

DANIEL 8: 1-14

Vision of the Ram and Goat

¹ In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent to the one which appeared to me previously.

² I looked in the vision, and while I was looking I was in the citadel of Susa, which is in the province of Elam; and I looked in the vision and I myself was beside the Ulai Canal.

³ Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns *were* long, but one *was* longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last.

⁴ I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no *other* beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and magnified *himself*.

⁵ 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.

⁶ He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath.

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 to the ground and trampled on him, and there was none to rescue the ram from his power.

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.

The Little Horn

⁹ Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful *Land*.

¹⁰ It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down.

¹¹ It even magnified *itself* to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down.

¹² And on account of transgression the host will be given over *to the horn* along with the regular sacrifice; and it will fling truth to the ground and perform *its will* and prosper.

¹³ Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular 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 to be trampled?”

¹⁴ He said to me, “For 2,300 evenings *and* mornings; then the holy place will be properly restored.”

Daniel 8:15

Interpretation of the Vision

Gabriel's interpretation shows clearly that **the** vision of Antiochus Epiphanes is a foreshadowing of **the** future tribulation called

THE END OF TIME. verse 17;

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| 1 | In verse 9, this ANTIOCHUS IV will be the little horn coming out of one of the 4 conspicuous horns of the division of Alexander's empire. |
| 2 | In verse 9, he will move against Jerusalem |
| 3 | In verse 10, he will severely persecute Jews. |
| 4 | In verse 11, is going to lay siege against the Jewish feast and sacrifices. |
| 5 | In verse 12, we have the WISDOM that the Jews are to learn from Daniel. We have already learned why the Jews were in the Babylonian captivity for 70 years

—failure to observed the Sabbath year every 7 th year. —

Here we learn why they will suffer under ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES – transgressions against all that God had set up for their nation. This will happen again in 70 AD. |

6 In verse 17 we learn this is the way it will be against **the** Jews in **the** end times of **the** Tribulation.

15 *When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man.*

An Angel comes on **the** scene

16 *And I heard the voice of a man (probably **Jesus Christ Himself**) between the banks of Ullai, and he called out and said, “Gabriel, give this man an understanding of the vision.”*

Poor Gabriel, he has been accused of coming to Mohammad in the cave; by claiming Gabriel, they had hoped to add credit to their apostate, idolatrous religion. There are only three angels, named in **the** Bible: **Gabriel, Michael** and **Satan**.

And 2 are mentioned in *the* book of Daniel;

Gabriel (8:16 and 9:21) and

Michael (10:13 and 21 and 12:1).

Gabriel – *el* – *God*;

and *root for MAN* or *HERO*

so his name means *MAN* or *HERO of God* and

whose primary role in Scripture is one of delivering a message.

He (**GABRIEL**) announced *the* birth of John *the* Baptist to his father Zechariah (Luke 1:11) and of *the* birth of *the* Messiah to Mary Luke 1:26, and, of course, interpreting or explaining Daniel's vision to Daniel.

We will study *the* second angel, **MICHAEL** when we come to chapter 10; but he is *the* warrior angel, *the* prince of Israel.

In *the* Spiritual warfare he is *the* great defender of Israel.

The secular world has many stories of angels with names but *the* bible is very careful so as not to lead man in any way to worship angels.

Man's response to *the* appearance of an angel

¹⁷ *So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face (as John in Revelation) ; but he said to me, "Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end."*

Throughout the Bible when an angel appears, it causes **FEAR** to grip those they appeared before. the Shepherds tending their flock by night--and the priest Zacharias and the virgin Mary both were in **FEAR** when this same Gabriel appeared to them.

Here is Daniel and he was **AFRAID** with **Gabriel** appeared to him and fell to the ground.

Son of man

is frequently used in Ezekiel, and refers to the inabilities of man; his frailty, and his inability as a human to grasp and understand all *the* wonders of God, and God's purpose for Israel and for the Gentile nations.

A crucial phrase in chapter 8 is

the vision pertains to the time of the end.

What is Gabriel talking about here?

Antiochus IV is not at the end of time, but he is near the completion of the time of the goat –Alexander and the Grecian empire.

We are spending a great deal of time on *the little horn* out of *the* four horns out of *the* third empire. That is on Antiochus IV, Epiphanes out of Seleucus out of *the* empire of *the* Goat, that is out of *the* division of Alexander's empire. (verse 9 and following) But he, himself is not *the* end. But he represents *the* way things will be at *the* time of *the* end. So *the* reason for telling about Antiochus IV is not so much about him but about *the* end of time which he represents.

