

Persian Vision

I. Slide#1-3 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#4 Children at risk mtg: next week, Guest...*Destiny Rescue*. They *rescue/restore/protect/empower* children from exploitation & HT. *Come & Learn more about how you can help.*
- B. Slide#5 Ladies Summer Social: Sign up for head count, we're providing bbq chicken, drinks. *You* bring side dish or dessert. Sherri Youngward/Gia Lucid. Tues night July 21st.
- C. Slide#6 Harvest Crusade Aug 28-30

II. Slide#7 **Intro: Persian Vision**

- A. All of us have that within our nature which desires to *know something of the future*. This sometimes has caused unwise speculation and even wild schemes.
 1. God has wisely **concealed** from us details concerning that which is *yet to come*, but he has given us **certain assurances**. *He is in control of the future.*
 2. Slide#8a *We do not* always know what the future holds but we know **who** holds our future. We can *serve Him* w/assurance that *the victory* will be ours in the end.
 3. Slide#8b An **army** does not have to *win every battle* to *win the war*.
 4. There will, at last, be an **end** to those *who oppose God* and *His way of life*.
 - a) Those who *rebel against God* and *set themselves against the divine will* are doomed. Judgment has already been pronounced against them. The righteous will survive and be vindicated.
- B. In this next vision we have moved from **wild** beasts to *domesticated* beasts.
- C. *Let's look at a Lopsided Ram, a Hairy He-Goat, Little Horn Syndrome, a Famous Angel, an Infamous Antichrist, & a Disturbed Daniel.*

III. Slide#9 **A LOPSIDED RAM (1-4) Medo-Persia**

- A. (1) 2 years after the vision in ch.7.
- B. (2) A vision in **Persia**, *yet* during the reign of **Babylon**.
 1. **Sushan/Susa** is also where **Esther** would intercede for the lives of her people.
 2. This also is where **Nehemiah** would serve as cupbearer to king Artaxerxes Neh1:1
- C. (3) **Persia** arose after **Media** but eventually took over the superior role.
- D. (4) The Persian army was **2 million** soldiers strong.
 1. They expanded **west** to Macedonia, **north** past the Caspian Sea, & **south** through Egypt.

2. Slide#10 For about 200 years **The Ram Ruled the World...until** a deadly blow of a *head-butt* from the West.

IV. Slide#11 **A HAIRY HE-GOAT (5-8) Greece**

- A. (5-8) **A notable horn between his eyes** – Alexander the Great.
 1. Alex was told by his mother, that his father (Philip of Macedon) had descended from **Hercules** (I think he believed it).
 2. Alex conquered Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, & Mesopotamia w/unprecedented speed.
 3. W/in 3 years crushed all of Persia, converted the culture to Hellenism, & pushed to India.
 4. **One foe he couldn't defeat was alcoholism**. He died at age 33 in 323 bc, from a fever brought on by **Malaria** & complications from **alcoholism**.
- B. Then, the **large horn was broken** (8) - Alex didn't last long.
- C. Slide#12 (8) **4 notable ones** – The 4 generals.
 1. **Cassander** (Ca-Sander) – took Macedonia & Greece. [green on map]
 2. **Lysimachus** (lie-SIM-a-chus) – Thrace, & parts of Asia Minor. [peach on map]
 3. **Ptolemy** (Tol-emy) – Egypt & parts of Asia Minor. [dark blue on map]
 4. **Seleuces** (Sel-EU-cis) – Syria, Israel & Mesopotamia. [yellow on map]
 5. These generals & their successors would battle for total control, **but** never rise to the level of power that Alexander had (22).
- D. Slide#13 We're going to keep our eye on the *Seleucid Dynasty* for out if it would sprout **the little horn**.

V. Slide#14 **LITTLE HORN SYNDROME (5-8) Antiochus IV Epiphanes** [ruled 175-163 bc]

- A. **A little horn** w/a severe case of *little man syndrome*.
- B. Slide#15 His name means **Illustrious One** (which explains the size of his ego)
 1. **The Jews used a play on words & called him Epimandes, the Madman.**
- C. (9) He invaded Palestine (**The Glorious Land**).
- D. (11,12) He defiled the Jewish temple & put the Jews under bondage.
 1. **He is a picture of the world ruler to come, the Antichrist** (23-25).
 2. W.A.Criswell talks about his terrible deeds: (read pg.100 Swindoll)
- E. (13,14) **2300 days**, or better, *evening & morning sacrifices*.

1. So 2300 sacrifices @ 2 a day = 1,150 days **or** for a little over 3 years he will shut down temple worship & terrorize the Jewish people.
2. Which did last for **3 years**, from **167bc** (when Antiochus defiled the Temple) to **Dec.14th 164bc** (The Maccabean revolt).

