



# Daniel 8

Beasts, Angels and the End Times



# Daniel 7

- ◆ Beast 1: Lion with wings — Babylon
- ◆ Beast 2: Bear on side with three ribs in mouth — Persians
- ◆ Beast 3: Leopard with four wings and heads — Greece
- ◆ Beast 4: Non-descript; powerful; ten horns — Rome — East/West? Combination?





# Daniel 8

- ◆ from Daniel 8 to the end of the book the text is written in Hebrew
- ◆ the major emphasis of these chapters is God's plan for the nation of Israel and the end times
- ◆ from chapters 2:4-7:28 the book is written in Aramaic because the emphasis in those chapters is on the Gentile kingdoms in history and prophecy



# Daniel 8

- ◆ God chose the nation of Israel to be the vehicle of His revelation and redemption in the world
- ◆ through the Jewish people came the knowledge of the one true and living God, the written Scriptures and the Savior, Jesus Christ
- ◆ (John 4:22) — “Salvation is of the Jews”



# Daniel 8:1-2

- ◆ In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first.
- ◆ 2 And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai



- ◆ we will see that this chapter is very self explanatory and the angel gives Daniel the direct interpretation
- ◆ this vision came to Daniel before the banquet described in Chapter 5



- ◆ this is more than likely a vision because he sees himself in an area where he wasn't at the time
- ◆ he sees himself at the palace in Shushan — in Persia
  - ◆ 230 miles east of Babylon, not very important to the Babylonians at this point and would one day be the capital of Persia
  - ◆ this was the home of Esther and the city of Nehemiah
- ◆ Daniel was probably transported there supernaturally just as Ezekiel was transported to Jerusalem (Ezek. 8) and John to the wilderness (Rev 17:3)



## Daniel 8:3-4

- ◆ 3 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.
- ◆ 4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.



- ◆ Daniel is talking about Cyrus and the Persian Empire — Babylon is still the principal Empire at this point
- ◆ 150 years prior to Cyrus coming on the scene Isaiah prophesied about him — he called him by name and called him “God’s shepherd” (Isa. 41:2, 25; 44:28-45:4)
- ◆ God chose Cyrus to defeat the Babylonians and allow His people to return to their land
- ◆ The Ram —
  - ◆ Medes and Persians — the higher horn represents the Persians



- ◆ Cyrus and his armies pushed westward, northward and southward, defeating their enemies — this created the largest empire up until Alexander the Great and Greece
- ◆ Cyrus allowed the Jewish people to return to their land and he allowed them to take their sacred vessels with them that Nebuchadnezzar had taken (Ezra 1:5-11)



- ◆ the symbolism in connection with Cyrus is intriguing
- ◆ in Isaiah 41:2 he is called "the righteous man"
- ◆ this means he was called to fulfill God's righteous purposes in freeing Israel from their Babylonian yoke and allowing them to return to their land
- ◆ God can use a pagan king to accomplish His purposes!



- ◆ Isaiah 45:1 — he is called the Lord's anointed
- ◆ Why Cyrus? — Isaiah 45:4 — For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me
- ◆ it doesn't matter how badly the Gentile nations treat Israel, God uses the nations to accomplish His purpose and His plans for Israel will be fulfilled no matter how much the Gentile nations oppose His chosen people!



# Daniel 8:5-8

- ◆ 5 And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.
- ◆ 6 And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.



# Daniel 8:5-8

- ◆ 7 And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.
- ◆ 8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.



