

Daniel Chapter 8

A Vision in ~550 B.C.

● Introduction (by Daniel, while residing in Babylon)

[Daniel 8:1-2](#) During the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, I, Daniel, saw another vision, after the one I saw at first. {Likely His vision 2 years prior, in Dan7} 2 And I saw in the vision; and when I saw it, I was in the palace {of the King} in Shushan {under Babylon at this time, but later under the Medes and Persians}, which is in the province of Elam; and in the vision I was by the river Ulai.

● The Ram with Two Horns (Media & Persia)

[Daniel 8:3](#) 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.

- (Gabriel speaking, according to vs16) "The ram with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia." - [Daniel 8:20](#)
- "the higher came up last." According to history, this represented Persia, which, at first was simply an ally of the Medes, but later became the leading division of the empire.

[Daniel 8:4](#) I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; and no beasts {nations} could stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand. He did as he pleased and became very great.

- A previous vision of Medo-Persia => [Daniel 7:5](#) Then I saw a second beast {the 1st was Babylon (Dan7:3-4)}, and it looked like a bear. It was rearing up on one side, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And I heard a voice saying to it, "Get up! Devour the flesh of many people!"
- From history: "The different directions in which the ram was seen pushing, denote the directions in which the Medes and Persians carried their conquests. No earthly powers could stand before them while they were marching up to the exalted position to which the providence of God had summoned them. And so successfully were their conquests prosecuted that in the days of Ahasuerus ([Esther 1:1](#)), the Medo-Persian kingdom extended from India to Ethiopia, the extremities of the then known world, over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces. The prophecy almost seems to fall short of the facts as stated in history..." (Daniel and the Revelation -[DaR Pg. 146-147](#))

● The Male Goat (Greece) and the Great Horn (1st King)

[Daniel 8:5](#) While I was watching, suddenly a male goat appeared from the west, crossing the land so swiftly that he didn't even touch the ground. This goat had one very large horn between its eyes.

- (Gabriel speaking) [Daniel 8:21](#) The goat is the king of Greece, and the great horn between his eyes is the first king.
- From history, we know that the "first king" "of Greece" was Alexander the Great who's army defeated Medo-Persia around 330 BC, as described in the next two verses =>

[Daniel 8:6-8](#) He headed toward the two-horned ram that I had seen standing beside the river, rushing at him in a rage. 7 The goat charged furiously at the ram and struck him, breaking off both his horns. Now the ram was helpless, and the goat knocked him down and trampled him. No one could rescue the ram from the goat's power. 8 The goat became very powerful. But at the height of his power, his large horn {Alexander the Great} was broken off. In the large horn's place grew four prominent horns pointing in the four directions of the earth.

- A previous vision of Greece => [Daniel 7:6](#) Then the third of these strange beasts appeared, and it looked like a leopard. It had four bird's wings on its back, and it had four heads. Great authority was given to this beast.
- From history: "Alexander's son by Roxana was named Alexander Aegus, meaning 'son of the goat'; and some of Alexander's successors are represented in their coins with goats' horns." — Dissertation on the Prophecies, p. 238. ([DaR Pg 148](#))
- (Gabriel speaking) [Daniel 8:22](#) 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.
- Alexander the Great died young (323 BC) at the height of his power. His empire was divided among four generals (the Diadochi):
 - Cassander – Macedonia/Greece
 - Lysimachus – Thrace/Asia Minor
 - Seleucus – Syria/Babylon (Seleucid Empire)
 - from which came Antiochus (pronounced "ant-eye-a-cuss") Epiphanes - possibly the subject of verse 9 and onward...
 - Ptolemy – Egypt (Ptolemaic Empire)

● The Little Horn - from one of the 4 kingdoms of Greece

[Daniel 8:9](#) Then from one of the prominent {four} horns {shown above} came a little horn whose power grew very great. It extended toward the south and the east and toward the glorious land of Israel.

Who is that "little horn"? Could it be the "little horn" of Dan.7? Let's compare =>

- The Daniel 7 little horn came up from the 4th beast after 3 of its 10 horns(nations) were " plucked up by the roots". That 4th beast is usually understood to be the Roman Empire and its little horn to be Papal Rome, which came to full power in 537 AD after Rome decimated 3 of its kingdoms who refused to agree with some of the papal doctrines.
- The Daniel 8 little horn: came up from one of the 4 horns(nations) of Greece after the death of Alexander the Great(the 1st horn/King), as clearly documented by Gabriel. Greece was the 3rd beast of Daniel 7 not the 4th - Rome. **Daniel 8 ONLY prophecies about Medo/Persia(2nd of Dan7) and Greece(3rd of Dan7).**
- From history, the "little horn" of Dan8 could be **Antiochus IV Epiphanes**, a descendant of **Seleucus I**, the founder of the **Seleucid Empire**. **Antiochus IV ruled from 175–164 BC** and was the 8th ruler of the Seleucid line. He invaded Egypt (south), parts of the East, and the **Glorious Land** (Israel/Judah).

(Gabriel speaking) [Daniel 8:23](#) "At the end of their{the four horns} rule, when their sin is at its height, a fierce king {perhaps Antiochus?} a master of intrigue, will rise to power.

[Daniel 8:10](#) And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and some of the host and of the stars it cast down to the ground, and trampled upon them.

(Gabriel speaking) [Daniel 8:24](#) He {perhaps Antiochus?} will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders {of Israel} and devastate the holy people. 25 He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning...

