
 - e. Be open and hunger for God's revelation but interpret it rightly
 - i. Daily devotional time
 - ii. Small group—get together and discuss the Scripture

E. What Daniel felt

- 1. He fainted and was sick for days
- 2. He was shocked to the core—he could see what was coming for the Jewish nation
- 3. Daniel was a captive
- 4. Now, he's being told in a vision "That's going to happen again; and again in the end times"
- 5. Knowing what you know about the future, how should you feel?
- 6. Knowing that the gate is narrow and very few enter into it, how should you feel? (see Matthew 7:13-14)
- 7. We cannot continue to be complacent and indifferent

F. The study of prophecy should produce four things in us

- 1. Confidence in God as you study prophecy and see it fulfilled
- 2. Cleanness of lifestyle—holiness; holy fear or happy anticipation based on your relationship with Him
- 3. Comfort in sorrow; there is a coming kingdom, a reunion
 - a. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled...I will come again" (see John 14:1-3)
 - b. Sad to lose people to death—you don't lose something when you know where it is
- 4. Conviction for service—be shocked enough to be about the business of winning friends, families, and neighbors to Jesus Christ

IV. Closing

- A. C.S. Lewis said, "We all reach the future at the same rate—60 minutes per hour"
- B. Imagine how shocked some people will be when they stand before God and He says, "Depart from me, I never knew you" (see Matthew 7:21-23)

C. Challenge: let us get shocked first and then win them out of darkness

Publications referenced: *Future Shock* by Alvin Toffler

Figures referenced: Alexander the Great, Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, Seleucus, Antiochus IV, Judas Maccabeus, Mattathias, C.S. Lewis

Cross references: Psalm 19:1, Psalm 19:7, Isaiah 53, Daniel 9:27, Daniel 11:31, Daniel 12:11, Matthew 7:13-15, Matthew 7:21-23, 2 John 14:1-3, Peter 1:20

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