¹⁸ *Now while he was talking with me, I sank into*

*a deep sleep with my face to the ground;
but he touched me and made me stand
upright.*

Here is an old man Daniel falling to sleep in *the* middle of class!

No – this is not what the Hebrew says...

this is a reflexive Niphal of *the* Hebrew word meaning or
describing one as **falling stunned** to *the* ground because
of what he sees or hears...

*Psalm 76: ⁶ At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob,
Both rider and horse were cast into a dead
sleep.*

*Daniel 8: ¹⁸ Now while he was talking with me,
I lay stunned –amazed, astounded,
flabbergasted*

(I have heard of this happening to some ladies when their

husbands asked her to marry him)

Daniel 8:18 *while he was talking with me,*

This so shocked Daniel that he was over taken by its immensity.

*I will never forget how stunned I was at **the** age of 21 when I first learned of dispensations and especially 7 years of tribulation and millennial reign of Jesus Christ by my friend **Bill Dorman**. It took a long time to fall to sleep that night. This was even more stunning to Daniel being taught by an angel.*

Now what happened next is interesting.

¹⁸... *He touched me and made me stand up~
right*

a little difficult in the Hebrew.

Gabriel grabbed Daniel and made him stand up right...

¹⁸ ... *Stand up and listen to me!*

In verse 19 Gabriel interprets the phrase in verse 17

¹⁹ ... *time of the end*

This phrase has caused a great deal of confusion as to **the** time line of history from God's perspective, but Gabriel makes is clear.

¹⁹ ... *He said, "Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for it pertains to the appointed time of the end."*

¹⁹ ... *the last end of the indignation*

when the transgressors are come to *their* full

(Run Their Course). Verse 23

The Ram's Identity

²⁰ *The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.*



The Goat

²¹ *The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king.*

Refers to Alexander the Great

²² *The broken horn (death of Alexander) and the four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms which will arise from his (death of Alexander) nation, although not with his power.*

Not with the power of Alexander.

Not one of the four generals who rule over 4 different regions of Alexandrian empire were ever as powerful as Alexander.

Now we come to four most confusing verses,
therefore ,you will find a number of interpretations.

Some teach that this is describing Antiochus IV Epiphanes;
others that this refers to the final Anti-Christ of the end of
the seven years of tribulation.

Granted this is confusing, until we see that two different events are being described in one story.

Example:

This is what confuses so many people in grasping JESUS CHRIST as **King** and **Servant**, as **Son** of **God** and **Son** of **Man**.

To many, He cannot be both; but in fact He is both...

undiminished Deity and **True humanity** in **ONE**.

He is both **King** and **Servant** of God.

So it is with the following 4 verses

– teaching about Antiochus IV of 215-164 bc

and *the* Anti-Christ – dictator of Revived Roman Empire
in *the* last 7 years of the Tribulation.

They are certainly different yet similar!

Verse 23 describes **Antiochus IV** and **the last Anti-Christ**.

²³ “*In the latter period of their rule,*

When the transgressors (rebellious against God)
have run their course, A king will arise,
Insolent and skilled in intrigue.

First we see this as referring to Antiochus IV

^{23...} *In the latter period of their rule*

Whose rule? This refers to *the* four horns of verse 22

—or *the* four generals who ruled over Alexandrian Empire.

Therefore

^{23...} *in the latter period of their rule*

refers to *the* latter part of the **rule of *the* four horns** of verse 22,

the period of *the* **third beast** or **Greece**,

before **Rome** rises to power and before *the* **Church Age**.

^{23...} *When the transgressors have run their course*

refers to *the* **third beast**,

(or Greece who transgressed against God

in setting up their own empire apart from God)

²³...run their course

in *the* time line of history as laid out by God.

²³... a *King will arise* (Antiochus IV)

Now get ready for a description of **Antiochus IV** and
the last Anti-Christ, dictator of Revived Roman Empire.

NASB	insolent and skilled in intrigue
KJ	fierce countenance and understanding dark sentences
NIV	a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue

First: **insolent**

This is a rich full word in the Hebrew it describes so many

—different attributes—

overbearing boldness,

excessive,

fierce;

the Hebrew describes one of determined defiance.

Defiance of God, and defiance of mankind.

Defiant of the laws of God and the laws of man.

No respect of individual life!

