

20241027_Daniel

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[0 : 00] Well, this morning we're going to get into chapter 8. Last week we were in chapter 7 for a couple weeks, and we saw all the visions that Daniel had of all the animals' visions and all those type of things, and what it meant, and who we were talking about, and it's talking about the nations that would come about during this time, or not during this time, but in the future.

And at that time, the future was just right there in Babylon. So this was years to come before that, or after that.

So we studied that last week. Now this week, in chapter 8, we're going to still be talking about a vision that Daniel had, and it's two other animals that he's going to be talking about.

And as he's talking about that, there's going to be somebody that's going to be mentioned well, I'm going to mention it, a guy's name, and he's not even mentioned in the Bible.

His name is not in the Bible at all. But he is related, I shouldn't say related, but we can relate him to that little horn that we was talking about last week.

[1 : 15] But we're pretty much talking about the little horn being Satan or the Antichrist. Well, there happened to be an Antichrist years and years ago.

Now, nobody called him an Antichrist, but what he did to the nation of Israel, it was just about as bad as it's going to be. So we're going to talk about him, which was kind of interesting, because when I got into this chapter 8, matter of fact, as I do this this morning, if something just doesn't sound right, let me know, because this study was hard for me.

It was really some stuff. I had to dig a lot just to talk about this one guy that we're talking about. But it's in, it's in, oh, come on. I already forgot already.

What's the Bible? Not the Bible, but the other transcripts that, hmm. Oh, well, we'll get to it when I get to it, I guess. But it's all, it's mentioned in those writings.

So, I guess we'll get into it and just see what happens here. So, Daniel chapter 8 has another vision about the final two beasts from the previous chapter.

[2 : 34] This time that they were, they are symbolized by a ram, which we're told is an image of the empire of the Medes and the Persians. And a goat is ancient Greece.

So, out of the goat comes a bunch of horns, one of which symbolizes an evil king that is kind of referenced in chapter 7, which would be that small horn that we were talking about last week.

So, in this vision, we're given a little more information about this king. He will attack Jerusalem. He will exalt himself above God by defiling the temple with idols.

However, at the end, this king will be destroyed by God. He will, in turn, exalt his people and the kingdom. But this is something that's, it wasn't happening at this time when his vision was, but it will happen during the Greek empire.

empire. So, Daniel, chapter 8, verse 1. If we can turn to that. We'll go, yeah, we'll go through verse 8, I think.

[3 : 48] In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar, the king, a vision appeared to Daniel, subconscious to the one which appeared to me previously, which would have been in chapter 7.

Daniel, 8-2, I looked in the vision and while I was looking, I was in the citadel of Susay, which is in the province of Elam. And I looked in that vision and I myself was beside the Yulai Canal.

Then I left my eyes and looked and behold a ram which had two horns was standing in the front of the canal. Now the two horns were long and one was longer than the other but the longer one coming up last.

I saw the ram budding westward, northward, and southward and no other beast could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power but he did as he pleased and magnified himself.

While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground and the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes.

[4 : 59] He came up to the ram that had two horns which I had seen standing in front of the canal and rushed at him and his mighty wrath. Verse 7, I saw him come beside the ram and he was enraged at him and he struck the ram and shattered his two horns and the ram had no strength to withstand him.

So he hurled him into the ground and trampled on him and there was none to rescue the ram from his power. Verse 8, Then the male goat magnified himself exceedingly but as soon as he was mighty the large horn was broken and in its place there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.

Now, just reading that kind of seems confusing, doesn't it? And believe me, it is. So let's go back to verse 1 and 2. In the third year of the reign of Belsar, keep in mind we're still talking about the Babylonian empire.

We're still there. under King Belsar. Two years after his first vision, Daniel received another prophecy.

This occurred in Belsar's first year as king, the first one was in chapter 7. The one reported here came to Daniel in Belsar's third year.

[6 : 24] Both visions occurred before the handwriting on the wall in Belsar's palace in chapter 5. which we have not looked at yet. Remember I said we're going to skip chapter 5 and chapter 6 just because of the way the thing goes in chronology.

So, this vision happened while Babylon was still securely in power. Though the vision will deal with the rise and the destiny of the Greek empire, the Greek empire was not much of anything at this point.

