

DANIEL CHAPTER 8

As we come to chapter 8 the section dealing with God's rule over the Gentiles has been completed. Daniel has returned to using the Hebrew language. After the disturbing dream or vision of chapter 7, Daniel probably was wrestling with the following question: if three more Gentile kingdoms were to dominate the world after Babylon, what would happen to Israel during that extensive period of time?

Daniel 7:28

²⁸ *Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations (**thoughts**) much troubled me, and my countenance (**facial expression**) changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.*

In response to that question, God gave Daniel revelations concerning the future of Israel. Daniel recorded these revelations in chapters 8 through 12.

A. Daniel's second dream.

1. Verses 1-2—Introduction to the dream.

2. Verses 3-4—A mighty ram pushing in different directions.

a. A ram which had two horns...Later in this chapter Daniel identifies this ram as representing the Medo-Persian Empire. The ram then would be the breasts and arms of silver of the image in chapter 2, and the bear raised up on one side with three ribs in its mouth in chapter 7.

Daniel 8:20

²⁰ *The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the **kings of Media and Persia**.*

b. One horn was higher than the other...The ram was noted for the proportion of its two horns (**one was higher than the other**). This was an accurate prediction of partnership between the Medes and the Persians, because the Persians were larger and stronger in the partnership. They also emerged after the Medes (**the higher one came up last**).

c. Pushing westward, northward, and southward.

(1). The principle areas of their wars were...against the Greeks, westward; against the Scythians, northward; and against the Egyptians, southward.

3. Verses 5-8— A male goat challenges and conquers the ram.

a. A male goat came from the west. This male goat is clearly identified as Greece and its horns are identified with the rulers of the Greek Empire. The goat then would be the belly and thighs of brass of the image in chapter 2 and the leopard with the four wings and four heads in chapter 7.

Daniel 8:21-22

²¹ *And the rough goat is the **king of Grecia**: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.*

²² *Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.*

b. The great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. This first king refers to Alexander the Great.

c. The great horn is broken and four other horns rose up to replace it.

(1). Alexander the Great died at the age of 32. Four of his generals divided his kingdom among themselves.

(a). Cassander ruled over Greece and its region.

(b). Lysimachus ruled over Asia Minor.

(c). Seleucus ruled over Syria and Israel.

(d). Ptolemy ruled over Egypt.

4. Verses 9-12— A little horn arises out of one of the four horns of the male goat. This little horn is different from the little horn of Daniel 7:8.

Daniel 7:8a

⁸ *I considered the horns, and, behold, **there came up among them** another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots:*

Daniel 8:8-9

⁸ *Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.*

⁹ ***And out of one of them came forth** a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward **the pleasant land**.*

The little horn in chapter 7 is referring to the Antichrist, the little horn here in chapter 8 is referring to Antiochus Epiphanes who was a foreshadowing of the little horn (**the Antichrist**) in chapter 7. Antiochus Epiphanes is sometimes referred to as the “Antichrist of the Old Testament.” Antiochus Epiphanes’ persecution of the Jews is similar to that of the Antichrist during the tribulation period. **Verses 10-12, 23-25**

DANIEL CHAPTER 10

DANIEL CHAPTER 11

Daniel chapter 11 focuses on five personalities and the alignment of the nations. In chapter 11 Daniel is given more details concerning Medo-Persia and Greece, and especially the rulers of the two major divisions of Alexander's Grecian kingdom, the Ptolemies of Egypt, and the Seleucids of Syria. Chapter 11 goes on to give great detail concerning these two kingdoms which ends with Antiochus Epiphanes, king of the north devastating Jerusalem and desecrating the temple.

This chapter contains one of the most specifically fulfilled prophecies of the Bible. Daniel chapter 11:2-35 was fulfilled so accurately, critics have argued that this portion of Daniel could not have been written in Daniel's day. They insist that this passage was written after the events, because no one could possibly foretell so much specific detail so accurately so far in advance. While that is true that no human being would have the ability to foretell future events with so much detail and accuracy, God who is sovereign over history has precisely that ability.

Isaiah 42:9

⁹ *Behold, the former things are come to pass, and **new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.***

A. Verse 2—Four future kings.

1. The three kings were Cambyses, Smerdis, and Darius I Hystaspes.
2. The fourth king was Xerxes, known in the Book of Esther as Ahasuerus.

Esther 1:2

² *That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in **Shushan the palace,***

He amassed great wealth (***the fourth shall be far richer than they all***) and prepared a huge army over a four-year period in order to invade Greece (***by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia***), however the expedition against Greece ended in disaster for Persia.

B. Verse 3-4—The rise of a mighty king.

1. This prophecy was fulfilled by Alexander the Great who certainly was a mighty king. His kingdom is broken and divided toward the four winds. After the death of Alexander his four generals ruled the Greek Empire, but none of them “**according to his dominion**”.

- Cassander ruled over Greece and its region.
- Lysimachus ruled over Asia Minor.
- Seleucus ruled over Syria and Israel.
- Ptolemy ruled over Egypt.