The Hebrew word adds to this person the fact of being **insatiable**.

It describes **bold arrogant speech, blasphemous against the true God**. It indicates **power, strength**, not just physically but as king or ruler. We have seen one like this in our life time here on earth in **Adolf Hitler**. Well he is but a simulant of these two being described in this verse.

Added to insolent and **skilled in intrigue**

This means to be skilled or possess deep understanding. In

Revelation 2:24 *“deep things of Satan” as they call them*”.

Don't ever be impressed with those who claim to have deep understanding, knowledge beyond darkness.

Note **Revelation 13:5-8**

⁵ There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven.

⁷ It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

In **Daniel 7:8**...*the* beast of the Tribulation will come out of *the* horns that make up the fourth beast—**ROME**.

But in Daniel 8:23...*the* beast is said to come out of the third beast, that is out of **Alexander's Greek Empire**.

Seeing these two verses together help to understand how Antiochus IV is similar to the final Anti-Christ yet different from him.

²⁴ “*His power will be mighty, but not by his own power,*

We know from Revelation 13:2, that it is *the* angel **Satan** who gives this power to Antiochus IV and to *the* final beast in Tribulation.

²⁴ ... “*And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree*

More than Darius, more than Alexander *the* Great.

²⁴ ... *“And prosper and perform his will;*

That is he will execute his will where ever he goes.

²⁴ ... *“He will destroy mighty men*

(Gentile nations) *and the holy people.*

This of course refers to Daniel’s people, the **Jews**.

²⁵ *“And through his shrewdness*

*He will cause deceit to succeed by his
influence;*

And he will magnify himself in his heart,

*And he will destroy many while they are at
ease.*

*He will even oppose the Prince of princes,
But he will be broken without human
agency.*

^{25...} *“And through his shrewdness*

This is an important concept, it will be through his own understanding, that he will administer policy. The Hebrew word means **shrewd**, or **cunning**.

A liberal, a Communist sets forth policy according to his understanding of people and how they should be ruled.

^{25...} *“He will cause deceit to succeed by his
influence;*

He knows what is best for *the* world according to his understanding.

The USA used to be of the people and by the people, for the people, but no more, our leaders have decided they know what is best for everyone. They in their wisdom know what is best for

everyone, and they will get rid of those who counter their wisdom.

²⁵ ... “*And he will magnify himself in his heart,*
I am so great! I am so successful!

²⁵ “*And he will destroy many while they are at ease.* (while they feel safe under false security)

This is a frightening statement for Israel in 2nd century bc and in today’s world leading on into *the* tribulation, **but it is also a WARNING of wisdom for us in the Church Age.**

The Hebrew at ease is an **idiom** for *false security*.

He will destroy many while they feel safe under false security.

Like giving up your guns to be protected by those to whom you give them up; like feeling safe by some treaty or compromise with some other power.

Feeling safe in a false peace,

in a peace not supported by absolute power.

²⁵... *“He will even oppose the Prince of princes,*

This of course refers to Jesus Christ and looks forward to *the* last Anti-Christ of the Tribulation, but is applicable to Antiochus IV in the 2nd century bc. **All through history man opposes**

Jesus Christ; enemies of Jesus Christ. Religions oppose *the* Prince of princes; secular forces oppose the Prince of princes; governments oppose the prince of princes.

²⁵... *“But he will be broken without human agency.*

Of course in final fulfillment refers to *the* beast at *the* end of Tribulation. And by application, it applies to Antiochus who died of self-pity.

Instructions to Daniel concerning his vision.

²⁶ *“The vision of the evenings and mornings
Which has been told is true;*

*But keep the vision secret,
For it pertains to many days in the future.”*

²⁷ Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it.

So much for the false teaching that all sickness is caused by sin.

It is amazing the false doctrines that preachers preach without consulting *the* entire Word of God. Few people will experience this kind of sickness; for few ever fully grasp the plan of God in such a short period of time.

The human body
is not really able to grasp
the fullness of *the* glory of God.

27... Then I got up again and carried on the king's business;

Here is wisdom from Daniel.

As you grow in knowledge of Jesus Christ; grow in knowledge of prophecy, continue to grow in knowledge of *the Word of God*, you have to keep on living in this world and doing those things that soon will seem to be useless, unimportant.

This is a natural result of growing in the Word of God.

But we are to continue in our work in society, to our wives and husbands and children and family. We are to witness for Christ in our work on this earth.

