

DANIEL 8



GREECE



MEDO-PERSIA

DANIEL OUTLINE



HEBREW	1. HISTORY OF DANIEL	Third Person "Daniel"	CHAPTERS	DATE	AGE
ARAMAIC (starts 2:4b)	Daniel & Friends Taken Captive		CHAPTER 1	605 B.C.	15
	2. PROPHETIC PLAN FOR THE GENTILES	Third Person "Daniel"	CHAPTERS 2-7		
	The Great Image - 5 Kingdoms		CHAPTER 2		
	The Fiery Furnace		CHAPTER 3		
	The Pride of Nebuchadnezzar - Vision of Tree		CHAPTER 4		
	The Handwriting on the Wall		CHAPTER 5	539 B.C.	81
	The Den of Lions		CHAPTER 6	537 B.C.	83
	The Four Beasts	(Visions 7-12)	CHAPTER 7		
HEBREW	3. PROPHETIC PLAN FOR ISRAEL	First Person "I"	CHAPTERS 8-12		
	The Vision of the Ram and Goat		CHAPTER 8		
	Daniel's Prayer and the 70 Weeks		CHAPTER 9	536 B.C.	84
	The Message of Last Things		CHAPTER 10-12	535 B.C.	85

DANIEL OUTLINE BASED ON LANGUAGE

Nebuchadnezzar (Babylonian)		Belshazzar (Babylonian)	Darius (Persian)	Belshazzar (Babylonian)	Darius (Persian)	Cyrus (Persian)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10—12
Hebrew Introduction		Aramaic Gentile Nations				Hebrew Israel			

DANIEL 8 INTRODUCTION













This vision was given 2-3 years (553 B.C.) after the dream in Daniel 7 (556 B.C.).



Daniel 7 considered the four world empires, chapter 8 will be about the Medo-Persian and Grecian nations.



DANIEL 2	DANIEL 7	DANIEL 8	DANIEL 8, 11
BABYLON			
MEDO-PERSIA		 <p>(RAM: 2 horns; 1 larger horn)</p>	
GREECE		 <p>(GOAT: 1 horn; then 4 horns)</p>	 <p>(Antiochus Epiphanes; Syrian under Seleucus; “king of the North”)</p>
ROME (Unspecified)			
FUTURE			 <p>(Antichrist)</p>



4TH KINGDOM CHARACTERISTICS

DANIEL 2 — Statue

01. Da.2:1, 32-33, 38-39, 40: A Vicious Kingdom

“will break in pieces and crush all the others” (2:40)

02. Da.2:41-42: A Divided Kingdom

“the kingdom shall be divided” (2:41)



DANIEL 7 — Four Beasts



03. Da.7:23: A Vicious Kingdom

“shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces.” (7:23)

04. Da.7:24: A Kingdom Alliance

“The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom” (7:24)

05. Da.7:25: An Anti-God Kingdom

“He shall speak pompous words against the Most High” (7:25)

06. Da.7:25: A Kingdom that Changes Society

“shall intend to change times and law” (7:25)

DANIEL 8 — Ram & Goat



07. Da.8:23-24: A Fierce Sinister Satanic King

“Who understands sinister schemes” (8:23)

08. Da.8:23-24: Actively Attack Judaism & Word

“He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people” (8:24)

09. Da.8:25: A Deceptive Anti-Christ King

“He shall even rise against the Prince of princes” (8:25)

DANIEL 11 — King of the North



10. Da.11:21: Promising Peace, Seizing a Kingdom

“he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue” (11:21)

11. Da.11:30-31: Abomination of Desolation

“shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation” (11:31)

12. Da.11:36: No regard for God

“he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods” (11:36)

13. Da.11:37: He will reject the God of his Fathers

“He shall regard neither the God of his fathers” (11:37)

14. Da.11:38: Honors a New god



“he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know” (11:38)

**In the third year of the reign of
King Belshazzar a vision
appeared to me—to me,
Daniel—after the one that
appeared to me the first time.**

DANIEL 8:1





“In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.” (Da.8:1)





The Lord gave to Daniel a prophecy, but this time it was in the form of a vision instead of a dream.



