

Daniel.11. Chapter 8

This morning, we continue in the series on the Book of Daniel looking at chapter 8

This chapter records the vision of Daniel concerning 2 kingdoms and a king that will arise

- It is based on the foundational revelation recorded in chapter 2 about the kingdoms that will arise on the earth over the course of history depicted in the different metals of a “statue” and culminating with a “stone” that will destroy them and establish the kingdom of God on earth
- In chapter 7, Daniel receives a dream/vision that “telescopically” enlarges the focus on the five kingdoms of the “statue” and the future ruler of the last kingdom identified as a “little horn”
- In this chapter, the revelation continues to “telescopically” enlarge with the focus on 2 kingdoms of the “statue” and on the ruler of the last kingdom identified again as a “little horn”

Outline of Chapter

8:1-2 - Daniel Receives a Vision

8:3-14 - The Vision of a Ram, Goat, and Little Horn

8:15-19 - The Angel Gabriel Gives the Key to the Interpretation of the Vision

8:20-26 - The Interpretation of the Vision

8:27 - Daniel, Overcome and Appalled, Does Not Understand the Vision

8:1-2 - Daniel Receives a Vision

- Daniel 8:1-2 = *In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first.² And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal.*

The year is 550 B. C., “the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar”

- At this time in history, Cyrus is rising to power, conquering the Medes, and uniting the Medes and Persians to become the next great Empire depicted in the “statue” and “beast” of chapter 7

The location is “in Susa the citadel, in the province of Elam, at the Ulai canal

- Why is the location explicitly identified?
- It’s because the location is the geographical region where the things in this vision will happen
- At the time of the vision, this territory was under the rule of the Babylonian Empire, but it will become the region of the next “beast” kingdoms in this vision in chapter 8
- The location is in present day Iran

Because the vision itself is recorded in verses 8:3-14 and the interpretation in verses 8:20-26, it is best to look at the things revealed in the vision in a chronological order of their occurrence beginning first with what the Angel Gabriel stated verses 8:15-19

8:15-19 -The Angel Gabriel Gives Daniel the key to Interpretation of the Vision

- Daniel 8:15-19 = *When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.¹⁶ And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.”¹⁷ So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he*

said to me, “Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end.”¹⁸ And when he had spoken to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground. But he touched me and made me stand up.¹⁹ He said, “Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end.”

In answer to Daniel seeking to “understand” the vision, the angel Gabriel appears to him

- Gabriel is directed by a “voice,” which is undoubtedly the voice of God, to “make” Daniel “understand the vision” (v.16)
- As Gabriel approaches Daniel, he is “frightened,” overwhelmed by Gabriel’s manifest presence, and collapses on “his face to the ground” in a “deep sleep” (vv. 16-17)
- After Gabriel touches him, bringing him to consciousness and making him “stand up,” Gabriel begins to “make known” the interpretation

It is critical to correctly interpret what Gabriel states 4 times in these introductory words and also the interpretation because they are the “key” and overriding principle for the interpretation of when the vision will ultimately culminate and be totally fulfilled

- (1) **Daniel 8:17** = “the vision is for the time of the end”
- (2) **Daniel 8:19b** = “it refers to the appointed time of the end”
- 2 times Gabriel states that this will take place at “the time of the end”
- In the 67 times the Hebrew word translated “end” is used in the OT, it always means the “end, the process to the end or culmination, the boundary, the horizon, the end of”
- This is the “appointed time” concerning “the end” that has been set by God (Dan. 2:21; 7:21)
- (3) **Daniel 8:19a** = “what shall be at the latter end of the indignation”
- The Hebrew word translated “latter end” means “the end, the last, the final period”
- (4) **Daniel 8:26** = “the vision, for it refers to many days from now”
- Because Gabriel says the “vision” is about “many days from now,” the understanding of “many days from now” must be the same “time” as “the appointed time of the end” and the “latter end”

➔ The meaning of “the appointed time of the end,” “latter end,” and “many days from now” is critical to the complete interpretation of the vision

Historically most Western scholars have interpreted the vision, and specifically the “little horn” of the culmination of this vision, to be about Antiochus Epiphanes (215-164 B.C.) whose reign in the Seleucid Kingdom was from 175-164 B.C.