- ◆ a “he goat” — from the West and touched not the ground
- ◆ he was quick; swift
- ◆ the notable horn between his eyes refers to Alexander the Great



- ◆ in Nebuchadnezzar's dream Greece was depicted as the thigh of brass and in Chapter 7 Greece was described as a swift leopard
- ◆ now, Daniel sees an angry goat who runs so swiftly his feet don't even touch the ground



- ◆ Alexander the Great

- ◆ at the age of 20 he assumed the mantle of his father, Philip of Macedon
- ◆ 6 years later he had conquered the mighty Persian Empire
- ◆ he was very sharp; ruthless
- ◆ many legends about him
  - ◆ at 29 he laid on his bed crying because there were no more worlds to conquer
- ◆ he daily dealt with assassinations to get rid of rivals
- ◆ brilliant military strategist and court politician
- ◆ died at 32 in a debauched state



- ◆ God was working behind the scenes
- ◆ Alexander's conquests were God's purposes for preparing the world for the coming of Christ and the spread of the Gospel
- ◆ he helped to bring people together by extending the Greek culture and language
- ◆ eventually, the common Greek became the language of the NT (koine)



- ◆ what Alexander and the Greeks began, the Romans completed, helping to prepare the ancient world for the coming of Christ
- ◆ Roman roads and bridges enabled people to travel and share their ideas, Roman law kept people under control; Roman legions enforced that law with an iron fist; and the Roman peace (Pax Romana) gave people the opportunity to experience more security than they had known before
- ◆ all of this contributed to the taking of the Christian message throughout the Roman Empire (Wiersbe)



- ◆ Alexander's kingdom was divided into four parts
- ◆ Cassander: Macedonia and Greece
- ◆ Lysimachus: Thrace, Bithynia, most of Asia Minor (Turkey)
- ◆ Seleucus: Syria, lands to the east, to India
- ◆ Ptolemy: Egypt, Cyrene, Arabia Petraea, parts of Asia Minor



# The Empire Divided

Daniel 11





# Daniel 8:9-12

- ◆ 9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.
- ◆ 10 And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.



# Daniel 8:9-12

- ◆ 11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down.
- ◆ 12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.



- ◆ this is not the same horn of Daniel 7 — that “little horn” came up out of the 10 horns — before Rome was a factor
- ◆ “pleasant land” = Israel
- ◆ this horn is Antiochus Epiphanes — ruler of Syria from 175-163 BC — known as one of the cruelest tyrants in history — from the Seleucid dynasty
- ◆ he invaded Egypt and defeated Ptolemy VI (v. 9) and proclaimed himself king of Egypt
- ◆ as he returned from his conquest there were problems in Jerusalem that broke out so people were subjugated, the Temple was desecrated and the treasury plundered



- ◆ he called himself Antiochus Epíphanes — “the illustrious one”
- ◆ the Jews called him “Epímanes” — “the madman”
- ◆ he wanted to turn the Jews into good Greeks — he drove out the high priest Onías and replaced him with Jason, a patron of the Greeks, who was replaced by Menelaus, a Greek mythological god, considered to be the king of Sparta



- ◆ there was a rumor that Antiochus was dead and this enraged him
- ◆ he attacked Jerusalem, plundered the Temple
- ◆ they entered Jerusalem on the Sabbath, murdered most of the men and took the women and children as slaves
- ◆ the remaining men fled to the army of the Jewish leader Judas Maccabeus



- ◆ 1 Maccabees 1:44-49

- ◆ “And the king sent letters by messengers to Jerusalem and the cities of Judah; he directed them to follow customs strange to the land; to forbid burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings in the sanctuary; to profane Sabbaths and feasts; to defile the sanctuary and the priests; to build altars in sacred precincts and shrines for idols; to sacrifice swine and unclean animals and to leave their sons uncircumcised
- ◆ “they were to make themselves abominable by everything unclean and profane, so that they should forget the law and change all the ordinances”
- ◆ “And whoever does not obey the command of the king shall die”
- ◆ he’s outlawing Judaism



- ◆ Antiochus climaxed his campaign on Dec. 14, 168 by replacing the Jewish altar with an altar to Zeus - and sacrificing a pig on it
- ◆ Jerusalem was eventually delivered by the courageous exploits of Judas Maccabeus and his followers
- ◆ on Dec. 14, 165 the Temple was purified, the altar of burnt offering restored, and Jewish worship once again restored
- ◆ this is the event that the Jews celebrate to this day known as "Hanukkah" or the "Feast of Lights" (John 10:22)



