

The Book of Daniel

God's Prophet and Statesman

VII. Daniel's *Testimony* of His Visions and Prophetic Revelation (7:1-12:13)

- A. The *Vision* of the 4 Beasts (7:1-8)
- B. The *Vision* of God (7:9-10)
- C. The *Vision* of the 4 Beasts Continued (7:11-12)
- D. The *Vision* of the "Son of Man" (7:13-14)
- E. The *Vision* of the 4th Beast Interpreted (7:15-28)

F. The *Vision* of the Ram, Goat, and Small Horn (8:1-28)

1. The Ram and the Goat (8:1-8)

8 In the **third year** of the reign of **Belshazzar** the king a vision appeared to me, **Daniel**, subsequent to the **one** which appeared to me **previously**.

² I looked in the vision, and while I was looking I was in the citadel of **Susa**, which is in the province of **Elam**; and I looked in the vision and I myself was beside the **Ulai Canal**.

³ Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the **canal**.

Now the **two horns** were **long**, but one was **longer** than the **other**, with the **longer** one coming up **last**.

⁴ I saw the ram butting **westward**, **northward**, and **southward**, and **no other** beasts could **stand** before him nor was there anyone to **rescue** from **his power**, but **he did** as he pleased and **magnified himself**.

⁵ While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the **west** over the surface of the **whole earth** without **touching** the ground; and the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes.

⁶ He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the **canal**, and **rushed** at him in his **mighty wrath**.

⁷ I saw him come beside the **ram**, and he was **enraged** at him; and he **struck the ram** and **shattered** his **two horns**, and the **ram** had **no strength** to withstand him. So he hurled him to the **ground** and **trampled on him**, and there was **none** to **rescue** the **ram** from **his power**.



⁸ Then the **male goat** magnified **himself** exceedingly. But as soon as he was **mighty**, the **large horn** was **broken**; and in its place there came up **four conspicuous horns** toward the **four winds of heaven**.

2. The **Small Horn** (8:9-14)

⁹ **Out of one of them** (the **four horns**) came forth a rather **small horn** which **grew exceedingly** great toward the **south**, toward the **east**, and toward the **Beautiful Land**.



¹⁰ It **grew up** to the **host of heaven** and caused **some** of the **host** and **some** of the **stars** to **fall** to the **earth**, and it **trampled them down**.

¹¹ It even **magnified itself** to be **equal** with the **Commander of the host**; and it **removed** the **regular sacrifice** from **Him**, and the **place of His sanctuary** was **thrown down**.

¹² And on account of **transgression** the **host** will be **given over to the horn** along with the **regular sacrifice**; and it will **fling truth** to the **ground** and perform **its will** and **prosper**.

¹³ Then I heard a **holy one speaking**, and another **holy one** said to that particular **one** who was **speaking**,

“**How long** will the **vision** *about* the **regular sacrifice** apply, while the **transgression** causes **horror**, so as to allow both the **holy place** and the **host** to be **trampled**?” ¹⁴ He said to me, “For **2,300 evenings and mornings**; then the **holy place** will be **properly restored**.”

3. The **Interpretation** (8:15-28)

¹⁵ When I, **Daniel**, had seen the **vision**, I sought to **understand it**; and behold, standing before me was **one** who **looked like a man**.

¹⁶ And I heard the **voice of a man** between *the banks of Ulai*, and he called out and said, “**Gabriel**, give this *man* **an understanding** of the **vision**.”
¹⁷ So **he** came **near** to where I was standing, and when **he came** I was **frightened** and **fell on my face**; but he said to me, “**Son of man**, **understand** that the **vision** pertains to the **time of the end**.”

¹⁸ Now while he was **talking with me**, I sank into a **deep sleep** with my **face** to the **ground**; but he **touched me** and made me stand **upright**.

¹⁹ He said, “Behold, I am going to **let you know** what will occur at the **final period** of the **indignation**, for *it* pertains to the **appointed time** of the **end**.”