F. Lets run back the clock:

1. **Slide#16 Judea** fell between the anvil & the hammer of **Syria & Egypt** (at this time many Jews were established in Egypt & so the Septuagint translation (LXX) of the OT was begun in 285bc)
2. **Slide#17 Antiochus** on a raid to get **Egypt** was stopped, as the Roman Senate stepped in & forced them back.
3. With this near-conquest of Egypt, which led to a confrontation that became an origin of the metaphorical phrase, "*line in the sand*".
4. **On the return** to **Syria**, while passing through **Israel**, he ordered his generals to destroy **Jerusalem**.
5. **Antiochus** offers a **sow** upon the great altar & erected an altar to **Zeus**.
 - a) He sprinkled its **blood** in the Holy of Holies, & poured its **broth** over the sacred scrolls before cutting them to pieces & burning them.
6. **The Syrian army went even farther erecting altars in different cities, having Jews sacrifice a pig & then command them to eat its flesh...until they ran into Mattathias.**
 - a) In the city of **Modi'in** (17m. NW of Jer) they asked the gray haired Mattathias to, he refused, an apostate Jewish priest asked to do it. Matt grabbed the soldiers sword killed him & the apostate, his 4 boys jump in killing the rest, & they and others flee to the Judean mountains. [read 1st Maccabee's in your Catholic Bible]
 - b) **Slide#18** This faithful band grew, engaging in *guerrilla warfare* against the Syrian army outposts. Matt's son **Judah** took over the campaign. He became known as the **Maccabee (the hammer?)**
 - c) Imagine their horror seeing the Temple for the 1st time in 3 years. *defiled, desecrated, a huge statute to Zeus in the middle.*
 - d) **Slide#19** 3 years to the day when the Temple was defiled they were able to rededicate it. They found 1 small cruse of unpolluted oil (for the lampstand) in an unbroken seal of the high priest. It was only 1 day's supply, **but** miraculously lasted for 8 days, hence the 8 day feast of lights or **Hanukkah**.

7. He soon after this Antiochus died... *A madman*...he died insane.
8. So these prophecies were fulfilled **precisely & literally**, should we expect the same for the future predictions then?

VI. Slide#20 **A FAMOUS ANGEL (15-22)** *Gabriel*

A. **The Interpretation** (15-22)

1. (16) First reference to **Gabriel** in the Bible. [**Gabriel** = champion of God]
2. (17,19) **The vision refers to the time of the end...the latter time** - This vision had *a double meaning, a double fulfillment*.
 - a) The **near** fulfillment of the prophecy foreshadows the **far**.
 - b) **Jesus Himself said it was also future**, Mt.24:15 **Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, whoever reads, let him understand.**

VII. Slide#21 **AN INFAMOUS ANTICHRIST (23-26)** *Antichrist's Character*

- A. **Slide#22 David Jeremiah's** Study Bible says, **Antichrist will be: Dramatic** in appearance(23). **Destined** to do evil (23). **Dynamic** in leadership (23). **Demonic** in power (24). **Destructive** in his reign (24). **Deceitful** in his practice (25). He will **Deify** himself(25). He will **Disguise** his cruelty with peace promises (25). **But will be destroyed supernaturally** (25).
- B. (24) But not by his own power – **See** Rev.13:2.
- C. **Slide#23** (25) **w/o human means** – Jesus takes care of him Himself. (Rev.19:19,20)
- D. What **Antiochus** was to the Jews, the **Antichrist** will be to the believers in the Tribulation...& more.
 1. **Just because evil men seem to abound, we shouldn't feel that God is absent or unconcerned.**

VIII. Slide#24 **A DISTURBED DANIEL (27)** *Daniel's Feelings*

- A. **Sealed** (26) meaning conclude it, **not** keep it secret.
- B. **Sick** (27)
 1. Daniel overwhelmed by the vision that he became ill & couldn't work.
 2. He could never be the same again, knowing what God had planned for his people in the future. *If we could see into the future and witness the doom of*

the wicked, we too would be astonished and sick. How does prophecy affect you?

- C. Daniel was **Confused** looking into the **future**; **but** we looking back at it as history, become **Confident** with *this precise fulfillment*.
1. **However**, if **Antioch Epiphanies** is only *a shadow* of what's to come, **what horror** awaits the future?
 2. **Application**: If you knew a **Tornado** was coming, the best things to do would be: **Slide#25** **Keep informed, Stay prepared, & Warn your neighbors**.
 - a) **Keep informed**: read up on what is coming.
 - b) **Stay prepared**: by fortifying your relationship with the Lord.
 - c) **Warn your neighbors**: **contrast how dark** the skies are getting, *in comparison to how beautiful* the light of Jesus Christ.