

DANIEL 8

I. THE VISION, vs. 1-14.

- A. A ram with 2 horns, vs. 1-4
- B. A male goat with one horn makes war with the ram and, overcomes him, vs. 5-7
- C. When the male goat was strong, his great horn was broken and 4 horns grew to replace it.
- D. Out of one of the 4 horns, came a little horn that became great, & arrayed itself against the sanctuary and the truth, vs. 9-14

II. THE INTERPRETATION, vs. 15-27.

- A. time of the end, vs 17; at the time appointed the end shall be, vs. 19. This refers to the end of the Babylonian captivity. After the end of the captivity, these things would begin to be fulfilled.
- B. The ram with 2 horns is the Medo-Persian empire, vs. 20
- C. The rough male goat is the Grecian Empire, the notable horn is Alexander the Great, vs. 21
- D. When Alexander died (notable horn broken off while the empire was strong), the empire was divided into 4 kingdoms, each headed by one of Alexander's generals, vs 22

1. Ptolemie (Egypt)
2. Seleucid (Syria, Babylonia, Media, mis.)
3. Caasander (most of Greece)
4. Lysimachus (part of Greece & Asia Minor)

NOTE: Only these first 2 divisions were hereafter significant to Bible students, because the 2 of them continually fought to control Palestine and maintained an almost constant state of war.

5. From one of these 4 kingdoms (Seleucid), arose a little horn fulfilled in the person of

Antiochus Epiphanes who ruled over Syria from 175-163 B.C., vs 23—25.

- a. he set up an idol in the temple
- b. offered swine flesh on the altar
- c. forbade the Jews to circumcise their children, keep the Sabbath or possess a copy of the Scriptures, which he attempted to destroy.

6. The vision of the 2300 days (vs. 13-14) is **true**; that is, not symbolic, a literal period of time (expressed in round numbers), a little over 6 years, vs. 26-27. Again, we note, fulfilled in the reign of Antiochus from 171 when he deposed the Jewish high priest & appointed a man of his own choice to that office. In 168 he ordered that all worship except of his chosen gods to cease. He ordered that a statue of Jupiter be placed on the altar of the temple, refused to permit the Jews to offer burnt offerings, caused swine flesh to be sacrificed in the temple, destroyed all copies of the Scriptures that he could get his hands on, & put to death any who attempted to follow the law of Moses. This persecution was most severe for a period of about 3½ years, but from its beginning in 171 until the temple was cleansed & rededicated in late December, 165 was a period of just under 6½ years, the 2300 days of Dan. 8:14. The “feast of dedication” mentioned in John 10:22 was celebrated each year to commemorate that event.

CONCLUSION: This, and the next few chapters of Daniel provide some of the most amazing examples of predictive prophecy, and do much to underscore the divine inspiration of the Old Testament Scriptures.

La Porte, TX, December 25, 1977

Exton, PA, November 8, 1987

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 15, 2003