**I saw in the vision, and it so
happened while I was looking,
that I was in Shushan, the citadel,
which is in the province of Elam;
and I saw in the vision that I was
by the River Ulai.**

DANIEL 8:2





“I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai.” (Da.8:2)



At the time Daniel saw this vision he was on the banks of a river in the province of Elam.



Shushan (sometimes spelled Susa) became one of the capitals of the Medo-Persian Empire.

- A century later the Persian king Xerxes built a magnificent palace there, which was where the events recorded in the Book of Esther took place (Es.1:2).**
- Nehemiah was King Artaxerxes’ cupbearer in the Susa palace (Ne.1:1).**



Susa





- The modern Iranian town of Shush is located on the site of ancient Susa.
- Susa is mentioned in the Bible in the books of Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.
- Susa is more than 200 miles east of Babylon.

Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.

DANIEL 8:3





“Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.” (Da.8:3)



The RAM in this vision was the Medo-Persian Empire. The two parts of the empire corresponding to the two horns of the beast.



The horns of this RAM did not grow up together, nor did they maintain the same greatness.




The Medes were the older of the two groups but never did attain the strength of the Persians.





**I saw the ram pushing westward,
northward, and southward, so that
no animal could withstand him;
nor was there any that could
deliver from his hand, but he did
according to his will and became
great.**

DANIEL 8:4

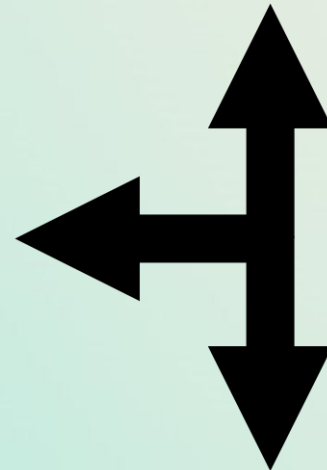




“I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.” (Da.8:4)

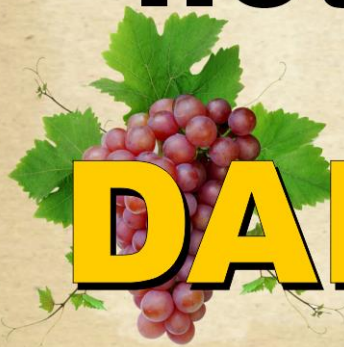




Persia extended its empire to the west, north, and south with a vast army of more than 2 million soldiers.



**And as I was considering,
suddenly a male goat came from
the west, across the surface of
the whole earth, without touching
the ground; and the goat had a
notable horn between his eyes.**

DANIEL 8:5





“And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.” (Da.8:5)



The MALE GOAT represented Greece which is the third world empire.



The first ruler of the Macedonian Empire was Philip of Macedon, but by far its greatest ruler was his son Alexander, represented by a notable horn.



“Without touching the ground” is figurative and refers to the swiftness of Alexander’s march across the Persian dominions. He covered that vast territory in twelve years with very little resistance.



**Then he came to the ram
that had two horns, which
I had seen standing beside
the river, and ran at him
with furious power.**

DANIEL 8:6



**“Then he came to the ram that had two horns,
which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran
at him with furious power.” (Da.8:6)**



**This refers to the furious advance of Alexander
upon Persia.**



GREECE



MEDO-PERSIA




And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.




DANIEL 8:7





“And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.” (Da.8:7)



The greatness that had characterized the RAM now belonged to the GOAT.





Alexander was enraged (Da.7:6) at the Persians for having defeated the Greeks at the Battle of Marathon (490 B.C.) and the Battle of Salamis (481 B.C.), Greek cities near Athens.



Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.

DANIEL 8:8





“Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.” (Da.8:8)



As soon as the GOAT was elevated to great power, his large single horn was broken off, and in its place was taken by four prominent horns (generals).



When Alexander was at the height of his success he died. He died in Babylon of malaria with complications from alcoholism in 323 B.C. at the age of 32.



The four notable ones refers to the four divisions into which Alexander's conquests fell upon his death, predicted by the four wings and four heads in Daniel 7:6.





