

THE 2300 DAYS

In the 8th chapter of Daniel is an astounding prophecy. Some believe it was fulfilled in 1844. Others say in 165 B.C. by Antiochus Epiphanes. Daniel could not understand it! It was sealed from human comprehension "until the time of the end" — this 20th century!

by Herman L. Hoeh

THE MOMENT has come to reveal an astonishing, yet little-known prophecy for "the latter days" — this 20th century! Few churches ever speak of it. Most scholars admit they do not understand it.

But God's time has come to reveal it!

Sealed Until NOW

Did you know that the book of Daniel, in your Bible, was closed to human understanding until these latter days?

Daniel was commanded: "... shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end..." Again we read: "... for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and cried; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (Dan. 12:4, 9-10).

Now open your Bible to Daniel 8. Here is a vital prophecy for our time. Notice particularly verse 26. Daniel is commanded "... shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days" — far into the future. Daniel "was astonished at the vision, but none understood it" (verse 27, last part).

This prophecy was not meant to be understood till the time of the end. Today the wise shall understand. This is God's promise.

Time Setting of the Prophecy

Notice the setting of the prophecy in Daniel 8. It is the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king of Babylon, about 550 B.C. Daniel is given a vision while at Shushan in the palace in the province of Elam (Dan. 8:1-2). Here is what he sees in the vision:

"Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great" (verses 3 and 4).

Here is a mysterious "ram." What does this ram symbolize?

Notice God's explanation, revealed in verse 20! "The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia"!

This ram symbolized *the Medo-Persian Empire*. It destroyed the Kingdom of Babylon in the autumn of 539 B.C. It ruled to 331 B.C.

But this is only the beginning of the prophecy. Now read verse 5:

"And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes."

What is the Bible explanation of this mysterious symbol? "And the rough goat is *the king of Grecia*: and the great horn that is between his eyes is *the first king*" (verse 21).

This is not man's interpretation. This is the Bible's own explanation of its symbols.

These symbols were revealed to Daniel. He was inspired to write them in Scripture so that we today can understand the important TIME SETTING of this end-time prophecy. Notice the verse-by-verse movement of time. The

ram — the Medo-Persian Empire — came on the world scene in the autumn, 539 B.C. It ruled until 331 B.C.

Then the Greco-Macedonian Empire came on the scene with its first great king, Alexander the Great (verses 6 and 7). The final conquest of the Medo-Persian Empire by Alexander the Great occurred in 331 B.C.

Understand what this means. By the end of verse 7 we have moved in history from 539 B.C. to the time of Alexander the Great.

Continue, now, with verse 8. "... the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven."

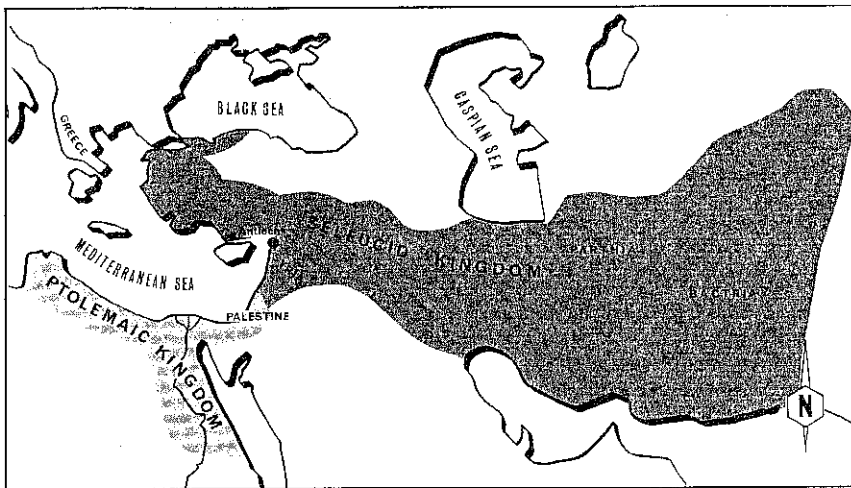
Remember, the great horn in the goat's head symbolized the "first king" of the Greco-Macedonian Empire. That was Alexander the Great. But this horn was suddenly "broken"! Alexander the Great died suddenly of a fever in Babylon in 323 B.C., about thirty-three years of age!

Then what followed in time sequence?

