

## DANIEL

### CHAPTER 8

Chapter 8 sees the return to Hebrew (Aramaic 2:4 thru 7:28). From here to the end of the book, Daniel describes gentile history as it relates to Israel.

- 1.) Chapter 8 concerns the empires of Persia and Greece as they relate to Israel.
  - a.) Under Persian domination, the Israelites went back to rebuild their land and the city of Jerusalem.
  - b.) Under Greek domination (Antiochus Epiphanes) Jerusalem and the Temple are once again decimated. (The Maccabees overthrow this oppression).
- 2.) Chapter 9 covers Israel's history during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah to the establishment of Messiah: the Prince's reign. (Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy - Dan.9:24-27).
- 3.) Chapter 10-11 return to Israel's oppression under the Persian and Greek empires.
- 4.) 11:36-12:13 deals with the end of the age and the time of the revived fourth kingdom.

VS 1-2      2 years after the events of Chapter 7, Daniel receives another vision. (551 BC) while away from Babylon in Susa (or he was translated there by God - Ezk.8:3; 40:1-2ff).  
Also note that at the time of Daniel's vision the Medo-Persian Empire was not yet established though Susa later becomes that empire's capital. Neh.1:1; Esther 1:2,5; 2:3,5. (at the time Daniel is writing only God would know this fact.).  
In short, Daniel finds himself in a vision in a little known town at that time, 250 miles east of Babylon, which was in God's plan to become the capital of Persia, home of Esther and city from which Nehemiah would come to Jerusalem.

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VS 3-12 The vision itself

Vs 3-4 The Ram with the Two Horns

The Ram - one empire, with two horns - two kings.

The second horn which comes up later than the first but ends up higher dominates the first horn, Cyrus (Darius the Mede).

This United Kingdom becomes great and is able to “push out” at will in all directions but east. This is

the Medo-Persian Empire - Dan 8:20.

Historically:

- 1.) The Persians rose up and joined with the Medes later.
- 2.) They became the more prominent and powerful of the two.
- 3.) Persia’s expansion was to the west, north and south.
- 4.) The guardian spirit of the Persian kingdom will appear under the form of a ram with clean feet and sharp-pointed horns.
- 5.) The Persian king, when the empire comes into existence, will wear a ram’s head when he stands before his army.

Vs 5-7 The Male Goat from the West - Greece

Dan.8:21 - Alexander the Great

- 1.) As he conquers - his feet do not touch the ground. Alexander’s conquest happened with tremendous speed.

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- 2.) The Persians had attacked Greece earlier in history. Alexander's wrath resulted in his trampling them with no one to help at the time of their destruction. They were destroyed by Alexander in 3 years - 334 – 331 BC.

NOTE: The spread of the kingdom of Greece resulted in the spread of the Greek language which is the language of the New Testament.

Vs 8 His kingdom ends up being divided into 4 sections, each going to a different general. This process took about 20 years.

Vs 9-10 The Little Horn

Antiochus Epiphanies, the eighth king in the Syrian dynasty who reigned 175-164 BC (descended from Seleucus one of Alexander's four generals).

Vs 11-12 The Desecration of the Temple in Jerusalem

In I Maccabees it is recorded that Antiochus Epiphanies:

- 1.) sent letters by messengers to Jerusalem and the cities of Judah telling them to replace the Law of Moses with the customs of the land
- 2.) to stop the burnt offerings and drink offerings in the Sanctuary
- 3.) to build altars and shrines for idols
- 4.) to sacrifice swine on God's alter in the temple
- 5.) told them to stop circumcising their sons
- 6.) make offerings at times other than those given by Moses
- 7.) remodeled the temple in Jerusalem
- 8.) Whoever does not obey the commands of the king

were to be put to death.

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Verse 12 states that God allowed Antiochus to dominate the people of Israel because of their transgressions and allowed him to throw God's truth to the ground.

Though Antiochus Epiphanes was the immediate fulfillment of the prophecy, Anti-Christ will be the ultimate fulfillment in the tribulation period.

### Vs 13-14 A Conversation Between 2 Angels in Heaven

Rather than answer the angel who asked the question, he answers by telling Daniel the answer.

The interpretations of the 2,300 evenings and mornings is uncertain.

Some believe that it represents the time between the legitimate high priest being killed, so that a false line of priests could assume authority, and the time of Antiochus' death which allowed

Judas Maccabee to overthrow the oppressors and cleanse and restore the temple: 171-164 BC.

Again, it remains uncertain because it's primary meaning is dealing with the end of time, vs.26.

### Vs 15-22 The Interpretation of the Vision in Relation to the Time of the End.

Vs 15 The person Daniel sees is an angel though he looks like a man.

Vs 16 A voice tells Gabriel to tell Daniel the meaning of the vision.

NOTE: This is the first time in the Bible that the name of an angel is given, Dan.8:16; 9:21; Lk.1:19,26. The only other angel named in

Scripture (apart from Lucifer) is Michael, Dan.10:13,21; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev.12:7.

Vs 17 Daniel is so frightened that he falls to the ground.

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Vs 18 Daniel had been awake when he received the vision, but here he falls asleep while on the ground. Gabriel awakens Daniel and has him stand up.

Vs 19 “The Indignation” means that God has allowed all that has happened to Israel to occur. Is.10:5,25. The immediate action by God will affect Israel following Daniel’s death. The ultimate fulfillment awaits the tribulation period.

Vs 20-22 have already occurred under the Medo-Persian and Greek empires.

Vs 23-26 refers to what will happen during the tribulation when the man of sin reigns, of this future world ruler and his empire. Daniel tells us:

Vs 23 There will be a king who rises up many years later, at the end of the times of the gentiles, after the sin (transgressions) of the world warrants God’s putting them to an end, Gen 15:13-16. This king will be severe (stern faced) as to countenance and a master of intrigue - deceit vs 25.

Vs 24 His power will be awesome because the greatest created power will operate through him, Rev.12:13 with 13:2. The destruction under his reign will be unparalleled. He will devastate property and destroy people in order to expand his kingdom Rev.13:7-10. He will perform “His will”, “his will” - all that Satan desires for humanity will begin to be experienced at the very same time completely fulfilling the will of God, Eph.1:11. He will do away with the great rulers of the earth so that only his will is experienced. He will destroy the “holy people” - People of Israel, Rev.13:7.

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NOTE: the saints of Rev.13:7 belong to Israel rather than the church. The church by this time has been completed and removed from the earth. God is preparing the planet for the 1,000 year kingdom. Israel's focus is an earthly kingdom, and during that reign she will possess her possessions. Satan's focus during the tribulation will be his attempt to stop this from happening by destroying Israel.

Vs 25 This coming anti Christ will destroy many (Israel) who have entered into a peace covenant with him, Dan.9:27; Rev.6:1-2. His influence will be so great that Israel will have been totally deceived by his influence with the world. (They will have thought of him as their answer, their long awaited Messiah). He will even oppose Jesus Christ, II Thess.2:1-4. His end will come as a result of divine judgment carried out without human involvement, Rev.19:17-21; Zech,14:1-5.

Vs 26 As is sometimes the case, God has chosen to withhold the meaning of the "evenings and mornings". There are attempts to explain it during the reign of Antiochus but we will need to wait until the near future unfolds to reveal it. (Rev.10:4).

Vs 27 Daniel was completely overcome (exhausted and sick) by the interpretations given him by Gabriel. For several days he was unable to carry on his official business under Belshazzar.