

## DAY 4: DANIEL'S VISION OF THE RAM AND THE GOAT DANIEL 8

### I. THE VISION OF THE RAM AND THE GOAT

- A. Daniel is in Babylon (50 miles south of modern day Baghdad, Iraq) having a vision of Susa (200 miles east in modern day Iran). Elam, Persia is modern day Iran
- B. Ram has two horns, one comes up later and grows longer than the other (v. 3)
  - 1. The ram represents a kingdom
  - 2. The horns often represent kings
- C. The goat, with one unicorn-like horn, flies overhead and tramples the ram (v. 7)
- D. The goat became very great, but then at the height of his power, the horn was broken off (v. 8)
- E. Instead grew "four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven" (v. 8)
- F. Out of one of those four horns, came another horn which started small then became big, growing towards the south and towards Israel (v. 9-10)
- G. The Lord's sanctuary will be thrown down (v. 11)
  - 1. The Antichrist doesn't sit in the temple claiming to be God, he claims to be greater than God and destroys the temple
  - 2. He denies the Father, he denies the Son (1 John 2:22)
- H. The Lord chooses to allow the Antichrist to prosper for a time, which means we will not

### II. THE INTERPRETATION OF THE VISION

- A. Gabriel, the messenger angel, is sent to explain the vision to Daniel (v. 16)
- B. The first thing Gabriel says is that the vision is about the End Times (v. 17)
- C. Three times, Gabriel clarifies that this vision is about the End Times (v. 17, 19)
- D. When the Book of Daniel was written, "Greece" was referring to modern day Western Asia Minor and Western Turkey (v. 21)
- E. "But not by his own power" by the power of Satan (v. 24)
- F. He will exalt himself to be greater than the Prince of princes and will be broken (v. 25)

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**III. THE CLASSIC INTERPRETATION**

- A. Overwhelmingly, people will state that the verses concerning the ram, its horns, and the goat's destruction of the ram to be historical (v. 3-8)
  - 1. Came from Medo-Persia, had massive success in expansion
  - 2. The goat, the prominent horn, was Alexander the Great
  - 3. Alexander died, the horn breaks off, and four horns come up in his place
    - a) Alexander's four successors
  - 4. Antiochus Epiphanes invades Israel, is the prototype of the Antichrist
- B. The verses about the little horn would be taken to have dual meaning, bleeding into the Last Days (v. 9-12)

**IV. THE FUTURIST INTERPRETATION**

- A. Claims that all of this prophecy is pertaining to the End Times
- B. Satan presently has access to the throne of God as accuser of the brethren
  - 1. So, the stars falling is a future event
  - 2. This is when Satan will finally be cast out of the heavens, the Antichrist will be revealed on the Earth, the Abomination of Desolation will take place, the temple destroyed (Revelation 12:3-4, 9)
  - 3. Antiochus did not do this
- C. Gabriel says that the vision is about the End Times, he does not ever separate the events
- D. After Alexander the Great died, there were actually five Diadochi that succeed him
- E. If we understand this chapter to be entirely about the End Times, it would imply that Iran is going to invade all of the Middle East
  - 1. Which would cause a great clash with Turkey
  - 2. There is a long history of conflict between these regions
  - 3. Scriptures refer to the Prince of Persia and the Prince of Greece clashing
- F. If Iran fails, their leader dies, and the new Turkey breaks up into four new regions
  - 1. From one of which would come the Antichrist

**V. THE FOUR WINDS OF HEAVEN**

- A. We see in Daniel 11 that there is a transition from describing historical events to describing End Times events
- B. It only makes sense to say that Daniel 8 could do the same
- C. "The four winds of heaven" is a phrase used in both of these chapters
  - 1. After Alexander died, there were four primary families and one split
- D. Daniel 8 identifies the regions from which these events occur
  - 1. The Antichrist will, therefore, emerge from the Seleucid Empire