²⁰ The **ram** which you saw with the **two horns** represents the **kings** of **Media** and **Persia**.

²¹ The **shaggy goat** *represents* the **kingdom of Greece**, and the **large horn** that is between his eyes is the **first king**.

²² The **broken horn** and the **four horns** *that arose* in its place *represent* **four kingdoms** *which* will **arise** from *his* nation, although **not** with **his power**.

²³ “In the **latter period** of *their rule*,
When the **transgressors** have run *their course*,
A **king** will **arise**, **insolent** and **skilled** in *intrigue*.

²⁴ “**His power** will be **mighty**, but **not** by **his own power**,
And **he** will **destroy** to an **extraordinary degree**
And **prosper** and perform **his will**;
He will **destroy** **mighty men** and the **holy people**.

²⁵ “And through **his shrewdness** **he** will cause **deceit** to **succeed** by **his influence**;
And **he** will **magnify himself** in his **heart**,
And **he** will **destroy many** while *they are at ease*.
He will even **oppose** the **Prince of princes**,
But **he** will be **broken** without **human agency**.

²⁶ “The **vision** of the **evenings** and **mornings** which has been told is **true**;
But keep the **vision secret**, for *it* pertains to **many days in the future**.”

²⁷ Then I, **Daniel**, was **exhausted** and **sick** for **days**.
Then I got up *again* and carried on the **king's business**; but I was **astounded**
at the vision, and there was **none** to **explain it**.

The *Vision* of the **Ram, Goat, and Small Horn**—A Summary

1. The “**two-horned ram**” → This *represents* the Medo-Persian empire, which conquered lands to the *west, north, and south* with its **2 million soldiers**.

Its two horns *represent* its two kingdoms, the **Medes** and the **Persians**.

The “**longer one (horn) coming up last**” point to the *younger* kingdom of **Persia**, which under **Cyrus** became the **dominant kingdom** in 550 B.C. (Daniel 8:3-4, 20)

2. The “**shaggy male Goat with a large horn** between its eyes” →
This *represents* the kingdom of Greece, which **conquered Medo-Persia** (the two-horned ram) and **rapidly** advanced over “**the whole earth**”. (Daniel 8:5-7, 21)

The **Goat's large horn** *represented* its first king, **Alexander the great**, whose **power** was “**broken**” when he died at the **early age** of 32. (Daniel 8:8, 21)

3. The “**four conspicuous horns**” → These *represent*, after the large horn was **broken**, four kings (kingdoms) that **rose** in the place of **Alexander**, though not having “**his power**” or **strength**. (Daniel 8:8, 22)

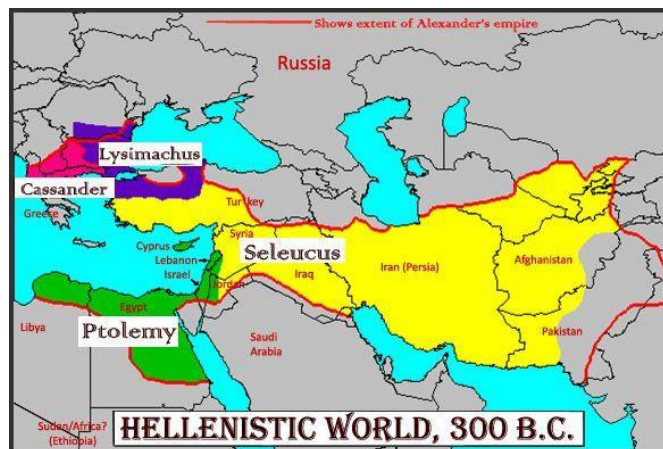
History declares these **four kings** and **kingdoms** to be;

Ptolemy → Egypt

Cassander → Macedonia and Greece

Lysimachus → Thrace and parts of Asia Minor

Seleucus → Syria, **Israel**, and Mesopotamia



3. The “**small horn**” → This **small horn** *represents* a **king** that will arise from one of these **four kingdoms**. This **king** will be **unyielding**, and “**skilled in intrigue**.” He will have **power**, and be very **destructive**—**destroying** “**mighty men**,” and **persecuting** the “**holy people**” (Israel). He will **halt** the **regular sacrifice**, and **desecrate** the **sanctuary**.