- ◆ there is some double identity going on here
- ◆ Isaiah 14 talks about the king of Tyre but then the language goes beyond that king and talks about the power behind him — Satan — there is a shift in dialogue
- ◆ the same thing happens in Ezekiel 28 — it refers to the king of Babylon and then begins to refer to Satan, the power behind the king of Babylon
- ◆ Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) — here the Bible is giving us some insight on a coming world leader — the antichrist



- ◆ when Antiochus stopped the daily sacrifices in the Temple and substituted pagan worship, this was called “the abomination that makes desolate”
- ◆ this was also used by Jesus in Matthew 24
- ◆ what Antiochus did was a foreshadowing of what the antichrist will do when he puts his image in the temple and commands the world to worship him (2 Thess 2; Rev 13)



# Daniel 8:13-14

- ◆ 13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?
- ◆ 14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.



- ◆ 2300 days
  - ◆ a time period of 6-7 years
  - ◆ are these literal 24 hour days?
  - ◆ are they referring to 2300 mornings/evenings which would be 1150 days?
  - ◆ could it be some sort of operative that we'll see in the antichrist?
  - ◆ it could refer to the time that Antiochus deposed of the real high priest until the Maccabean revolt



# Daniel 8:15-18

- ◆ 15 And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.
- ◆ 16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.



# Daniel 8:15-18

- ◆ 17 So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.
- ◆ 18 Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.



# Daniel 8:19-22

- ◆ 19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.
- ◆ 20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.
- ◆ 21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.
- ◆ 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.



- ◆ we're going to see the gears shift starting in verse 23-25



# Daniel 8:23-25

- ♦ 23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.
- ♦ 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.
- ♦ 25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.



- ◆ the angel showing this to Daniel woke him and let him know that there was more to see and learn and it would deal with “the time of wrath” and the “time of the end” — the time of tribulation
- ◆ known as “the day of the Lord” — the period when God’s wrath would be poured out on an evil world
- ◆ in other words, Daniel learns in Daniel 8:23-27 what will happen in the end times when the antichrist will oppose God and God’s people



- ◆ the “king of fierce countenance” is the antichrist, not Antiochus
- ◆ however, if we compare verses 23-27 with 9-14 we'll see that Antiochus' characteristics parallel those of antichrist...



- ♦ both begin modestly but increase in power and influence
- ♦ both blaspheme God with mouths that speak great things
- ♦ both persecute the Jewish people
- ♦ both claim to be gods and put images in the temple
- ♦ both impose their own religion on the people
- ♦ both are opposed by a believing remnant that knows God
- ♦ both are energized by the devil and are great deceivers
- ♦ both appear to succeed marvelously and seem to be invincible
- ♦ both are finally defeated by the coming of a redeemer (Judas Maccabeus and Jesus Christ)



- ◆ A Type of the Antichrist:
- ◆ He shall cause craft (cunning; workmanship; prosperity in his hands) to prosper in his hand — no man will be able to buy or sell except the one who has the mark of the beast (Rev 13:17)
- ◆ He shall magnify himself in his heart — He is given a mouth speaking blasphemies, with power to continue 42 months (Rev 13:5)
- ◆ By peace shall destroy many — The rider on the white horse; then comes the red horse of war - thus, a false peace (Rev 6)
  - ◆ He carries a bow in his hand; a token of a covenant
- ◆ He shall stand up against the Prince of princes — The 1st beast of Rev 13 is against Christ (Rev 13)



- ◆ “Prince of princes” (v. 25) is Jesus Christ
- ◆ He is also the “God of gods” (Dan 11:36) and the “King of kings” (Rev. 19:16)



# Daniel 8:26-27

- ♦ 26 And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.
- ♦ 27 And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.



- ◆ as a result of all of this, Daniel became ill because he knew a “little horn” would appear in the last days, but what would occur between his days and the last days?
- ◆ he will soon learn, from Jeremiah’s writings, that his people would be released from bondage and allowed to return to their land and rebuild their temple
- ◆ when he got over his illness, he back to work for the king and didn’t tell anyone what he had learned
- ◆ God had more to teach him still, and he was ready