- **CASSANDER**: Macedonia and Greece
- **LYSIMACHUS**: Parts of Asia Minor Lydia
- **SELEUCUS**: Syria, Israel, and Mesopotamia
- **PTOLEMY**: Egypt and parts of Asia Minor



**And out of one of them came a
little horn which grew
exceedingly great toward the
south, toward the east, and
toward the Glorious Land.**




DANIEL 8:9






“And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land.” (Da.8:9)



This is the kingdom of Syria, and especially with one of its kings who was one of the most vile and wicked men in history.



Much of this chapter has to do with this man whose name was Antiochus Epiphanes. He is the little horn of this verse.



**And it grew up to the host of
heaven; and it cast down some
of the host and some of the
stars to the ground, and
trampled them.**

DANIEL 8:10





“And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.” (Da.8:10)



Antiochus became a great persecutor of the people of Israel.



The host of heaven pictures Antiochus's persecution against Jewish people using the figure of stars (Ge.12:3; 15:5; 22:17; Ex.12:41; Du.1:10)




When defeated, the “stars” (Jewish people) will fall under the tyrant's domination.




**He even exalted himself as high
as the Prince of the host; and
by him the daily sacrifices were
taken away, and the place of His
sanctuary was cast down.**




DANIEL 8:11





“He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.” (Da.8:11)





-  **Antiochus set himself up as Israel’s king, calling himself the Prince of the host.**
-  **Antiochus desecrate the temple and blasphemed Christ to whom the sanctuary belongs. He is later called the “Prince of princes” (Da.8:25).**
-  **Some see the prince of the host as the high priest because Antiochus stops the sacrifices.**



**Because of transgression, an army
was given over to the horn to
oppose the daily sacrifices; and
he cast truth down to the ground.
He did all this and prospered.**

DANIEL 8:12





“Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.” (Da.8:12)



This part of the vision anticipated the rise of a ruler in the Greek Empire who subjugated the people and land of Israel, desecrated her temple, interrupted her worship, and demanded for himself the authority and worship that belongs to God.



Israel again became corrupt but not by idolatry.




God determined to punish Israel because of transgressions. This time it was by suffering from the wicked king Antiochus




Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?"

DANIEL 8:13





“Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, “How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?”” (Da.8:13)



For Daniel’s benefit an angel (a “holy one”, Da.4:17) addressed the revealing angel (another holy one) and asked, How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled?





How long will it be until this condition will be corrected, and the daily sacrifice be resumed according to the law?



**And he said to me, "For
two thousand three
hundred days; then the
sanctuary shall be
cleansed."**

DANIEL 8:14





“And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.”” (Da.8:14)



The date when the temple was cleansed is well established as December 25, 164 B.C. If we count back 2,300 days from then, we come to the year when Antiochus Epiphanes began his persecution in earnest (171 B.C.).



The percecution of Antiochus lasted from September 6, 171 B.C. to December 25, 164 B.C..



The Jews celebrated the cleansing of their holy place with the Feast of Dedication or Hanukkah (Jn.10:22).



**Then it happened, when I,
Daniel, had seen the vision
and was seeking the meaning,
that suddenly there stood
before me one having the
appearance of a man.**

DANIEL 8:15





“Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.” (Da.8:15)



This man (H1397, “a mighty man”) is likely the angel Gabriel which means “mighty one of God.”



Gabriel explained that the vision pertained to the time of the end (Da.8:19), that is, events future from Daniel’s day, events concerning the nation Israel under the Greek Empire.



**And I heard a man's voice
between the banks of the Ulai,
who called, and said, "Gabriel,
make this man understand the
vision."**

DANIEL 8:16






“And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."” (Da.8:16)



 **The man's voice apparently was God speaking with a human voice.**

 **This is the first mention of an angel by name in the Bible.**



**So he came near where I stood,
and when he came I was afraid
and fell on my face; but he said
to me, "Understand, son of man,
that the vision refers to the time
of the end."**

DANIEL 8:17





“So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, “Understand, on of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.””

(Da.8:17)



That “time of the end” is the period defined by the empires Persia (Ram) and Greece (Goat), when the Grecian land holdings will be divided into four parts (Da.8:8).