Continuing in verse 8: "For it [that is, "in its place" after Alexander's death — after 323 B.C.] came up four notable ones [four other horns] toward the four winds of heaven" — in more modern English, in the four directions of the compass. The Bible interpretation of this verse is found in verse 22:

"Now that being broken," — Alexander the Great being dead — "whercoas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power."

Alexander's Empire was divided among his generals after his death. By



The Kingdom of the North, prophesied in Daniel 11, was at first a Greek Empire with its capital in Syria.

301 B.C. *four* generals divided the Empire, fulfilling this verse of the prophecy. In the South — Egypt — ruled Ptolemy. Syria — the North and East — was held by Seleucus.

The Northwest — Thrace — was under the control of Lysimachus. Macedonia, in the far West, was dominated by Cassander.

Later, in 281 B.C. Seleucus overthrew Lysimachus and completely controlled the North. Thereafter the two dominant areas of the Empire were the Kingdom of the South, under the Ptolemies, and the Kingdom of the North under the Seleucidae. The struggles between these two kingdoms — down to our day, this 20th century — is made plain in the longest prophecy in the Bible — Daniel 11.

Consider again the vital time setting of this prophecy. It commenced with the Medo-Persian Empire which lasted until 331 B.C. Then the Greco-Macedonian Empire came on the scene with its first king, Alexander the Great. In 323 B.C. Alexander died at the age of 33. Alexander's Empire was divided into four major parts — verse 22. None of these parts was as strong as the whole kingdom had been under Alexander the Great. The time setting of the four divisions of Alexander's Empire, foretold in this prophecy, brings us to the date 301 B.C.!

The rest of the prophecy therefore *cannot begin before* this date!

Now notice what is to happen next on the world scene — *after* 301 B.C.

A Prophecy for the Latter Time!

Turn in your Bible to verse 9: "And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land."

Look at this verse again. Here a "little horn" appears, coming out of one of the four divisions of Alexander's Empire. *This "little horn" therefore cannot have arisen before 301 B.C. because not until then was the fourfold division of Alexander's Empire settled!*

Notice that again! "*Out of one of them came forth a little horn!*" Out of one of the four! The prophecy will later disclose out of which one!

Whatever this mysterious horn symbolizes, whatever this little horn does on the world scene, must occur *AFTER* the death of Alexander the Great — and after the division of his empire in 301 B.C. into four parts!

We come now to the climax of this astounding vision.

Daniel is told: "*... for at the time of the end shall be the vision*" (verse 17). The vision of "the little horn" is for the time of the end! The same time setting is recorded also in verse 23, "*And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full...*"

Who — what — does this "little horn" symbolize?

The "Little Horn"

Some think Antiochus Epiphanes. Others think it is pagan or papal Rome,

or both. But what does the Bible say? What is the Bible's own interpretation of its symbols?

Notice the Bible explanation!

"... a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty ... and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace [the margin says "prosperity"] shall destroy many: HE SHALL ALSO STAND UP AGAINST THE PRINCE OF PRINCES; but he shall be broken without hand" (verses 23-25).

There is the answer! Could anything be more astounding!

Look at this prophecy again. It is a prophecy for the last days. The little horn symbolizes "a king" — a ruler — who shall arise "in the latter time of their kingdom" (verse 23). Not immediately after the fourfold division of Alexander's empire — but in the "latter time" of human misrule. This "little horn" — this ruler — this mortal man stands up *against the Prince of princes* — that is Christ at His second coming!

Here is a great Gentile world ruler who stands up against Christ and is supernaturally destroyed — "without hand" — not by human hand but by divine intervention in human affairs.

The Bible interprets this "little horn" as a *great ruler who shall exist at the second coming of Christ!* He comes on the scene when world transgression — world sin — has reached its climax (Daniel 8:23).

This "little horn" of Daniel 8 is described again in Revelation 17:14. There we read that he makes war with the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and the Lamb shall overcome him and his allies. This "little horn" does the same thing as the final "beast" of Revelation 17!

What the "Little Horn" Will Do

Continue with this amazing prophecy for the latter days! "And it [the little horn] waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. Yea, he magnified himself even to the Prince of the host, and *by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down*" (Dan. 8:10-11).

The next verse — 12 — is not clearly

translated in the King James Version. It reads: "And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression" — the margin reads: "the host was given over for the transgression against the daily sacrifice" — "and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered."

A clearer rendering of verse 12 is found in the Jewish translation: "And the host was given over to it [the little horn] together with the continual burnt-offering through transgression..." (*The Holy Scriptures*, Jewish Publication Society).

