

Title: Confused? - Daniel 8 1-14

Read:

¹ "In King Belshazzar's third year as king, another vision came to me, Daniel. This was now the second vision. ²⁻⁴" In the vision, I saw myself in Susa, the capital city of the province Elam, standing at the Ulai Canal. Looking around, I was surprised to see a ram also standing at the gate. The ram had two huge horns, one bigger than the other, but the bigger horn was the last to appear. I watched as the ram charged: first west, then north, then south. No beast could stand up to him. He did just as he pleased, strutting as if he were king of the beasts. ⁵⁻⁷ "While I was watching this, wondering what it all meant, I saw a billy goat with an immense horn in the middle of its forehead come up out of the west and fly across the whole country, not once touching the ground. The billy goat approached the double-horned ram that I had earlier seen standing at the gate and, enraged, charged it viciously. I watched as, mad with rage, it charged the ram and hit it so hard that it broke off its two horns. The ram didn't stand a chance against it. The billy goat knocked the ram to the ground and stomped all over it. Nothing could have saved the ram from the goat. ⁸⁻¹² "Then the billy goat swelled to an enormous size. At the height of its power its immense horn broke off and four other big horns sprouted in its place, pointing to the four points of the compass. And then from one of these big horns another horn sprouted. It started small, but then grew to an enormous size, facing south and east—toward lovely Palestine. The horn grew tall, reaching to the stars, the heavenly army, and threw some of the stars to the earth and stomped on them. It even dared to challenge the power of God, Prince of the Celestial Army! And then it threw out daily worship and desecrated the Sanctuary. As judgment against their sin, the holy people of God got the same treatment as the daily worship. The horn cast God's Truth aside. High-handed, it took over everything and everyone. ¹³ "Then I overheard two holy angels talking. One asked, 'How long is what we see here going to last—the abolishing of daily worship, this devastating judgment against sin, the kicking around of God's holy people and the Sanctuary?' ¹⁴ "The other answered, 'Over the course of 2,300 sacrifices, evening and morning. Then the Sanctuary will be set right again.'

Think:

OK you don't get to have a 50/50 or ask the audience or even phone a friend, but do you have any idea what Daniel has just been on about? No me neither. Now I am sure we will find out as we carry on with this book of Daniel, but what do you do when the Bible confuses you? Do you go, stuff it I don't care what the Bible has to say to me? Do you search the internet and find out what others think it means? Do you take it literally? Do you say na it's just a story? I mean come on Father God what does this mean? Hmmm maybe that's the answer isn't it? Do we say stuff it? No we don't, we're told that the Bible is good for learning from and for correcting our actions so to ignore it would be plain daft. Do we search the internet for the answers? Well you could, but you should also be prepared for some crackpot answers. Lots of people have a view on what the Bible means and lots of these people are not plugged into our Father God. But we could actually ask our Father God what this means for us, and then wait for him to answer. Of course the answer may be that right now this has no impact on you or your school or college. But you could get the answer that there is some of God's wisdom there for you or your mates. Perhaps the most likely answer you might get, is that it may not mean anything right now, but the Holy Spirit will help you retrieve that importance of this or any other passage when you have a need for it in the future.

Pray:

Father please guide me when ever I read or hear you Bible. Lord please help me put the wisdom of your Bible into my life. Amen.

Action:

Hey guys what books would you like us to cover in the future. Why not email us at podcast@aftershock.org.uk and tell us. Do it now. Bye.