The Syrian under Seleucus, will eventually lead to Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.) as the “little horn” (Da.8:9).



The secondary meaning of this “little horn” is the Antichrist of the future. Antiochus prefigures a later fulfillment in the Antichrist.

- *Both will persecute the Jews*
- *Both will stop sacrifice and desecrate the temple*



Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright.

DANIEL 8:18





“Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright.” (Da.8:18)





Daniel was still prostrate on the ground, and then Gabriel restored him to receive the message.



**And he said, "Look, I am making
known to you what shall happen
in the latter time of the
indignation; for at the appointed
time the end shall be.**

DANIEL 8:19





“And he said, “Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be.” (Da.8:19)



There is a more specific item added to the prediction as to the date and that is, “time of the indignation.”



The vision ended at the final downfall and death of Antiochus, whose wicked conduct provoked the indignation of God.



Though this prophecy is fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes it also has a later fulfillment in the Antichrist.



**The ram which you saw, having
the two horns—they are the
kings of Media and Persia.**



DANIEL 8:20





**And the male goat is the
kingdom of Greece. The
large horn that is between
its eyes is the first king.**





DANIEL 8:21





**“And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece.
The large horn that is between its eyes is the
first king.” (Da.8:21)**



-  **The single horn represented Greece’s greatest king, Alexander (Da.11:3).**
-  **Though his father Philip II of Macedonia had united all the Greek city-states except Sparta, Alexander is considered Greece’s first king.**



**As for the broken horn and the
four that stood up in its place,
four kingdoms shall arise out of
that nation, but not with its
power.**

DANIEL 8:22





“As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.” (Da.8:22)



Alexander died at age 33 in 323 B.C., leaving no heir ready to reign.



Since Alexander had no heir to succeed him, the kingdom was divided several years later among his four generals, represented here by the four horns (Da.8:8; 11:4). They fought for 22 years to conquer territories, so now they assumed to rule.





The divided kingdom of Greece never had the same power Greece had enjoyed under Alexander. Syria became the most important.




"And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.

DANIEL 8:23






“And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.” (Da.8:23)

 **Fierce features is defined as meaning “harsh of face.”**

 **He was an expert in matters of trickery, and would not hesitate to use it to his own advantage.**

 **The near fulfillment views Antiochus as the historical persecutor (Da.8:9-14). His career extending to 164 B.C. was “in the latter time of their kingdom,” that of the male goat in the Syrian territory.**



**His power shall be mighty, but
not by his own power; He shall
destroy fearfully, And shall
prosper and thrive; He shall
destroy the mighty, and also
the holy people.**

DANIEL 8:24





**"Through his cunning He shall cause
deceit to prosper under his rule; And
he shall exalt himself in his heart.**

**He shall destroy many in their
prosperity. He shall even rise against
the Prince of princes; But he shall be
broken without human means.**

DANIEL 8:25





“Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means.” (Da.8:25)



He would devastate property and destroy people in order to expand his kingdom.



Antiochus died, “broken without human means,” due to insanity and disease of the bowels.



Antiochus would be destroyed by supernatural power. His rise was not his own doing (Da.8:24) and his downfall was not by human means (he died insane in Persia in 164 B.C.).



Rome conquered Greece by 146 B.C., only a few years later, and became the next dominant empire.



**"And the vision of the evenings
and mornings Which was told
is true; Therefore seal up the
vision, For it refers to many
days in the future."**



DANIEL 8:26





“"And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future.”” (Da.8:26)



Daniel was told to seal up the vision in the sense of concluding it. It will be needed to be preserved for the future.





The things predicted in the vision were some time in the future, hence Daniel was told to shut it up to be preserved.







**And I, Daniel, fainted and was
sick for days; afterward I arose
and went about the king's
business. I was astonished by
the vision, but no one
understood it.**

DANIEL 8:27





**“And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.”
(Da.8:27)**

-  Daniel was completely overcome (exhausted and ill) by the interpretation of this vision.
-  For several days he was unable to carry on his official business.
-  At this point God was beginning to mesh the “times of the Gentiles” into the history of the nation Israel.
-  How can God mesh His program with Israel into His program for the Gentiles in the world?

