

AN ANTICHRIST BEFORE THE ANTICHRIST

Daniel 8:1-27

I. Expect man's kingdom to war against *itself* (vv. 3-8, 20-22).

II. Expect man's kingdom to war against *Israel* (vv. 9-14, 23-25).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What do you think of the maxim, "Hope for the best, prepare for the worst"? Is this a Christian way of speaking? If so, how does the Christian understand it differently than the world?
2. What is the relation of the vision in Daniel 8 to the vision in Daniel 7?
3. What do the two beasts in Daniel 8 symbolize? Which one defeats the other, and how was this fulfilled in history?
4. Why does the rise and fall of kings and kingdoms make it difficult for God's people to get comfortable in this world? Why is that actually a good thing for God's people?
5. Who is the little horn in Daniel 8, and how is he related to the little horn in Daniel 7?
6. Read 1 John 2:18. How does this help us to understand what Daniel is seeing here, and its relation to us and what we should expect in the future?
7. If the Scriptures teach that the worst is yet to come, why is it wrong to call Christianity pessimistic?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Could I describe in a few brief sentences how Daniel's vision in chapter 8 fits into his vision in chapter 7? Why is it important to understand this?
2. How does the vision in Daniel 8 encourage me to think about the wars and rumors of wars that are a present, inescapable reality?
3. How is hoping for the best actually the best way to prepare for the worst?