

# Daniel 8

The Ram & the Goat







## Daniel 8:1-2

“In the third year of King Belshazzar’s reign, I, Daniel, had a vision, after the one that had already appeared to me. <sup>2</sup> In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal.”

# Daniel 8:3-8

“<sup>3</sup> I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later. <sup>4</sup> I watched the ram as it charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against it, and none could rescue from its power. It did as it pleased and became great.<sup>5</sup> As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between its eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground.<sup>6</sup> It came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at it in great rage. <sup>7</sup> I saw it attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering its two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against it; the goat knocked it to the ground and trampled on it, and none could rescue the ram from its power. <sup>8</sup> The goat became very great, but at the height of its power the large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven.”

## Daniel 8: 9-10

“<sup>9</sup> Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. <sup>10</sup> It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.”

# The Little Horn

- Scholars are in almost unanimous agreement that this is referring to Antiochus IV
- Antiochus IV gave himself the title Epiphanes which meant “god manifest” although some thought Epimanes would have been more appropriate (“Madman”)
- He replaced the high priest in Jerusalem with a man of his own choosing
- He savagely attacked Jerusalem executing tens of thousands of its inhabitants.
- The temple was left without daily sacrifices, religious practices became nonexistent, and a statue of Zeus was placed in the temple and human sacrifices were made on the altar. Circumcision was forbidden, unclean meat was mandatory fare, and the sabbath and other feast days profaned.
- John 16:1 “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.”



# Daniel 8:11-12

“<sup>11</sup> It set itself up to be as great as the commander of the army of the Lord; it took away the daily sacrifice from the Lord, and his sanctuary was thrown down. <sup>12</sup> Because of rebellion, the Lord’s people and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.”

# The tactics of wickedness

- Took away the daily sacrifice: Blasphemy
- Threw down the sanctuary: Persecution
- Truth thrown to the ground: Lies

# Daniel 8:13-14

“Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, ‘How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled—the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, the surrender of the sanctuary and the trampling underfoot of the Lord’s people?’ He said to me, ‘It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated.’”

# How Long?

- Psalms 6:3 “My soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long?”
- Psalm 13:1-2, “How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemies triumph over me?”
- Questions in Psalms of Lament:
  - Why?
  - Where is our God?
  - Is the Lord among us or not?
  - How long?

# Daniel 8:19 “The time of the end”

“He said: ‘I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end.’”

- Caution: not to jump to “the end times” in this passage
- Sometimes, these events, or “endings”, are signposts along the way to the ultimate end
- “Patterning of Endings” we see throughout history
  - Amos and the basket of figs
  - 70 AD and the fall of Jerusalem

# Daniel 8:27- Daniel's Response

“I, Daniel, was worn out. I lay exhausted for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.”

- Burdened for the kingdom of God
- Went back to the place God had put him—with an adjusted worldview



# Resources:

- **Davis, Dale Ralph. *The Bible Speaks Today: The Message of Daniel*. Intervarsity Press: Downers Grove, IL. 2013.**
- **Ferguson, Sinclair B. *The Communicators Commentary: Daniel*. Word Books Publishers: Waco, Texas. 1988.**
- **Gowan, Donald E. *Abingdon Old Testament Commentary: Daniel*. Abingdon Press: Nashville, TN. 2001.**
- **Longman, Tremper III. *The NIV Application Commentary: Daniel*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.**
- **Lucas, Ernest C. *Daniel*. Intervarsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois. 2002.**
- **Wright, Chris. Sermon: How long will God's people be trampled?  
<https://www.allsouls.org/Media/AllMedia.aspx>**