Many have attempted to interpret these mysterious symbols out of their own human reasoning. They have tried to read into the Bible meanings that are not there. Let THE BIBLE interpret the Bible!

The explanation of verse 10 is revealed in verse 24: "And his [the little horn's] power shall be mighty." That's the explanation of the first part of verse 10: "it waxed great."

To continue with verse 24: "But not by his own power." This king will not accomplish his great deeds by his own strength. Revelation 17:17 reveals why. Ten lesser kings *give their military power and strength* "unto the Beast."

This little horn (Dan. 8:24) "shall destroy wonderfully" — shall have marvelous, frightening military powers — "...and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people" (verse 24).

Here is a persecuting power, a union of church and state, which destroys the hosts — armies — of the "mighty people" — God's people Israel. That includes not only the Jews, the House of Judah, but the whole English-speaking world — the House of Israel, the so-called "Lost Ten Tribes"! Where Israel is today is made plain in our astounding book, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. Write for it.

The "little horn" also persecutes the true Church — the "holy people" — who shall shine in the resurrection like the stars of heaven. (Compare Dan. 8:10 and 24 with Dan. 12:3.)

Verse 25 continues to explain verse 11, and so on.

But what about the "daily sacrifice" — the "continual burnt-offering" — that is to be taken away? Where is the "sanctuary" that is to be cast down? What do these symbolize? What do they mean?

Two Common Opinions

One opinion — found in most Bible commentaries on Daniel 8 — is that Antiochus Epiphanes (died 163 B.C.) is the "little horn." The "sanctuary" is assumed to be the Second Temple in Jerusalem. The daily sacrifice the Levitical offerings.

Antiochus did indeed prohibit the daily sacrifice — from 168-165 B.C. He defiled the Temple with an idol of Jupiter Olympus, and offered swine's blood upon the altar. He burnt as many scrolls of the Law as he could lay hands on. He attempted to stamp out the truth. But he did *not* fulfill this prophecy of the "little horn" — except, perhaps, as a forerunner.

Antiochus Epiphanes died long ago — in 163 B.C. The ruler symbolized by the "little horn" is to be alive at the second coming of Jesus Christ. He comes on the world scene in the "latter days" when human transgression — sin and suffering — is to reach its climax. He is to stand up and resist Christ at His second coming! Antiochus Epiphanes came over two thousand years too early to fulfill this prophecy! He is not the "little horn."

Another opinion has it that the "little horn" is pagan and/or papal Rome. Those who hold this view believe the "sanctuary" is not on earth, but in heaven — that it is God's throne. The daily sacrifice, according to this view, is the work Christ has been performing in heaven as High Priest.

Is *this* the Bible explanation?

NOT Heavenly Sanctuary!

Turn to Daniel 8:11. See the *Bible* answer with your own eyes: "Yea, he [the "little horn"] magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down."

The margin in the King James Version provides an alternative rendering.

Instead of "by him" — meaning the "little horn" — it has "from him" — meaning the Prince of the host. The original inspired Hebrew can be translated both ways into English. Either translation is correct.

But notice what this scripture says! The daily sacrifice is to be taken away! The sanctuary is to be cast down! Now consider: *If* the daily sacrifice is, as some believe, the daily work of Christ in heaven, then a mortal man — the "little horn" — would have power to intervene *in heaven* and *stop the work of Jesus Christ!*

Further, *if* the "sanctuary" were in heaven, he would have the power to "cast down" the sanctuary — the very throne of God in heaven!

IMPOSSIBLE!

No man can stop Jesus Christ from performing His work in heaven! No man — no ruler — not even the devil himself — can cast down the throne of God and profane His Holy Sanctuary!

Then what is the meaning of this astounding prophecy for our day?

The Bible Answer

First read verses 13 and 14 of Daniel 8:

"Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, 'How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?' And he said unto me, 'Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.'"

Another enigma!

This answer to this mysterious time period was hidden from Daniel's understanding — was not to be revealed until the latter days!

This is a prophecy for our day — this climactic 20th century!

Some have tried to explain this prophecy before God's time came to reveal it! Those who assume the "sanctuary" is in heaven claim that this vision of "2300 days" commenced in 457 B.C. and ended in A.D. 1844. (They say that the "2300 days" represent 2300 years in fulfillment.) They further insist that the "sanctuary" that was cast down — the

Holy of Holies in heaven itself — God's very throne — was to be "cleansed" beginning in 1844.