It was still Babylon and we're going to see as we saw already that the Persians is going to come in and take that. So, Daniel saw this vision when he was in the city of Susi down in modern Iran east of Babylon.

The verse is kind of vague but from reading the verse in chapter in verse 27 it appears that Daniel was there himself at this place and why he was there is not mentioned but it's probably the fact that he was there for the king doing some kind of business for him.

And after I rose up and did the king's business it would seem almost or seem most probable that he was in the services of the king. So, verse 3 and 4.

[7 : 40] Then I raised my eyes and looked and behold a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Verse 4. I saw the ram budding eastward or westward northward and southward and no other beast could stand against him.

So, the first thing that Daniel sees is the second vision is this ram and a male sheep. The animals' horns are large but mismatched.

Daniel's comment that one horn came up later implies that he's seen them grow. The later growing one became a larger of the two and that's the fact that we talked all the way back to chapter 2 where the Persians came in.

it was two kings coming in there because we're talking about two countries that came in there. So, the Medes and the Persians. But it seems like the Persians had more power than the Medes did and that's the one that's going to grow more.

So, Nebuchadnezzar's dream depicted Medo-Persia as the two arms torso of the statue in chapter 2. The recent vision saw it as a bear and one side raised above the other in chapter 7.

[8 : 53] Both Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's visions depict future events. Over time, the Persian part of the empire became dominant. Yet, the Medo-Persians had not overwhelmed and defeated the Babylon empire when Nebuchadnezzar dreamed about the statue or when Daniel dreamed of the bear or all the animals there in chapter 7.

From this, we see that the history told in advance is one of the supernatural marks of God written in His Word. It provides evidence that Scripture is inspired.

I think most people I know back then when they read that they're thinking, why? How can this possibly be? How can it possibly be? And a lot of people today read these type of things and say, oh, come on.

We know that this is history now but this book had to be written after the history started or after the history. So when these things happened then these things got written and there's a lot of people

today they look at the book of Daniel and that's exactly what they're thinking. You know, this is all baloney. This cannot be a part of God's plan and they just don't believe it. They say history repeats itself and that's what happened here.

[10:12] All these things happened and it's all part of history. So, but God planned it out this way. It wasn't a stress to use a ram to represent the Medo-Persian Empire.

The ram was a national emblem in Persia. So a ram being stamped on Persian coins as well as the headdress of the Persian emperors. The ram was not noted for the proportion of its two horns. One was higher than the other and that's where we're talking about the two different people, the Medes and the Persians. The Persians were larger and stronger in the partnership. They also merged after the Medes.

So the higher one came to be up last, pushing westward, northward, and southward. These people started west and they came over across and they took northern and they took southern parts of the country.

And where did it go? I just lost something. Okay, they pushed to westward, northward, and southward.

[11:22] They were a mighty force conquering nations as they went expanding the Medi-Persian Empire. So they were in control at this point of the vision.

In verses 5 and 8, while observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of the earth without touching the ground and the goat had a prominent horn between his eyes. So what are we talking about here? The male goat came from the west again. This male goat seemed to be identified with Greece and its horns are identified with the rulers of the Greek Empire. From ancient history, we also know this wasn't a strange symbol. The goat was common representation of the Greek Empire. So Alexander the Great is probably the one we're talking about here, which we talked about earlier.

He was born in 356 B.C. He was tortured by Aristotle as a young man. He succeeded his father Philip of Macedon and at age 20, he became king of the Macedon region.

[12:35] In a series of daring battles, Alexander led the allied armies of the Hellenistic League to defeat the Persian armies during the battles. And he suddenly became successor in the immense Persian Empire.

So they came in and they defeated the Persians. Now across the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground, what does that mean? This prophetic description of the male goat was proved to be accurate regarding to the Greek Empire.

This man came in as a great leader, a great military man, and he just started conquering everything that was in front of him. And he moved fast. So the Greek Empire rose from the west of previous empires.

The Greek Empire rose with great speed suddenly without touching the ground. The Greek Empire had a notable ruler, Alexander the Great, and he was famous for the wars that he fought in where he conquered other people and nations.

