

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Vaught Sermon Notes: Daniel

W.O. Vaught Archive

9-5-1982

How God Raised Up an Empire to do His Work

W. O. Vaught

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_daniel



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Liturgy and Worship Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "How God Raised Up an Empire to do His Work" (1982). *Vaught Sermon Notes: Daniel*. 6. https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/vn_daniel/6

This Sermon Notes is brought to you for free and open access by the W.O. Vaught Archive at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vaught Sermon Notes: Daniel by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

HOW GOD RAISED UP AN EMPIRE TO DO HIS WORK

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL
NUMBER 20
DANIEL 8-1-4

Dr. W. O. Vaught, Jr.
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

In the book of Daniel the Chaldean language is used from Daniel 2:4 through Chapter 7. Here in chapter eight we revert to Hebrew. The reason for this is that this section beginning in Chapter 8 refers to the history of Israel. When anywhere in the world people go on positive volition at the point of God-consciousness, God sees to it that they receive the Gospel. This has been the history of evangelism and from time to time in world history positive volition has popped up in different nations and among different races. It might be North Africa or China or India or Europe or the British Isles.

(Illustration -- In Scotland there was a young man by the name of Patrick. He was captured by some Irish pirates and was sold to some sheep herders. He escaped and made his way back to Scotland and was saved. He remembered those wild Irish people after his salvation, and he decided to go back and work among them. He was not Irish and he had no connection with the Roman Catholic Church. He turned into one of the greatest missionaries that ever lived and he won many to Christ. Tradition has made Saint Patrick out of him and we celebrate St. Patrick's day, but he was not a saint nor an Irishman and had no connection with the Roman Church. Possibly on his birthday we should wear the plaid and not the green for he was a Scotsman and not an Irishman.)

Positive volition hit the Chinese in the sixth century and as a result the Nestorians went to China and had one of the greatest revivals of all times. As a result millions of Chinese were saved. When we get to the 19th century we see great revivals in India and Africa, and the British sent out thousands of missionaries in the greatest era of missionary activity of all times. So positive volition moves from place to place over the world. God always sees to it that people who go on positive volition will have a chance to hear the gospel and be saved. In every generation God opens doors and missionaries go in and people are saved. The local church is the basis for missionary activity today. It takes stabilized churches, churches true to the Word of God, in order for the missionary movement to go forward.

In the first dispensation the family was the unit responsible for missionary activity. Back there we see the missionary family of Seth and Cain. One a missionary for righteousness, the other a missionary for evil. The Bible traces these two families along so we can get the proper conception of missions. Then Satan came along and started to promote internationalism and the first U N building was destroyed and peoples were scattered all over the world. Then the Lord selected a nation to be responsible for missionary activity and thus we have The Age of The Jews. This nation was founded on regeneration and not natural generation like all other nations. Abraham was a Gentile, but he became a Jew by regeneration, and Hebrew means "the one who crossed over." Abraham's title as a missionary was "Hebrew," the one who crossed over the river. Missions was born when he crossed those rivers. Then the period of the Patriarchs moved on into the period of the law. So the history of the Jewish age is in three parts --

1. The period of the Patriarchs
2. The period of the law
(here we jump over the church age - Jews are out under discipline)
3. The final period, called The Tribulation

Now in the Jewish age the Patriarchs failed in their missionary obligations, so God let them cool their heels down in Egypt for 400 years. Then when they came out of bondage he gave them a solid foundation for their missionary stability -- namely, The Mosaic Law.

1. Codex 1 -- The fact that all men are spiritually bankrupt and all men need a Savior.
2. Codex 2 -- A complete Christology presenting The Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.
3. Codex 3 -- He provided stability for a missionary base.

Now this is the basis of the period of the law during the Jewish age.