Is the date 457 B.C. the beginning date for the "2300 days"?

Notice the Bible answer from this 8th chapter of Daniel:

The Medo-Persian Empire — the "ram" in this prophecy — ruled the world until 331 B.C. Then Alexander came on the scene. He died in 323 B.C., after which his empire in 301 B.C., after which his empire in 301 B.C., was divided into four parts. Out of one of the four divisions of Alexander's Empire is to rise the little horn "*in the latter days*"! It is the little horn which takes away the daily sacrifice and casts down the sanctuary! Whatever the little horn is to do for "2300 days" cannot have begun *until after the division of Alexander's Empire into four parts!* But 457 B.C. is over a century and a half too early! That date cannot be the commencement of the "2300 days"!

The date 457 B.C. is the commencement of *another* prophecy altogether — the "seventy weeks" prophecy in Daniel 9:25. The year 457 B.C. marks the commencement of Daniel's prophecy of "seventy weeks" which led to the first coming of Jesus Christ! *That prophecy has nothing directly to do with the prophecy recorded here in Daniel 8!*

The prophecy of Daniel 9 is not the explanation of the "2300 days." The prophecy in chapter 9 was *explained* to Daniel. (See verse 23.) The prophecy in chapter 8 was sealed from human understanding until this "time of the end." Daniel did not understand it (verse 27 of chapter 8).

But notice further. The little horn *takes away* the daily sacrifice for "2300 days." Was any daily sacrifice — whether on earth or in heaven — taken away from 457 B.C. until 1844?

No!

Did a king — or even a line of kings, the Roman Emperors or the Popes for example — for 2300 years prevent the daily sacrifice from being offered? Did pagan or papal Rome for 2300 years — from 457 B.C. to 1844 A.D. — cast down the sanctuary of God?

Of course not! *The Jews were offering the daily sacrifice almost con-*

tinuously from the days of Ezra and Nehemiah until the Jews were driven out of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

But, it is insisted, the sanctuary was not on earth but in heaven!

Granted that the earthly sanctuary was a type of the heavenly sanctuary, God's throne. But what king or power has ever cast down God's throne in heaven for 2300 years?

First, notice the last part of Daniel 8:13. The "sanctuary" is to be "trodden underfoot"! Has any kingdom, any power ever trodden underfoot God's heavenly sanctuary for 2300 years?

Certainly not!

The Bible itself proves that this amazing prophecy has nothing to do with a heavenly sanctuary. Nor was it fulfilled from 457 B.C. to 1844!

Then what does the prophecy of the "2300 days" really mean?

A Common Misunderstanding

Notice Daniel 8:26, "And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true..." The vision of "2300 days" is actually called in the Scripture "*the vision of the evening and the morning.*" Why?

Turn in your Bibles to verse 14 of chapter 8. In most Bibles you will find a marginal note for the word "days." This note reveals that the original Hebrew of the word "days" is "evening morning." This prophecy is *not* referring to 24-hour days but to evenings and mornings — *the evening and morning sacrifice!* According to verse 11 the little horn takes away the *daily sacrifice*. The daily sacrifice was offered in the evening and in the morning. See Lev. 6:9 and 12.

Daniel 8:14 is a *mistranslation* in the text of the King James Version, though it is correct in the margin. The Revised Standard Version reads, "for two thousand three hundred evenings and mornings."

In other words, here is a prophecy that two thousand three hundred evening and morning sacrifices would cease to be offered. Since the daily sacrifice was offered *twice a day*, this prophecy is actually speaking of one thousand one hundred fifty (1150) days. In 1150 days there would be exactly two thou-

sand three hundred sacrifices offered at evening and morning.

The Jewish *Soncino Commentary*, by Dr. Judah J. Slotki, comments on this verse: "...the numeral refers to the number of times the offerings, normally brought twice daily, will be omitted, giving a total period of 1,150 days..."

At the end of this 1150-day period the sanctuary is to be "cleansed" or "justified." This prophecy is yet to be fulfilled! That's why it was shut up and sealed from human understanding until our time. It was not for God's people or the world until these latter days!

Some scholars have contended that this prophecy of the taking away of the evening and morning sacrifice has already been fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes. This is NOT TRUE!