The Greek Empire and the Persian Empire, they hated each other, so he came in and he destroyed the Medes and Persian empires. The reign of this Alexander the Great from the Greek was suddenly cut short.

[14:00] So the large horn was broken. He died at an early age. And I think we've covered this too. After at the end of Alexander the Great's reign, the great empire was divided among four rulers in place of it, four notable ones came up.

And I don't think Alexander had this all set up, but when he died suddenly, the generals took over. And that's not uncommon either, I don't believe, when the old empires. So the four rulers of the Greek Empire, after Alexander ruled their own domains, now the entire empire together, came up toward the four winds of the heavens, the four kings, or the generals were talking about.

Alexander did not divide the empire among the four, the four did this on their own. One ruling over Greece and its reason, one ruling over Asia Minor, and one over Syria and Israel's land, one ruling over Egypt.

So the male goat grew very great. The greatness of Alexander's empire was not only in its vast domain, but also in the culture and the power. Alexander the Great was determined to spread Greek civilization culture and language across every land that he conquered.

[15 : 25] As God guided history, he used Alexander's passion to spread Greek culture to prepare the world for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of Alexander's influence, his common Greek became common language in the civilized world, in the language of the New Testament.

So we can see the results of this Greek language from this Greek king and his fact that as he conquered these places, he put these into place, this language, and it became common. And as we get into the New Testament, of course, we see that everything is in the Greek language. Daniel 8, 9 now. And out of one of them came forth a rather small horn, which grew exceedingly great towards the south, towards the east, and toward the beautiful land. Beautiful land meaning what do you think? Israel. This guy was moving towards Israel. It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the hosts and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it transformed them down.

it even magnified himself to be equal with the commander of the host, which means he saw himself as God, and he was willing to force everybody to believe that.

[16 : 53] And on account of the transgressions, the host will be given over to the horn along with a regular sacrifice, and it will fling truth to the ground and perform its will and prosper.

So many times, back to 8-9, many names come to mind when someone mentions the great villains of the Bible. Some are foreign powers like the pharaohs of the Exodus or of King Nebuchadnezzar or the Roman empires that we've heard about, or some even native Israelites such as King Saul or King Ahab.

There is, however, one name that has escaped the attention of the Bible, pulp culture, even though his actions arguably are worse than many of his evil peers. And this man is Antiochus Ephesus. Has anybody heard of him? Okay. It's very, like I said, his name is not mentioned in the Bible at all. A little horn which grew exceedingly great, this was fulfilled in one of the four successors of Alexander the Great.

Since the mane of this horn was extended toward the south and toward the east, we can identify the historic fulfillment of this little horn as Antiochus Ephesus, who ruled over Syria and Israel's land and under the Seleucid dynasty.

[18 : 20] Antiochus gained the throne by burning his brother and was the right heir to the throne. Today, Antiochus isn't a household name for two reasons.

First, the vocal books that mention him by name. It's not our Bible, and this is where it is. It's in 1st and 2nd, Maccabees. When did Maccabees come into play?

It's that 400-year period between the Old Testament that we see and those years in between before we get to the New Testament. That's when they come into power.

and they were also part of this to get this guy out of the way. Yes. Can you spell that name, please? Yes.

Antiochus. I-O-C-U-C-H-U-S. Antiochus.

[19 : 21] I'm sure I may not put that on it right, but that's close. Antiochus. And the other name they put on that is Nephanes. And that's just on there.

I don't think it's his last name, but it's probably his title or something like that. So, the book of Maccabees was removed from some versions of the Bible, particularly by Martin Luther during the Protestant Reformation.

This decision was primarily based on the fact that these books were originally written in Greek and not part of the Jewish tradition of the Hebrew canon. Some Protestant denominations keep these books in separate sections called the Ecclipria.

I didn't say that right here. While Catholic and Orthodox Bibles retain them in their standard canons. And I think we know that the Catholic Church, especially, those writings are in there.

and other churches, those writings are in there. Now, the fact that Martin Luther took this out of a lot of the Protestant Bibles, I had no idea about that. I just got that from researching here about this man.

[20 : 38] So, it's kind of interesting. One Maccabees describes how Aecus persecuted the Jews. It describes his blasphemies, Jews, and by some estimates, he was responsible for the murder of more than 100,000 Jews.

