

9 – THE RAM & THE GOAT (DANIEL 8:1-27)

- This section of the book (chapters 8 to 12) is written in Hebrew.

I. The Timing (8:1)

- Daniel has a dream in the third year of Belshazzar's reign, 551 B.C.
- This dream occurred two years after his first dream.

II. Daniel's Dream (8:2-14)

A. The location (8:2)

- In his dream, Daniel finds himself in a palace in the royal Persian city of Susa.
- In the dream, Daniel is standing by the River Ulai.

B. The Ram (8:3-4)

1. The description (8:3)

- The Ram had two high horns of which one was higher as it came up last.

2. His conquest (8:4)

- The Ram dominated everything to the north, south and west.

C. The Goat (8:5-14)

1. The Goat's appearance (8:5)

- Daniel saw a Goat come from the west with one notable horn.

2. The confrontation with the Ram (8:6-7)

- The Goat attacks the Ram with furious power.
- The Goat destroys the Ram.

3. The four horns (8:8)

- The Goat grew very great, but the large horn was broken.
- In its place, four horns emerged from the large horn.

4. The little horn (8:9-12)

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a. The location of the horn (8:9)

- From the four horns emerged a little horn in the south near Israel.

b. Dominance of Israel (8:10)

- This horn defeats the people of God and trampled on them.

c. His self exaltation (8:11a)

- This little horn exalted himself above God.

d. His dominance of the Temple (8:11b-12)

- The little horn caused the daily sacrifices to end at the Temple.

5. The length of the desolation (8:13-14)

a. The question (8:13)

- An angel asks. "How long will dominance of the temple and God's people take place?"

b. The length of time (8:14)

- The length will be 2,300 evening mornings.
- This refers to the evening and morning sacrifices.
- 2,300 evening and morning offerings equal three years and 70 days (based on 360 day year).

III. The Appearance of the Man (8:15)

- When Daniel had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, one in the appearance of man appeared.

IV. The Proclamation (8:16)

- A voice cried to the one who appeared and told him to help Daniel understand the vision.
- The voice identified the one who appeared as Gabriel.

V. Gabriel Addresses Daniel (8:17-18)

A. The timing of the dream (8:17)

- Gabriel came near and Daniel was afraid.

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- Gabriel stated that the vision referred to the time of the end.

B. Daniel awakened (8:18)

- Daniel was asleep when Gabriel spoke to him.
- Gabriel spoke to him and touched him.

VI. The Interpretation (8:19-26)

A. Gabriel's proclamation (8:19)

- Gabriel was making known what will take place in the latter time of indignation.
- He states that at the appointed time the end will take place.

B. The identity of the Ram (8:20)

- Gabriel identifies the Ram with two horns as the two kings of Media and Persia.

C. The identity of the Goat (8:21)

- He identifies the Goat as the kingdom of Greece.
- The large horn is the first king, which we know is Alexander the Great.

D. Four kingdoms (8:22)

- Gabriel states that four kingdoms will arise out of that empire, but not with the former's power.
- We know that when Alexander dies, his empire was divided among his four top generals.

E. The fierce king (8:23-26)

1. The nature of the king (8:23)

- In the latter time of these kingdoms, a king will emerge that is sinister and fierce.

2. His power and dominance (8:24)

- He will have mighty power and totally destroy others as he thrives.
- This king has been identified as Antiochus IV Epiphane.
- He makes war and destroys the people of God, Israel.

3. His arrogance against God (8:25)

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- His reign will be marked by deceit and the destruction of many.
- In his pride, he will even place himself against the Prince of Peace, which is Jesus Christ.
- He will be destroyed supernaturally.
- The far fulfillment of this prophecy will be the Antichrist as he is destroyed by Jesus Christ.

4. The truthfulness of the vision (8:26)

- The vision concerning the desolation of the Temple is true.
- Daniel is told to seal up or conclude the prophecy which refers to what will take place in the future.

VII. Daniel's Response (8:27)

A. His immediate response (8:27a)

- Daniel was physically affected by the vision as he fainted and was sick for many days.

B. The long term effect (8:27b)

- Daniel continued to function in the king's court even though he could not understand the vision.