Notice why: what happened to the daily sacrifice in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes (168-165 B.C.) was *only a type* of what is yet to occur! The wicked deeds of Antiochus Epiphanes are recorded in Daniel 11:31. He polluted the ancient sanctuary. He took away the daily sacrifice, *but not for exactly 1150 days.*

Daniel 11:31 is not referring to the same event described in Daniel 8. Notice especially in Daniel 11 that the latter days do not commence until verse 40. "And at the *time of the end...*" That's in this generation, almost two thousand years *after* the days of Antiochus Epiphanes.

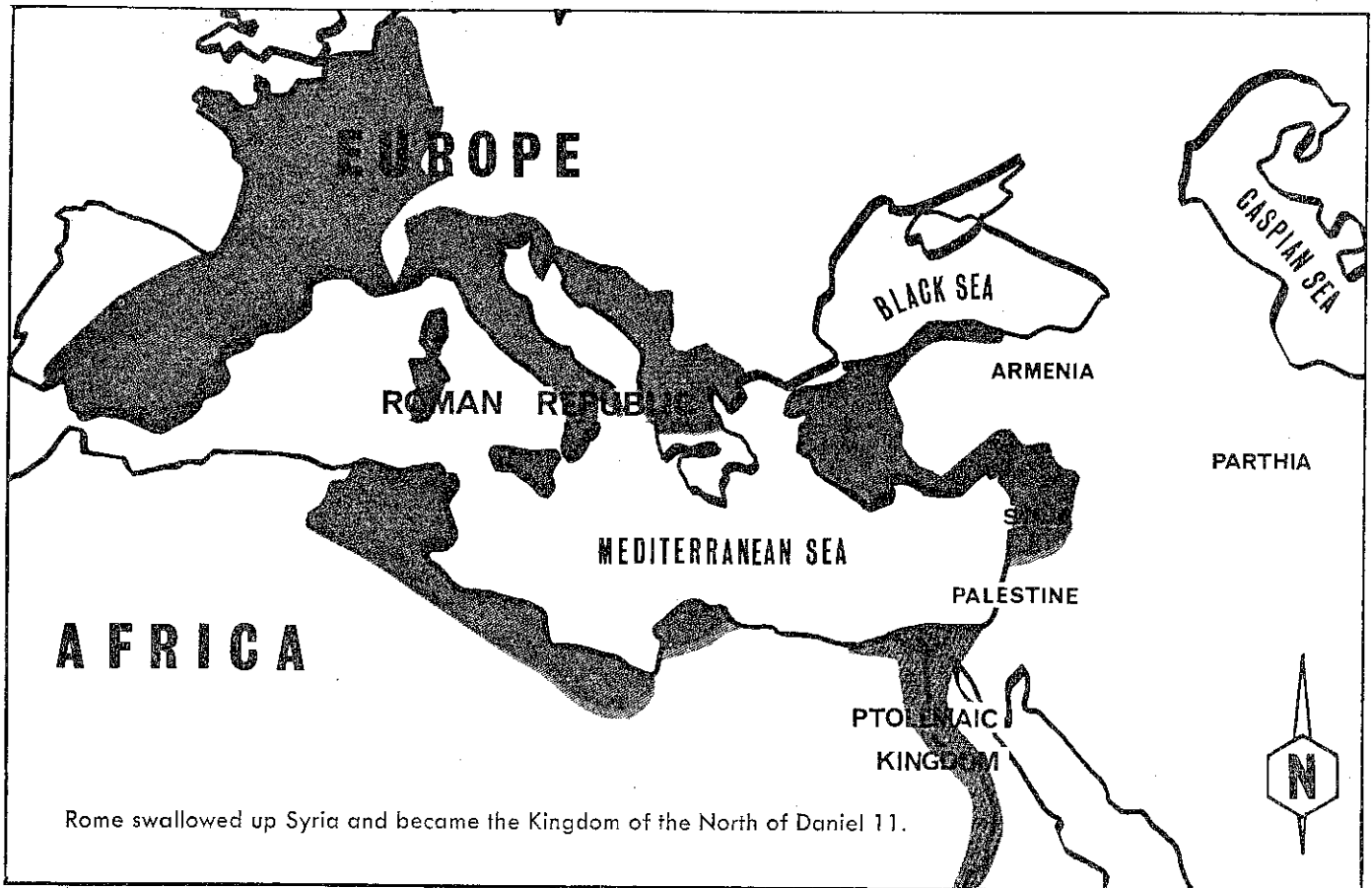
Now consider *who* the "little horn" in this prophecy is.

The King of the North

The little horn in Daniel 8 is none other than the *last king* of one of the four divisions of Alexander's Empire. He is, in fact, the final "King of the North" described in Daniel 11.