This **king** will be **shrewd** and **deceitful**, promising **false security**. He will **magnify himself**, and even **oppose** the **Prince of princes** (God). His rule will be **terminated** by **divine judgment**. (8:9-14, 23-25)

This “**small horn**”, though *similar* in many ways, is **not** the same as the “**little horn**” of **Daniel 7:8**, considered by most scholars to be the “**antichrist**” of the **last days**.

The **king** (**small horn**) referred to here (**chapter 8**) is known historically as **Antiochus IV Epiphanes**. After **murdering** his **brother**, who had **inherited** the throne in the **Seleucid** dynasty, he came to power in **175 B.C.**

In **170 B.C.**...**Antiochus invaded Egypt** and defeated **Ptolemy VI** and proclaimed himself **king** in **Egypt**. This was his “**growth in power to the south**” (8:9).

On his **return** from this **conquest**, trouble broke out in **Jerusalem** so he decided to subdue **Jerusalem**, “**the Beautiful Land**,” (8:9).
The **Jewish people** were **subjugated**,
the **temple desecrated**, and the **temple treasury plundered**.

Antiochus returned to **Egypt** in **168**, but was forced by **Rome** to evacuate **Egypt**.
On his return, he determined to make the land of **Israel**
a **buffer state** between **himself** and **Egypt**.
He attacked and **burned Jerusalem**, killing **multitudes** (cf. 8:10).

The **Jews** were **forbidden** to follow the **Mosaic Law** in observing the **Sabbath**, their **annual feasts**, traditional **sacrifices**, and the **circumcision** of their **children**...

Altars to idols were set up in **Jerusalem**, and on **December 16, 167 B.C.**
the **Jews** were ordered to offer **unclean sacrifices**
and to **eat swine’s flesh** or be penalized by **death**...

This horrible **persecution** by **Antiochus** resulted with a **rebellion**
by the **Jews** led by a priest named **Mattathias**, and his **five sons**,
the most famous of which was **Judah**.

Judah and his band of fighters, known as the **Maccabees** (**hammer**),
“**miraculously**” **defeated** the **Syrian army**, and **restored Jerusalem**, and her **Temple**.

The **Jews** would **celebrate** this **amazing victory** every year through what

became known as the **Feast of Chanukah** (dedication).

Antiochus' persecution of the **Jews** would last for **2,300 days** (8:13-14), the period from **171 B.C.** (when peaceful relations between **Antiochus** and the **Jews** came to an **end**) to **December 25, 165 B.C.**, when **Judah Maccabee** **restored** and **rededicated** the **Temple**. (Ryrie)

So as we conclude our study of this vision in **Daniel 8**, there is no question among expositors that the "**small horn**" in this prophecy is the wicked **Seleucid king Antiochus IV**.

However, the prophecy **looks beyond Antiochus** to a **future person** (the **antichrist**) of whom **Antiochus** is "**type**," or **foreshadowing**.

The *parallels* between the "**little horn**" of chapter **7** and the "**small horn**" of chapter **8** are striking.

This "**coming one**" is said to "**stand** against the **Prince of princes**" (8:25). This can be none other than the **Lord Jesus the Messiah**.

Thus the **prophecy** must **go beyond Antiochus**, and look forward to the coming of *one* whose ministry will **parallel** that of **Antiochus**.

(Excerpts taken from the **Bible Knowledge Commentary**
The Book of Daniel, J. Dwight Pentecost Pgs. 1358-1359)

Personal Application *Bad News—Good News*