

DANIEL 8

1. What kind of things are you concerned or fearful of that Daniel 8 helps you process?
2. Alexander the Great's achievement was stunning in a number of ways. It came unraveled just as fast. What are some of the lessons of that era?
3. In Antiochus Epiphanes (vs 9-14, 23-27), we have seen something that is related to events that occur when earth's kingdoms are about to be brought to an end by Jesus. From Daniel 8, what are some of the things that we should be expecting in our culture if we are nearing the end?
4. Since earth's kingdoms are at God's disposal, what role should we play in our democracy in matters of justice and injustice, morality and immorality and the like?
5. As you look back on your life, would you say you are able to pray with the right spirit for our nation's leaders, whether your party is in power or not?

FOR MORE UNDERSTANDING

Covid is a legitimate concern for all people at this moment in history. Stewardship of our planet is a matter of concern. People-needs are overwhelming among the seven-billion-plus inhabitants of the earth. There are so many grave concerns and the resources and understanding to address them limits us.

Without minimizing any of these and the host of other needs that are pressing, read Revelation 6. It is short, only 17 verses. It lays out a series of events that will happen in a three-and-a-half year period, approximately seven years before Christ returns to rule the earth. The things spoken of in this account are not meant to frighten us. They are given to make us wise, reverent and respectful toward God. They are given to help us trust Him in all such trial. He will be near, and very near in such hard and difficult things.

The events of Revelation 6, will come on us one after another. Again, not to minimize the events of the present time, but the things mentioned in these few verses will make all previous trial and tribulation seem like nothing (Matthew 24:21). These fearful events will signal even worse things ahead before Jesus returns to reign.

Many of the events are human-caused. Many are actions of God. All are meant to humble humanity and turn their thoughts to God for rescue. Many will do so. Many will drift further away.

All trial is meant to ground us in Him and lead us out of our mediocrity. Are you different in the really important ways because of Covid? Are you drifting?