When Alexander's Empire was divided into four parts General Seleucus obtained the area *north* of Palestine. He made Syria, which lies to the north of Palestine, the center of his kingdom. (See map on page 2.) The story of that kingdom is not recorded in Daniel 8. That prophecy skips all intervening time to our day. But the missing centuries are recorded in Daniel 11.

Here is what happened. The "King-



dom of the North" was originally Syria — north of Palestine. *But Syria was soon swallowed up by Rome.* (See above map.) The Roman system of government became the "Kingdom of the North." It has existed to our time in Europe. In the Middle Ages it was called the Holy Roman Empire. Its amazing history is described in Daniel 11:36-41. (The entire 11th chapter of Daniel is explained in the article "Middle East in Prophecy.")

In Daniel 11 the last King of the North is pictured as occupying "the glorious land" Palestine (verse 41). This is the same region that the "little horn" of Daniel 8 is yet to control *in our day!*

In Palestine the final King of the North "shall come to his end, and none shall help him" (Dan. 11:45). The "little horn" of Daniel 8 also comes to his end in Palestine when he stands up against the "Prince of princes" (Dan. 8:25). Both these prophecies refer to the same event!

That "little horn" — the final "king of the north" — is about to manifest himself on the world scene!

The Final Fulfillment

This amazing prophecy of the 2300 evenings and mornings is yet to be fulfilled in our day. A great crisis is yet to occur in Palestine. [This was written in 1960. That crisis exploded on the world in June, 1967, when the Jews captured Old Jerusalem.] After 1900 years a part of the tribe of Judah — the Jews — has come back to Palestine. In their war of independence in 1948, they gained control of the new part of Jerusalem, but the Arabs still hold the old part. [This was written, we remind you, in 1960. Now the next step of the prophecy has been fulfilled — the Jews are in Old Jerusalem and in possession of the temple site.] Not only Jerusalem, but the whole Near East is an armed camp, likely to explode at any moment.

Daniel 8 indicates that in the very near future we shall see literally fulfilled the mysterious prophecy of the "daily sacrifice" with the "sanctuary" restored before our very eyes.

Both the Arabs and the Jews claim Old Jerusalem. *To build a temple there is the hope and dream of religious Jews the world over.* If this were to be done,

sacrifices would be started again. This offering of sacrifices is prophesied — compare Matthew 24:15 with Daniel 11:31.

Then will come World War III and the occupation of Palestine and Jerusalem.

There is no direct indication of how long sacrifices will be offered, but they are to be abolished for exactly 1150 days by a great False Prophet spoken of in Dan. 8:11, "...he magnified himself even against the Prince of the Host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away and the place of his sanctuary was cast down." Then this same False Prophet will sit on a throne in this same temple claiming to be God (II Thes. 2:3-5). We are very close to the fulfillment of these momentous end-time prophecies which will usher in Christ's coming in all power and glory.

These things are a warning to *you*, because Jesus said: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place... then let them which be in Judaea flee into the moun-

tains . . . pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And EXCEPT THOSE DAYS SHOULD BE SHORTENED, THERE SHOULD *NO FLESH BE SAVED [ALIVE]*" . . . (Matt. 24: 15-22). That means *you PERSONALLY*.

A great European Church-State union will be in control of Palestine and the whole Western World. It will prohibit the truth. It will "cast down the truth to the ground." It will practice and prosper!

It will persecute and martyr God's Holy people. It will be allowed to tread Jerusalem underfoot and *to prohibit* "the daily sacrifice" at the sanctuary for 1150 days. It will substitute its own, *abominable, idolatrous rites* in place of the evening and morning sacrifice.

The Gentiles will tread down Jerusalem for *1260 days* (Rev. 11:2 — a period which includes the 1150 days. It is the time of the *two witnesses* who will prophesy from Jerusalem, probably with the facilities of radio. They will speak for 1260 days, then be killed, and — just *immediately before the RETURN OF*

CHRIST — be raised from the dead in the sight of the people!

God will suddenly intervene in human affairs. He will put an end to this wicked idolatrous system. "The sanctuary *shall be* cleansed."

We are very near the fulfillment of these amazing prophecies. It is time we wake up to world events and free ourselves from fables and traditions begun more than a century ago! It's time we believe the Bible and not false teachers! It's time we asked God for wisdom and ask Him to lead us and to show us *His truth!*