

TUESDAY NIGHT

at the
Crescent

"The Shape of things to come"

An in-depth Study of the Book of Daniel chapter 8

Subject: "The shape of things to come"

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, 1989

1. A general introduction to the last four visions of Daniel:
 - (a) They have to do with "The time of the end" (7:25; 8:17, 19, 23-9; 26-27; 12:7, 11)
 - (b) All four look at issues that come to their climax in the time of the end but which are in some form already with us; Blasphemy of God the Father (7:25), standing against God the Son (8:25), discipline of the people of God and persecution by their enemies (Ch. 10-12) which will all come to an end.
2. The eighth chapter deals with a vision of the Medo-Persian Empire (8: 1-4), Greece under Alexander the Great (8: 4-7) and four kings that followed Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Selucus (8;8) out of which dynasty came the frightening Antiochus Epiphanes (8; 9-14).
3. Notice that the vision of Daniel chapter 8 is in two parts:
 - (a) Antiochus Epiphanes and what he did to the temple and the Jewish people between B.C. 167-164 (8:9-14).
 - (b) The time of the end in which the Grecian Empire is used as a lens to look at what is going to happen at the time of the Anti-Christ (8: 15-27).
4. The big issue is "the truth" as distinct from "the lie" (8: 12, 25). Notice the same debate is raised between the Lord Jesus and Pilate in John 18; 34-37 where the issue is raised whether there is such a thing as absolute truth. The Lord Jesus was presenting the fact that the truth about everything is God himself.
5. The ultimate lie as shown in the rise of the final dictator (8: 23-26; 2 Thess. 2: 3-12). The call to all believers to stand for the truth as it is in Jesus is absolutely vital (1 Timothy 6: 13-16).

"We have seen a political earthquake in the centre of Europe numbering ten on the Richter scale"

(United States Ambassador commenting on the incredible events in Europe last week.).