The beautiful land that we're talking about, again, is Israel. In the Hebrew, the same term was used for the land of Israel. And the glory, Ezekiel 25, 9 says, the glory of the country.

And he, of course, is talking about Israel. We can rightly see Israel, the glorious land, is the center of the world. It is the nerve center of the civilization since the days of Abraham. It will be the peace center of the earth during the millennial reign of Jesus. It will be the home center of the Jewish people forevermore. Israel, God created for one purpose, and that's his people. And a lot of things have gone on in the Old Testament with his nation. And he's chastised them. He's put them out for 70 years, as they are right now at this period, what we're talking about. [21 : 54] But still, God is going to be with his people in the nation of Israel. And we can never forget that. And there's so many people today, when they read all the stuff that's going on in Israel and Iran today, and all these countries around Israel, they're thinking, you know, the world's going crazy.

you know, I don't think the world's going crazy. It kind of lines up with what God has planned. We can't put a timetable on it, but it certainly is in that time span, or looks like what's going to happen in future years, doesn't it?

And it's all the nation of Israel. It's all about Israel. And God is going to bring them back. Right now, we're living in a time of Christianity, where we're set apart, we're different, we're in the period of grace.

You know, when the Lord Jesus left, you know, everybody thought that he was going to come back, and all this kingdom was going to start again. That's what, that's how we think.

God had another plan, and that plan was to start a church and not be a part of the law. And he had that plan.

[23 : 21] For how long? We don't know. But it's already been quite a long spell, but eventually God will take this to an end also.

And that's what all these visions of things that we're looking at here in Daniel. Okay. 8.10.

He even exalted himself as high as the prince of the most high. And I think there, Antiochus was an accurate and dramatic fulfillment of this prophecy in history, so much that the critics insist that the book of Daniel must have been written after this time.

He cast down some of the hosts and some of the stars to the ground and trampled them. Antiochus murdered other rulers and persecuted the people of Israel. This man was very torturous.

He moved as he was moving. He just killed everybody he could. And that included leaders of different countries still. He got to Israel. He exalted himself as high as the prince of the host.

[24 : 32] He blasted God and persecuted Jewish people. The phrase a host of heaven, usually refers to God's heavenly armies. Here it seems to be a symbolic representation of the people of Israel.

This is not an uncommon analogy in the Bible. The Lord compared Abraham's descendants to the stars. We see that in Genesis and Exodus. Describes the Hebrews as the host of the Lord.

Jeremiah 33 compares the offspring of David to the host of heaven. They cannot be numbered. So, these prophecies are talking about the nation of Israel.

And when he talks about the stars, there is just no number there, is there? That by him the daily sacrifices were taken away. Antiochus put a stop to the temple sacrifices in Jerusalem.

He came in and completely did away of everything that the nation of Israel had in the temple. One of the more traumatic events in Israel's history was their treatment under Antiochus.

[25 : 37] His power increased so much that he pitted himself against Israel's prince, God himself. Antiochus forcibly stopped Jews from making burnt offerings, drink offerings, and sacrifices in the temple.

He hated the people of Israel and despised their religion. Does that sound familiar today? The place of his sanctuary was cast down.

He desecrated the temple. He cast down to the ground. He did all this. He opposed God and seemed to prosper. He trampled Antiochus and infamous persecutor of the Jewish people.

He wanted them to submit to Greek culture and his customs as more than willing to use murder and violence to compel them to do so if they didn't do it themselves.

One of the things that he did which kind of leads us back all the way back to what's going to happen in the future is that he even defaced the temple by doing what?

[26 : 42] Putting a pig on the altar. So this is all history and it's there in these other books and I think and most believe that these verses that we're talking about here in chapter 8 is talking about this man.

Verse 13 or no just before that Antioch's suppression of the Jews came to a head in December of 170 BC when he returned to defeat Alexandria he ordered his generals to seize Jerusalem on the Sabbath.

There he set up an idol of Zeus and desecrated the altar by offering a pig and sprinkled the pig's juices in his sanctuary. Sacrifice stopped because the temple was desecrated.

Once that happened there was no Jew that would go into that temple after that pig was put on there. Does this sound familiar? Of course because we know that when the Antichrist comes during that half year period he's going to desecrate the temple and that's when everything is going to hit this ceiling.

