

Daniel Chapter Eight

- Two years after the dream described in chapter 7 Daniel receives another vision [8:1].
 - This is 12 years before the handwriting on the wall.
 - This is a vision, but no dream is mentioned.
- This vision takes Daniel to a palace in Susa, more than 200 miles east of Babylon [8:2].
 - Susa is a Persian city (on the Royal Road) where King Xerxes I would build a great palace [Esther 1:2].
 - Nehemiah was cupbearer to King Artaxerxes I in Susa [Nehemiah 1:1, 11].
- Daniel sees a ram with two horns [8:3-4].
 - One horn was longer than the other.
 - The larger horn arose after the smaller.
 - The ram magnified itself and did as it pleased.
- Daniel sees a goat with one large horn [8:5-8].
 - This goat attacked the ram, shattering its horns, and trampled it down.
 - The goat with the large horn magnified itself, but was broken and replaced by four horns as soon as it became mighty.
- Out from the four horns comes a small horn [8:9-12].
 - This small horn is not the little horn from chapter 7.
 - As we will see, this horn arises from the third “beast” (Greece), not the fourth “beast” (Rome).
 - This small horn is a type of the little horn to come.
 - This horn achieves great earthly conquests [8:9].
 - This horn stirs up the angelic realm [8:10].
 - This horn is one of great boasting [8:11].
 - This horn is allowed to prosper – the sanctuary and the sacrifices are under its control [8:11-12].
- Daniel overhears an angelic conversation [8:13-14].
 - One angel asks the other how long this trampling will be allowed to go on.
 - The angel replies that this will go on for 2,300 mornings/evenings until the sanctuary is restored.

- Gabriel approaches Daniel to give him an explanation [8:15-19].
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- The explanation of the vision [8:20-26].
 - The ram with two horns represents Medo-Persia.
 - The smaller horn is Media and the larger horn is Persia.
 - The Medes were initially greater with a stronger military force, but as time went on the Persians rose to preeminence over the Medes.
 - The goat is the Greek empire and the large horn is its first king.
 - This king defeated Medo-Persia and rose to greatness, but was broken as soon as he became mighty.
 - This king is Alexander the Great.
 - The four horns are four kings (kingdoms) which arose in place of the first one.
 - Macedonia and Greece under Cassander.
 - Thrace and parts of Asia Minor under Lysimachus.
 - Egypt and parts of Asia Minor under Ptolemy.
 - Syria and Mesopotamia under Seleucus – his descendants were called Seleucids.
 - The small horn is a king that will arise from among the four in the latter period of their rule.
 - This king is destructive, shrewd, and deceitful.
 - This king is Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a Seleucid king.
- The prophecies of this vision have been fulfilled during the reign of Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
 - He came to power in 175 B.C. after murdering his own brother.
 - He subdued Jerusalem, subjugated the people, desecrated and looted the temple.
 - He prevented the Jews from following the Law, including the offering of holy sacrifices.
 - He forced the Jews to offer unclean sacrifices and eat unclean animals, under penalty of death.
 - His desecration of the temple lasted a little over three years.
 - The 2,300 mornings/evenings refers to the morning and evening sacrifices.
 - Since there are two sacrifices per day, this equates to 1,150 days or 3 years and 70 days (Jewish calendar).
 - The temple was desecrated late in 167 B.C. and was restored late in 164 B.C. by Judas Maccabeus with the daily sacrifices resuming shortly thereafter in 163 B.C.
 - Antiochus Epiphanes was not defeated by armies, but died in his insanity in 163 B.C.

- The fulfilled prophecies of this vision give us insight into the “little horn” to come in the end times.
 - He will be boastful, crafty and manipulative [8:23].
 - He will be empowered by another (Satan) [8:24].
 - He will subjugate the people of Israel [8:24-25].
 - He will stand against the Lord Jesus Christ [8:25].
 - His rule will end apart from human agency [8:25].
- Gabriel instructs Daniel to keep the vision and its explanation secret [8:26].
- The aftermath for Daniel [8:27].
 - He was exhausted and sick for days.
 - Upon his recovery he resumed his normal work.
 - He was astonished by what he had seen.
 - Even with the explanation he was given, he did not fully understand its meaning.