- If the “little horn” is interpreted to be Antiochus, then “the appointed time of the end” and “the latter end” cannot be interpreted literally as “the end,” “final period,” and culmination of the age but something that is “symbolized,” whenever that might be
- This is because, chronologically, after Antiochus died, the history of the people of Israel continued and nothing that can be interpreted as a “time of the end” or “final period” occurred
- Different suggestions are made, but nothing literal or definitive is proposed about their meaning
- This, then, would be a “stand alone” revelation about a completely different “little horn” than the “little horn” of the vision is chapter 7 who is the ruler of the final kingdom of the “statue”

In interpreting this vision, it is important to see that Gabriel identifies the “time” 4 times, thereby emphasizing and underlining that this is the “key” to unlocking its meaning and the overriding principle for the interpretation of the vision

- Because he says, literally, it is about “*the appointed time of the end*,” “*the latter end*,” “*many days from now*,” it is better to interpret these words as meaning “the end of the age”
- Gabriel’s statement in **8:26**, “*many days from now*,” corresponds (a) to the vision of the “*statue*” in **Daniel 2:28** about “*the latter days*,” meaning it culminates in the last kingdom and final ruler of the last kingdom, and (b) to what will be stated later in **Daniel 10:14**, “*understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come*”
- As with the interpretation of chapter 7, after the revelation of 3 “*beast*” kingdoms which correspond to the first 3 kingdoms of the “*statue*” and then chronologically “*skips*” to the 5th and final kingdom with its focus on the final ruler of that kingdom, so in the same way in this vision, after the revelation of 2 “*beast*” kingdoms that correspond to the 2nd and 3rd kingdoms of the “*statue*” in chapter 2 and 2 “*beasts*” in chapter 7, this vision chronologically “*skips*” to focus on the final ruler of the final kingdom of “*the statue*,” who is the same “*little horn*,” the Antichrist

While Antiochus clearly fulfilled many of the things in this vision, he did not fulfill them all

- Most significantly, he did not fulfill **Daniel 8:25**, “*he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken - but by no human hand*”
- This states, first, that he will personally war against “*The Prince of princes*,” who can be no one else but the Lord Jesus Christ, the “*King of kings and Lord of lords*”
- Antiochus did not personally war against the Lord Jesus Christ
- Second, he will not be “*broken*” by “*human hand*,” which means “natural/human” causes, but a supernatural act of God, literally the same as the origin of the “*stone*” in **Daniel 2:45**
- Antiochus died in bed after falling out of his chariot, with “*pain of the bowels*” and “*sore torments of the inner parts, infested with worms, and emitting intolerable stink*,” surrounded by a surgeon and assistants as he dictated his will” (*Welcome Collection, Antiochus IV of Syria*)
- The New Testament says **Daniel 8:25** will be fulfilled with the Antichrist personally warring against the Lord Jesus and being “*broken*” at His Second Coming
- **2 Thessalonians 2:8** = *Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.*
- **Revelation 19:11, 16, 19, 20** = *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war...¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords...¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army...²⁰ And the beast was captured...thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.*”

Throughout the course of history, there have been many “Antichrists”

- **1 John 2:18** = *Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come*
- Like Antiochus Epiphanes, there have been “*many antichrists*” who were prophetic “types” of the final, ultimate “*Antichrist*,” and have, to one degree or another, partially fulfilled these prophecies, but not completely
- Daniel 8 reveals the most detail in Daniel about what Jesus and Paul spoke of as the desecrating of the temple (Matt.24:15; 2 Thes.2:4) and things referred to in the Book of Revelation
- Because the New Testament speaks of the things in Daniel 8 ultimately being fulfilled in the future, this means Antiochus is clearly a type of the “*little horn*” in Daniel 8 and not the ultimate fulfillment Daniel 8, which will be the future “*Antichrist*”

Thus, the revelations in chapters 2, 7, and 8 correspond in this way:

<u>Chapter 2</u> “statue”	<u>Chapter 7</u> “beasts”	<u>Chapter 8</u> “other beasts”	<u>Kingdom</u>
Gold Head	Lion/Eagle	---	Babylon
Silver Chest/Arms	Bear	Ram	Medo-Persian
Bronze Belly/Thigh	Leopard with Wings	Goat	Greek
Iron Legs	Different/Iron Teeth/Bronze Claws	---	Islam
Iron/Clay Feet	---	---	Revived Islam
---	Little Horn	Little Horn	Antichrist
“stone”	Son of Man		Kingdom of God