Verse 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking and another one said to the one who was speaking how long will the vision about the regular sacrifice apply while the transgression causes horror so as to allow both the holy place and the host of the temple.

[28 : 07] He said to me for 23 evenings and 23 mornings then the holy place will be properly restored. Again some confusing verses that I really had trouble with.

So then I heard a holy one speaking a holy one not named it is implied that the angels were conversing upon the subject of this awful revelation concerning the future of God's people only a portion of what they said here is recorded.

Daniel didn't ask this question he heard the holy one speaking together and one of them asked a question they wanted to know how long these sacrifices would be suspended and how long the sanctuary would be desecrated.

For 2,300 days I spent several days looking at different commentaries on this and I must say I'm still confused but I think maybe what we see here at the end of this sounds like it's right.

So Daniel speaks of 2,300 days in the prophecy concerning persecution of the Jewish people. Also in Revelation 12 John mentions 1,260 days in prophecy concerning another persecution of the Jews during the end times.

[29 : 31] The name differences between these two prophecies are the one in Daniel has already been fulfilled now in history but John's has not. So John predicts the actions of Antiochus and John predicts those of the Antichrist.

We have been talking about Antiochus and his persecution of the Jews. This persecution started in 171 B.C. and ended in 165 when Judas Maccabese defeated Antiochus and restored the temple of its proper worship.

Antiochus stepped up his campaign to squash Jerusalem so that all subjects in his vast empire which included the land of Israel which shared the same culture and worship the same gods that he set himself up to be.

He marched into Jerusalem vandalized the temple erected an idol in the altar and desecrated its holiness. In 165 B.C.

the Maccabees cleared the way back to the temple mount which they reclaimed. They cleaned the temple and dismantled the defiled altar and constructed a new one in its place.

[30 : 46] The Maccabees held a dedication called Hanukkah of the temple with proper sacrifices rekindling of the golden Moriah and the eight days of celebration and praise to God proper Jewish worship had been reestablished.

The text seems to mean that 2300 evenings and morning sacrifices would have taken place until the temple had been rededicated. This temple dedication of course is what the Jews celebrate each year in Hanukkah.

To do the math 2300 sacrifices or two per day equals three and a half years round off it kind of matches what's there in revelation the three and a half years.

Verse 15 when I Daniel had seen this vision I sought to understand it and behold standing before me was one who looked like a man. Before I get to that that 2300 days I don't have it here but I know I read it matches the time that span between when Antiochus was doing all this stuff and when the Maccabees redid the temple and headed back to Jerusalem or back to the Jewish people. Daniel 15 and 16 and 17 and 18 and 19 okay when I Daniel had seen this vision I sought to understand it and behold standing before me was one who looked like a man and I heard the voice of a man between the banks of the Yulai and I called out and said Gabriel give this man an understanding of the vision so he came near to where I was standing and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face but he said to me son of man understand that the vision pertains to a time of the end now while he was talking with me I sank into a deep sleep and my face to the

ground but he touched me and made me stand upright he said behold I'm going to let you know what will occur at that final period of the indignation and it pertains to the appointed time of the end so what he's talking this whole vision it's getting us to the end of times and the things that was going on here with

[33 : 08] Antiochus I think we're going to kind of see a double vision of that when we get in to the end of times in the end of days so between the banks of Eli Daniel was still amid his vision when he saw himself on the shores of this Persian river he heard someone instruct Gabriel to explain the vision to Daniel the vision refers to the end times assure Daniel that the vision had to do with the end times with the latter time of the indentation this is a problem for some because they see that the prophecy of Daniel 8 was fulfilled in the days of the Medo-Persian and Greek empires and again they think this had to be written after all these events happened not the answer is that though this prophecy was fulfilled in Antiochus time it also has a later fulfillment in the

