

The Ram & the Goat Daniel 8

I. The Vision of Daniel - 8:1,2

1. In 3rd year of Belshazzar's reign - 1
Two years after his dream of 4 beasts
2. In Shushan, capital of Persia - 2
Before Belshazzar's reign came to an end
Vision puts Daniel in capital of Persia
3. Focused on two kingdoms in conflict
One described as a ram, other as a goat
4. God warns His people of impact of this
Goat will defeat the ram, change for Israel
Time of great trouble will come to Israel
Vision looks ahead some 375 years later

II. The Ram and the Goat - 8:3-8

1. Ram with 2 horns is an empire – 3-4
Identified as Media & Persia - 20
Higher horn (Persia) comes up last
Kingdom conquers other nations
Pushes westward, northward & southward
2. Western Goat defeats the Ram - 5-8
Goat is Greece, horn is Alexander the great - 21
Goat conquers with great speed – 5
Moves so fast its feet doesn't touch the ground
Goat conquers with fury – 6
Angry from previous loses
Battle of Marathon (490 B.C.) Salamis (481 B.C.)
Goat defeats ram & stomps upon him - 7
Under Alexander becomes great empire - 8
3. Goat's great horn is broken - 8
Alexander conquers but soon dies (age 32)
Kingdom is divided into 4 parts
4 generals divide kingdom
Ptolemy was given Egypt
Cassander was given Macedonia & Greece
Lysimachus was given Thrace & Asia Minor
Seleucus was given Syria, Israel & Mesopotamia

III. The Little Horn - 8:9-14

1. Little horn comes from one division - 9
He becomes great & moves against others
Toward the south, east & the pleasant land
The Pleasant land refers to Israel
2. Horn is Antiochus Epiphanes
Epiphanes means "The Magnificent one"
Tried to Hellenize the Jews
Required Greek language and culture
Tried to destroy their worship
Desecrated temple by offering sow's blood
Persecuted the Jews

- Killed 40,000 in 3 days, took 10,000 as slaves
3. Assumed priesthood over Israel – 10-12
Removed some priests from office – 10
Set himself up as High Priest - 11
Daily sacrifices were taken away – 11
Set up Zeus (Greek god) in Temple - 12
Offered sow upon the altar
4. Length of Temple desecration – 13-14
For 2300 mornings & evenings- 14
That is 1150 days (from 168 BC to 165 BC)
Then Sanctuary would be cleansed - 14
Maccabees would lead in defeating Antiochus

IV. Interpretation of Vision - 8:15-27

1. Gabriel is God's messenger - 15-19
Vision will affect Israel in a later time
2. Ram & Goat are Identified – 20-21
Ram is kings of Media and Persia – 20
Rough goat is Greece, horn is first king - 21
3. Alexander's empire divided in 4 parts - 22
4. Fierce king will come later – 23
Identified as Antiochus Epiphanes
5. He will have a great impact on Israel - 24-27
He will exercise Satanic power over Israel - 25
He will destroy many Jews
He will desecrate the Temple
6. He will be broken by power of God - 25
He dared to challenge Almighty God
7. Daniel is to leave the vision sealed – 26
It is for a future time, not Daniel's time
8. He is devastated by future for Israel – 27
But he continued to do the king's business