This brings us to the chronological occurrences of these prophecies

8:3-4, 20 - The Vision and Interpretation of the Ram is the Medo-Persian Empire

- **Daniel 8:3-4, 20** = *I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. ⁴ I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great... ²⁰As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia.*

As is explicitly stated, this is about the Medo-Persian Empire (v.20)

- “It has two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last”(8:3) corresponding to the 2 silver arms of the 2nd kingdom of the “statue” (2:32), and the “bear raised up on one side” of the 2nd “beast” (7:5), foretelling that the Persians would take precedence over the Medes, which we see during the time of the Book of Esther - It is undoubtedly because Daniel received this vision and the specific interpretation that he could be even more confident of his interpretation of the words of the writing on the wall were about the end of the Babylonian Empire and rise of the Medo-Persian Empire (Dan. 5:28)

8:5-8, 21-22 - The Vision and Interpretation of the Goat is the Greek Empire

- **Daniel 8:5-8, 21-22** = *As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. ⁶ He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. ⁷ I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power. ⁸ Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven...²¹ And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. ²² As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power*

This is also explicitly interpreted, being about the Greek Empire that would arise under Alexander the Great and came from the “West” (v. 5, 21)

- This corresponds to the 3rd kingdom of the “bronze belly” of the “statue” (2:32, 39) and the “leopard with wings” of the 3rd “beast” kingdom (7:6)
- After “the great horn was broken” (8:8, 22), which is Alexander’s sudden death at the age of 32 in Babylon, the kingdom was divided by “four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven” (8:8) and “four kingdoms” (8:22), which corresponds to the “four heads” of the 3nd “beast” (7:6)
- These “four horns” were the four generals of Alexander’s army which divided the Greek kingdom into “four kingdoms” according to “the four winds,” north, south, east, and west

8:9-, 21-22 - The Vision and Interpretation of the Little Horn

- Daniel 8:9-, 21-22 = Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. ¹⁰ It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. ¹¹ It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. ¹² And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. ¹³ Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, “For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?” ¹⁴ And he said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state...²³ And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. ²⁴ His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. ²⁵ By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. ²⁶ The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”

As in the vision in chapter 7 that focuses on the “little horn” by giving numerous details about him, this vision also focuses on the “little horn” giving more details about him and what he would do, among them being:

(1) v. 9 = Out of one of them came a little horn

- He arises out of one of the kingdoms from the geographical areas of the divided Greek Empire
- This means that the Antichrist will not arise out of Europe and a “revived Roman Empire” but rather from the greater region of the Middle East

(2) v. 9 = which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land

- He will wage war against the land of Israel and, for a period of time, rule over it

(3) v. 10 = *It grew great, even to the host of heaven.*

v. 11 = *It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host*

v. 25 = *and in his own mind he shall become great.*

- 2 Thessalonians 2:4 = *who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.*

(4) v. 10 = *some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them.*

- Revelation 12:4 = *His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.*

(5) v. 11 = *And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown.*

v. 12 = *And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression*

vv. 13-14 = *Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, “For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?”¹⁴ And he said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings.”*

- The temple “sanctuary” will be rebuilt, which is not the whole temple, but the sanctuary itself
- Revelation 11:1-2 = *Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple [literally “sanctuary”] of God and the altar and those who worship there,² but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.*

- With the temple rebuilt, “evening and morning” sacrifices” will begin which will be “taken away” by the “Antichrist” (Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11)

- He will cause the “sanctuary” to become “desolate” (Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11)

- Matthew 24:15 = *when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place*

(6) v. 12 = *and it will throw truth to the ground*

v. 25 = *by his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand*

- 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 = *The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

(7) v. 24 = *His power shall be great—but not by his own power*

- 2 Thessalonians 2:9 = *The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders*

(8) v. 24 = *he shall cause fearful destruction, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints*

v. 25 =

- Revelation 13:7 = *Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them*

(9) v. 25 = *he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand.*