C. Verses 5-35— Focuses on two of the generals of Alexander’s kingdom, and the dynasties they established. Only two are focused on because they constantly fought over the Promised Land because it sat between their centers of power. They are seen as the kings of the north and south.

Daniel 11:5-6

*⁵And the **king of the south** shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.*

*⁶And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the **king of the north** to make an agreement:*

1. Seleucus ruling Syria the north.
2. Ptolemy I ruling Egypt the south.

South
EGYPT

North
SYRIA

Ptolemy I (v. 5)

Seleucus Nicator (v. 5)

Ptolemy II (v. 6)

Antiochus II (v.6)

Ptolemy III Berenice

Antiochus II married Berenice.
She was later murdered.

Ptolemy III invaded and defeated Syria in revenge.

Seleucus II (v. 10)

Sons of Seleucus II (Seleucus III and Antiochus III) push Egypt back.

Ptolemy IV

Ptolemy IV defeated Antiochus III at Battle of Raphia, 217 B.C. (vv. 11-12).

ANTIOCHUS III (the Great)

14 years later Antiochus returned to Egypt, supported by apostate Jews. Conquered Egypt, desolated Palestine (vv. 13-16).

Ptolemy V

Ptolemy V married Cleopatra. She supported her husband (v. 17).

Cleopatra Antiochus Epiphanes

Antiochus III invaded Aegean Sea. Stopped by the Romans, forced to return to Syria, murdered (vv. 18-19).

Seleucus IV Philopator (v. 20)

Poisoned by Heliodorus the tax collector. Heliodorus seized the throne (v. 21).

ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES seized the throne. (vv. 22-23)

Ptolemy Philometor (v. 22)

Philometor tried to shake off Syrian domination. Failed (vv. 22-23).

Ptolemy Physcon (Euergetes) (vv. 26-27)

Antiochus invaded Egypt. Intrigued with Philometor (vv. 25-27). Despoiled Palestine (v. 28).

Antiochus invaded Egypt again. Stopped by Rome (vv. 29-30). Devastated Jerusalem (vv. 31-35).

Antiochus Epiphanes' rule was certainly a devastating and cruel time of persecution for the Jews, but it was also a time of defiance by some Godly Jews by the name of Maccabee who we see described in verse 32.

Daniel 11:32

³² *And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: **but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.***

The occasion of Antiochus' defeat has much meaning for the Jews today and lessons for us as well.

The following are some excerpts from *Dr. Jimmy DeYoung's book*:

In 168BC, on Kislev 25, (December 25), Antiochus Epiphanes with his military rode into Jerusalem and captured the city. He took a PIG into the Temple killed it with his dagger and desecrated the altar with it. He then gave a decree that no Jews were allowed to sacrifice anything except pigs in the Temple or on altars in other places. A pig is a non-kosher animal and it desecrates the Temple.

The Maccabees were a priestly family. They conspired and ran Antiochus Epiphanes and his soldiers out of town by the end of 165BC on Kislev 25, (December 25). They cleaned up the Temple and found enough virgin olive oil to light the menorah for one day. Miraculously it shined for 8 days. This became known as Hanukkah, meaning Feast of Dedication/or Feast of Lights.

Jesus celebrated Hanukkah. He went up to the Temple in winter and celebrated the Feast of Dedication (the Feast of Lights) (**John 10:22-23**). He said, "*I am the light of the world*" (**John 9:5; 12:46**). The menorah in the Temple was a prophecy, of Jesus Christ, the light of the world to come. One of the reasons we celebrate Christmas on December 25 is because of Hanukkah. In 365BC in Antioch, one of the preachers preached on the Feast of Dedication/Feast of Lights (December 25).

The Bible does teach that Christ was born in December. Because Jesus said He is the Light of the World, and on the Feast of Dedication, also called the Feast of Lights, what better day to have the Light of the World to be born and to come into this world? It is not a coincidence, but helps to explain some of the great truths that are found in the scriptures.

D. In verses 36-45 we see the Antichrist and the alignment of nations which will play a key role in the end times scenario that unfolds after the rapture of the church.

PARALLELS BETWEEN DANIEL CHAPTERS 2, 7, 8, AND 11

Kingdoms represented	Chapter 2 The Great Image (Statue of a Man)	Chapter 7 The Four Great Beast and the little Horn	Chapter 8 The Ram, the Mail Goat and the little Horn	Chapter 11 Persia and Grecian Kings and the Willful King
Babylon	Head of Gold	Winged Lion		
Medo-Persia	Breasts and Arms of Silver	Bear with three ribs in its mouth	Ram with two horns, one higher than the other	Four future kings of Persia
Greece	Belly and Thighs of Brass	Leopard with four wings and four heads	Mail Goat with one great horn, four horns and little horn (Antiochus Epiphanes)	Alexander the Great through Antiochus Epiphanes
Rome I	Legs of Iron	Terrible Beast with iron teeth		
Rome II Ten Nation Confederation	Feet and Toes of Iron and clay	Ten horns and a little horn (the Antichrist)		The willful king (the Antichrist)
God's Kingdom	The stone cut out without hands (Christ) destroys the image, becomes a great mountain	The Son of Man (Christ) receives the kingdom		