Then we have the five cycles of discipline to the Jews to keep them stabilized and humble. In 721 B.C. the ten northern tribes of the Jews were placed under the 5th cycle of discipline by the Assyrians, and they placed the Southern tribes, Judah, under the 4th cycle of discipline. In 586 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar came and destroyed Jerusalem and took them captive to Babylon for seventy years. In 516 B.C. the temple was rebuilt, the Jews were back in the land, and under Bible doctrine they had their golden era. This continued until 323 B.C. and then they began to fall away again and had some periods of revival - but in 64 B.C. they went under the 4th cycle of discipline again. In 70 A.D. Rome destroyed Jerusalem, scattered the Jews all over the world and they have been under that discipline ever since. Now with the Jews scattered all over the earth, God called out a new nation, a spiritual nation, called "The Church." The Jewish race had been founded on regeneration. This is the story of Romans 9:6-14. Abraham was born again and a Jew; his brother, Nahor, a Gentile and not born again. Isaac, the born again son of Abraham - a Jew, but his brother not born again and a Gentile. Jacob was born again and a Jew, Esau not born again and a Gentile. The Jews made up a nation of born again sons, but they soon fell from their birthright. Now the church is also founded on regeneration, while the Jews are out and displaced under the 5th cycle of discipline.

So God has founded a body, a new body. All born again people are members of the body of Christ, and the body is a missionary body representing Christ in the earth. Their mission was to glorify Christ in the earth. The Christian is to witness first with his life, and then is to witness with his lips. This is the subject of 2 Cor. 5. Every believer is a witness, then there are certain ones who are traveling missionaries who are to go to other lands to carry the gospel. Now Romans 9:30-33 tells us how the Jews failed; though they had a marvelous spiritual heritage, they had a minimum number of people saved. The reason is they went on negative volition and became religious and they distorted the law of Moses into a ritualistic system of legalism. By so doing they eliminated themselves as a great missionary force. But the amazing thing of Romans 9 is this -- while you have a minimum number of Jews being born again, you have a maximum number of Gentiles saved without the law. The Jews distorted the law into a ritualistic legalism of self-righteousness and very few Jews were saved. And at the same time a maximum number of Gentiles were saved. They threw up positive volition toward God and God was responsible for giving them the gospel and they heard and believed and were saved. The one thing missing in Romans 9 is that we do not know how these Gentiles heard the saving message. Quite obviously they did not get it from Israel. We have only a few cases of Jewish missionaries. Jonah was an unwilling missionary and even after Nineveh did repent Jonah was sorry about it for it seems that he wanted all of them to be damned. Daniel was probably the greatest Jewish missionary of all times and under his life and ministry many Chaldeans and Persians were born again, including kings and national empire leaders. During that time Persia came into focus and many of them believed in Christ. The Persians had far more born again people than

the Greeks. All of the anti-Christian forces of western Europe came out of Greece and Greek civilization. Human viewpoint is the hallmark of Grecian civilization and this is the liberalism that is about to destroy the world in our day. We can't think in divine viewpoint but we have to think in human viewpoint and this is about to destroy this nation. The influence of Greek culture is about to destroy us today. The people of the Reformation broke from these ideals and they came to this country and the first thing they did was to take the Word of God to the Indians. The first Bible printed in this nation was a Bible printed in the language of the Iroquois Indians. John Elliott led thousands of them to Christ. A great country grew up in this nation. But today there is hardly a student of history who isn't taught to kiss the foot of European culture and bow to it. We are going to study in Daniel 8 how western European culture is going to reach a peak and spread her power out over all the rest of the world and bring to the world the worst period of horror and agony of all times. This 8th chapter of Daniel is going to be lots of fun and it will cut right across our deifying of European culture. The Bible tells us that the Persians were great people. They sponsored the Jews to go back to the land so they might have their golden era. These Persians were fabulous people and their greatness infiltrated all the world and Paul went out to ring the death-knell to Greek culture. God's attitude toward Greek culture is quite clear. It was the stabilizing influence of the Persians that brought the golden age to Israel. The same was true of Great Britain when they sponsored their great Victorian era and missionary activity hardly ever matched before in history, and we call to mind such names as Mary Slessor and David Brainerd, and David Livingstone. In this passage we are to study, the Persian Empire is called The Ram. Then God raised up a goat and the Goat will be the Empire of Alexander The Great. Under Antiochus Epiphanes the Greeks sought to destroy the Jews. But in the midst of all this the Jews got back to the Bible and under Judas Maccabaeus they rose up and freed themselves. But the House of Hasman faded out and Herod married the last of that line. They eventually fell apart and in 70 A.D. it was all over for the Jews.

