

1. The "host" (people of Israel) in verse 12 will be given over to the horn (Antiochus Epiphanes) with the daily or regular sacrifice.
2. He would then be able to substitute a heathen worship.
3. The phrase "by reason of the transgression" is connected to the daily sacrifices and are given over to his power in order to permit him to transgress God.
4. Having described the activities of Antiochus, Daniel now records an interesting conversation in verse 13.
5. The holy one/angel's question is, "How long would temple worship cease and the persecution of the saints described in Daniel's vision continue?"
6. No services would be held in the temple because it would be defiled by Antiochus, and idols would be set up in the temple.
7. The "holy one" desired to also know the duration of this period of desolation.
8. The answer is found in verse 14 when the holy one/angel spoke to Daniel instead.
9. The interpretation and fulfillment of this passage is seen as an important and key component to the overall chapter.
10. It is important to also understand that Daniel 8:14 is not connected to Daniel 7:25, Daniel 9:27 or 12:11-12 because they do not describe the activities of Antiochus Epiphanes.
11. The period of time covered by the 2300 days would be 6 years and 4 months.
12. What period of time does this cover? It began in 171 B.C. and culminated in 164 B.C. when Antiochus Epiphanes was killed in a military campaign - this allowed for the re-consecration of the sanctuary.
13. Today the Jews celebrate the Feast of Hanukkah ("dedication") to commemorate this event. (John 10:22)
14. Beginning in verse 15 and continuing through verse 25 we find the interpreter and the interpretation of the vision.
15. While Daniel was gazing at the vision, "trying to understand it," suddenly he was confronted by an imposing figure who had the appearance of "a man." It would appear this that this was probably God.
16. Verse 16 contains the first instance in Scripture where a holy angel is designated by name. Gabriel is a prominent angel, also appearing to Zechariah, who was the father of John the Baptist (Luke 1:19) and to Mary (Luke 1:26).

17. Daniel does not seem to have feared the angels (7:16) - not even Gabriel (9:21) - but in v. 17 he appears to be extremely terrified and fell on his face. Such fear is characteristic of those who have found themselves in the presence of the holy God. (Isaiah 6:5; Ezekiel 1:28)
18. The archangel Michael is the only other holy angel mentioned by name. (Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7)
19. Gabriel approached Daniel in verse 17 to interpret the vision, but the prophet was “terrified” and fell upon his face. This reaction most likely was due to the presence of God in the place (“one who looked like a man,” v. 15), not the fear of Gabriel.
20. Difficulty is also found in the last phrase of verse 17 - “the time of the end.” What then is the correct interpretation of verses 20-25?
21. The entire chapter is historically fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes but also foreshadows typically the future world ruler (the “Antichrist”) who will dominate the situation at the end of the times of the Gentiles.
22. Details of the vision are now explained to Daniel beginning in verse 20.
23. It is interesting in this verse to see as the term “king” is used to denote both a kingdom (“king of Greece”) and an individual (its first “king” - Alexander).
24. Also interesting is the accuracy of the prophecy in v. 22 - that none of the four kingdoms ever attained the power of Alexander’s empire.
25. Verses 23–26 are the heart of the vision and the reason for the revelation to Daniel.
26. What Daniel learns in Daniel 8:23–27 relates to the end times when Antichrist will oppose God and God’s people.
27. If you compare verses 23–27 with verses 9–14, you will see that the characteristics and career of Antiochus parallel those of the Antichrist.
28. Daniel was completely overcome by the interpretation of this vision. For several days he was unable to carry on his official business.
29. The emphasis of chapter 8 is on prophecy as it relates to Israel - and for this reason - the little horn is given prominence both in the vision and in the interpretation.
30. Israel also saw great persecution during the times of the Gentiles.
31. Of the four world empires anticipated by Daniel - only the Persian empire was relatively kind to the Jews.
32. As Christ Himself indicated in Luke 21:24 - the times of the Gentiles is characterized by the treading down of Jerusalem, scattering of the Jews, and persecution of the people of Israel.