Antichrist revering to the end times Antiochus seems to be a prefigure of the Antichrist of the end times just as Antiochus rose to power with force and intrigue so will Antichrist as he persecuted the Jews so will the Antichrist as he stopped sacrifice and desecrated the temple so will the Antichrist as he seemed to be a complete success so will the Antichrist from what Antiochus did to the Jews in his day therefore one may know that the general pattern of what the Antichrist will do to them in the future so it seems like this is all being set up by God and these visions that he's given to Daniel it's kind of strange and I'm sure we're seeing it today when we read this today we're completely confused what do you think Daniel was when all this was coming out of him in this vision he said I don't understand but God gave him a couple of angels to help him out and he still didn't get the full benefit of that so the vision is interpreted 820 820 then ram which you saw with the two horns representing the kings and the Persians this now he's just going back and telling him a lot of the stuff kingdom of Greece verse 22 the broken horn the four horns rose in its place represents four kingdoms or powers that came the generals after Nebuchadnezzar not Nebuchadnezzar Alexander and we've already covered this in previous verses so we'll go to verse 23 in the latter period of their rule when the transgressors have run their course a king will rise insolent and skilled and intrigued his power will be mighty but not by his own power and he will destroy to an extraordinary degree and prosper and perform his will he would destroy mighty men and the holy people and of course in these verses he's talking about

Antiochus in the latter time of their kingdom the prophecy in these passages reads equally true of both Antiochus this is an example of a prophetic passage that has both a near and a far fulfillment and the angel says therefore seal up this vision Daniel must do this because his day of the vision referred to a period far and distant and it's ultimate fulfillment for us the time is near Revelation 1-3 and the book is unsealed we'll see that in Revelation this is to say one part of the fulfillment is partially Antiochus and the other part would be the Antichrist this historical character who sprung out from Alexander's broken army called Antiochus and who is a bolt upon the page of history has caused Jewish blood to run like rivers in the days of Judas Maccabeus he he is a foreshadowing of the

Antichrist the abomination of desolation standing in the holy places and Daniel talks about Jesus Christ talks about that when he's referring to Daniel this man will be a man people see him to be attracted to someone who is striking and who makes heads turn he would not be the type who would disappear in a crowd I think this is what we're talking about when this guy comes aboard and we don't know how it's going to happen but the whole world is going to see this guy is wow this guy is going to correct everything that's out there and the heads are going to turn and see this man notice when he will arrive it is when corruption is at an all time high when all the restraints are lifted and everything seems to be speeding in the direction of evil society will have disintegrated to the point where nothing is sacred there will be no holds barred then he will walk into our world and will have all the right answers wow who couldn't jump on board with somebody like that this dynamic leader with the ability to solve the problems of his day will undoubtedly be involved with the occult for the scripture says he will cause deceit to prosper his destructiveness will be so universal that the world will reel under his power any axis did the same but his cruelty was child's play compared to what the antichrist will be he will oppose and exalt himself over everything that is called

[39 : 11] God or his worship so he sets himself up as God in the temple he will come to a blazing end and not in an electric chair or gas chamber or any other human means but one day King Jesus is going to ride out of glory and go into the combat and with this wicked man who will be cast into

hell not by human power but super naturally man who so Daniel is exhausted and he was sick for days then I got up again and carried out the king's business but I was downed at the vision and there was none to explain it the angels told him some but he still did not have the full information no one understood it it was because God never wanted this prophecy to be understood there is no reason for God to reveal something that man cannot ever understand the reason why no one understands it was because a vision was sealed up concerning its ultimate fulfillment in

Daniel's distant future revelation 22 10 and he saith unto me seal not up the words of the prophecy of this book for the time is at hand and think about what we talked about this morning I know it's a lot it sounded confusing it was very confusing to me as I was going through this so anything okay well it talked about a horrendous time back in that time especially after the 70 year period and all this stuff happened it's talking about well we're going to get into that in the chapter nine when all this stuff is going to happen but it talks about when the Maccabees and everything restored the temple that's a starting point and so we're going to see a lot as we get into chapter nine but before we do that we're going to go back to chapter five and we're going to chapter six and chapter five was going to be the ending of the empire that

Nebuchadnezzar started and king that is there now so we'll see that and he's going to do some things and a big banquet that will shake everything up and that's over the end of the Persian empire empire the Babylonian empire so it's kind of confusing that all this is going along and it's still Babylonian empire and he's getting all the Ephesians about what's coming up next and all the way back to the end times so it's a fascinating book so anything else before we quit okay we'll see you next week each next week