In verses 1-14 of this chapter we will see the vision of the Ram and the Goat, then verses 15-25 we will see the interpretation of these things.

DANIEL 8:1 "In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first."

So here we have a date. This is the third year of Belshazzar which is 546 B.C. Please notice "Unto me" is repeated three times. Daniel wanted them to know this was a personal message to him. Nabonidus, the father of Belshazzar, went to Tema and lived and left the empire in the hands of Belshazzar. Daniel is going to sit in this palace in his vision and is going to see these things. Daniel is going to have a vision of the importance of missions and how to reach out into the world for Jesus Christ. He will realize how great numbers of Gentiles will be saved and a minimum number of Jews saved. In history very often when the Jews were conquered by outsiders they were amazed to find that the Gentile groups conquering them had many born again men in their ranks. Now having a spiritual heritage doesn't mean a thing. You have to be born again to appreciate a spiritual heritage. In one generation people can become liberal and destroy their own spiritual heritage. This applies to our America of today. Unless we turn to the Word of God as a nation there is no hope for our survival. God will pass us by and will raise up other people to do his work. There are four things saving this nation at this hour:

1. We have millions of truly born-again men and women in our nation. They are proving to be the leaven in our national life today.
2. Our missionary outreach is the greatest in the earth.

3. We have been a haven to the Jews.
4. We have printed more copies of the Word of God and distributed them than all the rest of the world combined.

These four things are the forces that are saving us today. God honors a church that is missionary. The Jerusalem church became legalistic and self-righteous, and Peter and Paul and the early missionaries had to go elsewhere to get solid support so they could go out to the rest of the world. A missionary church must have as its base Bible Doctrine. Legalism will never cut it anywhere or anytime.

So Daniel had divine revelation here in 546 B.C. The Canon of Scripture was not completed at that time, so a vision was a bonified means of receiving doctrine. It says, "It appeared to me...me."

DANIEL 8:2 "And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai."

The word here Shushan is what we know as the city of "Susa." It was a glorious city about 150 miles north of the Persian Gulf and East of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. It was way back up there on a plateau in the lower Persian Mountains. On that beautiful high plateau this city was built out of Ivory from India, gold from many outlying provinces, silver from Egypt, and wood from the Lebanon mountains. The building of this city is one of the amazing stories of construction. Here was the palace of Darius I. This is the home of Nehemiah and the story of the Book of Esther has its setting in this place. Elam is the land of the Shushanites. Asshur Banipul in the days of the Assyrian Empire, according to Ezra 4, took many people from Susa and settled them in Samaria. So this is a very beautiful and famous city.

DANIEL 8:3 "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."

This is the vision of the ram. Shushan became the capitol of the Persian Empire. Please notice that this ram had two horns, and one was higher than the other. We know of the story of how every Persian king, when he went to battle, would take off his crown and put on a helmet made like a ram's head and the helmet would have jewels in it. He wore this kind of helmet to battle. The reason of the difference in the horns is that the Medes were the biggest at first, but the Persians soon outnumbered them and grew much larger. It wasn't long before Cyrus the Great conquered the Medes.

DANIEL 8:4 "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."

This is the work of Cyrus the Great and please notice that one compass point was omitted. If you go westward you will hit Lydia, and they took Lydia in 546 B.C. If you go north you will hit Media, and they took the Medes in 549 B.C. and if you go South you will hit Chaldea, and they took them in 539 B.C. Cyrus is said by the scripture to be God's judge upon the idolatry in these nations. You will find this in Isaiah 41 and 44 and 45, and in 2 Chronicles 36, and Ezra 1. These passages tell us how God used Cyrus. This language is the language of total conquest.

Cambridge Ancient History, Volume 4, page 2, says - "The Persian Empire was created within the span of a single generation. By a series of conquests and by a rapidity scarcely equaled by anyone save by Alexander The Great. The defeat of Astiogese the Mede in 549 B.C. and Creosis the Lydian in 539 B.C. and Egypt in 525 B.C. gave the Persian Empire the greatest area west of China."

So even historians, who are not Christians at all, witness to the truth of this Scripture we have here in Daniel 8. God uses empires. The Word of God will abide forever.