

**Title: Worry Wart? - Daniel 8 15-27**

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**Read:**

<sup>15</sup> "While I, Daniel, was trying to make sense of what I was seeing, suddenly there was a humanlike figure standing before me. <sup>16-17</sup> "Then I heard a man's voice from over by the Ulai Canal calling out, 'Gabriel, tell this man what is going on. Explain the vision to him.' He came up to me, but when he got close I became terrified and fell facedown on the ground. <sup>17-18</sup> "He said, 'Understand that this vision has to do with the time of the end.' As soon as he spoke, I fainted, my face in the dirt. But he picked me up and put me on my feet. <sup>19</sup> "And then he continued, 'I want to tell you what is going to happen as the judgment days of wrath wind down, for there is going to be an end to all this. <sup>20-22</sup> "The double-horned ram you saw stands for the two kings of the Medes and Persians. The billy goat stands for the kingdom of the Greeks. The huge horn on its forehead is the first Greek king. The four horns that sprouted after it was broken off are the four kings that come after him, but without his power. <sup>23-26</sup> "As their kingdoms cool down and rebellions heat up, A king will show up, hard-faced, a master trickster. His power will swell enormously. He'll talk big, high-handedly, Doing whatever he pleases, knocking off heroes and holy ones left and right. He'll plot and scheme to make crime flourish— and oh, how it will flourish! He'll think he's invincible and get rid of anyone who gets in his way. But when he takes on the Prince of all princes, he'll be smashed to bits— but not by human hands. This vision of the 2,300 sacrifices, evening and morning, is accurate but confidential. Keep it to yourself. It refers to the far future.' <sup>27</sup> "I, Daniel, walked around in a daze, unwell for days. Then I got a grip on myself and went back to work taking care of the king's affairs. But I continued to be upset by the vision. I couldn't make sense of it."

**Think:**

You can't blame Daniel, I think if I had this vision it would worry me. Actually there's quite a bit I get worried about, what about you? Do you worry about exams? Maybe the idea of what you will do in the future panics you? Do you worry about family or friends? If we want to there is plenty to worry about. OK so I could say well the Bible says that we shouldn't worry and that we won't even add a day to our lives by worrying. Did that help? No of course it doesn't help; being told that we shouldn't do what we know we shouldn't do because the Bible says so doesn't help at all. Now it might mean that we change what we are doing, but does it make us feel better? Well sometimes it probably does, but not always. So when we see passages in the Bible that challenge us, but we don't see the answer, what do we do? When things happen in our lives, but we can't find the answer in the Bible, what do we do? Well can I suggest that sometimes we just need to ask God for help and look a bit deeper? At first sight this passage may not help us or Daniel at all, but lets look a bit deeper. Daniels worried right? Maybe we are worried. Maybe we are concerned that the Devil puts things in our way so that we won't succeed. Well both Daniel and we should take a look at what this passage says. It says "But when he takes on the Prince of all princes, he'll be smashed to bits" Who do you think the Prince of princes is? Who's he going to smash? Yes it probably won't stop us worrying, but maybe we can feel better knowing that Jesus has already won the battle. Whatever we face whilst here on earth the Devil is defeated and we get to spend forever with Jesus the Prince of princes who has won the ultimate contest.

**Pray:**

Lord thank you that you sent your Son for me. Please help me worry less and praise you more. Amen.

**Action:**

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