27... but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it.

Wasn't there an angel interpreting it for him?

The angel **Gabriel**?

Yes indeed.

But people you can never get enough of the Word of God.

No one can reach a point where they do not need to be taught more and more...a hunger for understanding Word of God.

And there are things that even Gabriel does not know nor fully understand. This is the condition we should always be in...

Thirsty for more understanding of Word of God.

I am afraid that in America today there are so few that are hungry for more teaching on the Word of God; more interpretation of divine truth.

Wisdom from Daniel 8

- 1 We should all have a hunger for *the* understanding of Word of God, of *the* Plan of God.

- 2 Throughout *the* Church Age there are those who are against Jesus Christ. Sometimes they will seem to be successful. But we know from *the* Word of God that they will not be triumphant against God, nor against His plan.
- 3 So we have the hope, the confidence that no matter what happens in our lives, in the time in which we live, that history is headed for the final victory of Jesus Christ over Satan.
- 4 By noting the little horn of Antiochus IV we see that horrible things can and will be done to God's people...Jews and Christians, because the way of man is against the way of God. But in every case they do not prevail and the Christian who is strengthened by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God will have the strength and wisdom to glorify God in his life.
- In living and in dying...we live and die for Christ. It is not a matter of making it through disasters, unbelievers make through disasters, it is a matter of making it through them glorifying Jesus Christ.
- 5 The book of Daniel is not just about the future, it is about these things that will happen over and over, and how we are to live in them. We cannot control history, but we can decide if we are going to allow the Holy Spirit to control

and guide us in and through these events of history.

- 6 In the book of Daniel we are made well aware of the final battle in the Tribulation and that our Savior is going to return and be victorious over the Seven Headed Dragon; over the beast, the Anti-Christ of the Revived Roman Empire.
- 7 And again, perhaps most of all, we learn that we must keep thirsty for the Word of God. We are to go on living in this world, fulfilling the mundane tasks of this world while all the time growing in Knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 107: 5 and 9

*⁵ They were hungry and thirsty;
Their soul fainted within them.*

*⁹ For He has satisfied the thirsty
soul, And the hungry soul He has*

filled with what is good.

From the Book of Proverbs

*The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom:
and the knowledge of the holy [is] understanding.*

MACCABEAN REVOLT AGAINST ANTIOCHUS IV

IN THE **2ND** CENTURY BC, JUDEA LAY BETWEEN
THE PTOLEMAIC KINGDOM OF EGYPT, AND THE SELEUCID EMPIRE OF SYRIA

JUDEA HAD BEEN UNDER PTOLEMAIC RULE,
BUT FELL TO THE SELEUCID AROUND **200** BC

209	ANTIOCHUS III RULER OF PERSIA
215	BIRTH OF ANTIOCHUS IV DEATH 164 BC (175 - 164 KING OF THE SELEUCID EMPIRE)
203	JUDEA SUBMITS TO ANTIOCHUS III, THE GREAT
198	ANTIOCHUS III OF SYRIA TAKES PALESTINE FROM EGYPT WITH THE HELP OF THE JEWS
171	INVADES JERUSALEM AND PERSECUTES THE JEWS AND PLUNDERS THE TEMPLE
168	ANTIOCHUS WAS 'RETREATING' FROM EGYPT AFTER THE ORIGINAL 'LINE IN THE SAND' TOOK PLACE, AND WHILE RETREATING HE TOOK HIS ANGER OUT OF JERUSALEM PERSECUTING JEWS AND DESECRATING THE TEMPLE AND SUPPRESSING THE LAW, AND FORBIDDING THE OWNERSHIP OF THE TORAH MATTATHIAS –THE HASMONEAN AND THE PRIEST, REFUSES TO OFFER SACRIFICES TO THE GREEK GODS AND INSTEAD KILLED THE SYRIAN WHO ORDERED HIM TO DO SO AND THEN MADE HIS WAY TO THE WILDERNESS, STARTING THE REBELLION AGAINST ANTIOCHUS
166	ANTIOCHUS LEFT LYSAIS IN CHARGE OF DESTROYING JERUSALEM BUT EVENTUALLY LOSSES TO JUDAS MACCABEUS THE FOLLOWING YEAR
165	JUDAS MACCABEUS, SON OF MATTATHIAS LEADS REBELLION; DEFEATS THE SYRIANS, PURIFIES THE TEMPLE AND 25 DECEMBER REDEDICATION OF TEMPLE