[Daniel 8:11](#) Yea, it magnified itself, even to the prince of the host; and it took away from him the continual burnt-offering, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

- Who is "the prince of the host"? =>
 - [Daniel 9:25](#) ... unto the Messiah the Prince ...
 - [Acts 3:15](#) ... killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised...
 - [Revelation 1:5](#) ... Jesus Christ, who is ... the prince of the kings...
- (Gabriel speaking) [Daniel 8:25](#) ... He {perhaps Antiochus?} will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power.
- Antiochus stopped temple sacrifices (1 Macc 1:44-47), set up an idol (the "abomination of desolation"), and declared himself "Epiphanes" (god-manifest). He desecrated the temple in 167 BCE. Antiochus died suddenly in 164 BCE, reportedly from disease (2 Macc 9:5-9), fulfilling "broken without hand."

[Daniel 8:12](#) And the host was given over to it {"little horn", perhaps Antiochus} together with the continual burnt-offering through transgression; and it cast down truth to the ground, and it did its pleasure and prospered.

[Daniel 8:13-14](#) Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said unto that certain one who spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the continual burnt-offering, and the transgression that maketh desolate, 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 evenings and mornings; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

- Gabriel speaking) [Daniel 8:26](#) This vision about the 2,300 evenings and mornings is true. But none of these things will happen for a long time, so keep this vision a secret.
 - Gabriel was speaking to Daniel in vision in ~550 BC. A fulfillment of a literal understanding of verses 14&26 could have ended in 164 BC when Antiochus died of disease "broken without hand.". That's ~386 years after Daniel was given the Dan8 vision. I'd say that is in agreement with Gabriel, when he said, "none of these things will happen for a long time".

● Gabriel Shows Up

[Daniel 8:15-18](#) And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, that I sought to understand it; and, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. 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 the vision belongeth to the time of the end. 18 Now as he was speaking with me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face toward the ground; but he touched me, and set me upright. 19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the latter time of the indignation; for it belongs to the appointed time of the end.

● Interpretation by Gabriel - included above with the vision

[Daniel 8:20-26](#) The ram which thou sawest, that had the two horns, they are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the rough he-goat is the king of Greece: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 And as for that which was broken, in the place whereof four stood up, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not with his power. 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 do his pleasure; and he shall destroy the mighty ones and the holy people. 25 And through his policy he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and in their security shall he destroy many: he shall also stand up against the prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand. 26 And the vision of the evenings and mornings which hath been told is true: but **shut thou up the vision; for it belongs to many days to come.**

● Daniel's Response

[Daniel 8:27](#) And I, Daniel, fainted, and was sick certain days; then I rose up, and did the king's business: and I wondered at the vision, but none understood

● Daniel 8:9–14 Prophecy vs. Interpretation vs. Antiochus Fulfillment

1. Prophecy (Dan 8:9–14)	2. Interpretation (Dan 8:22–26)	3. Historical Fulfillment (Antiochus IV Epiphanes)
8:9: A little horn grows out of one of the four horns (Greece), expands toward the south, east, and the “pleasant land.”	8:22–23: Four kingdoms arise from Alexander’s empire; from one of them arises a king of fierce countenance in the latter time.	After Alexander’s death, his empire was divided into four. Antiochus IV came from the Seleucid kingdom (Syria) , one of the four. He expanded aggressively and attacked Egypt (south) and Israel (pleasant land) .
8:10: It grows great, reaching to the “host of heaven,” casting down some stars and trampling them.	Implied: The king would destroy the holy people (8:24).	Antiochus killed thousands of faithful Jews (1 Macc 1:29–32), trampled their leadership, and persecuted the priesthood (2 Macc 5:11–14).
8:11: The little horn magnifies itself against the “Prince of the host,” removes the daily sacrifice, and casts down His sanctuary.	8:24–25: He exalts himself, destroys many, and opposes the “Prince of princes.”	Antiochus stopped temple sacrifices (1 Macc 1:44–47), set up an idol (the “abomination of desolation”), and declared himself “ Epiphanes ” (god-manifest). He desecrated the temple in 167 BCE.
8:12: Because of transgression, the host is given over; truth is cast down; the horn prospers.	8:24–25: He succeeds by deceit, destroys many in peace, and prospers.	He used deception and force , gained power over Jerusalem under false pretenses, and outlawed Torah obedience (1 Macc 1:56–61).
8:13: A holy one asks, “How long will the daily sacrifice be taken away and the sanctuary be trodden underfoot?”	Implied: This oppression has a set duration and an end by divine action.	The temple was defiled for ~3 years (167–164 BCE) . This led to the Maccabean revolt , and the temple was cleansed/rededicated in 164 BCE (Hanukkah; 1 Macc 4:36–59).
8:14: “Unto 2,300 evenings and mornings; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.”	Not timed explicitly by Gabriel, but ends with: “he shall be broken without hand.”	Depending on interpretation: 2,300 evenings and mornings = 1,150 days (~3.2 years) . Antiochus died suddenly in 164 BCE, reportedly from disease (2 Macc 9:5–9), fulfilling “broken without hand.”

🔗 Key Historical Sources Referenced

- **1 Maccabees 1–4** – Describes Antiochus’s decrees, temple desecration, and Maccabean revolt.
- **2 Maccabees 5–9** – Gives more detail on the persecution, martyrdoms, and Antiochus’s death.
- **Josephus, Antiquities Book 12** – A Jewish historian confirming these events and giving additional Roman context.

Desiring to live by every word that comes from the mouth of Jehovah ([Deut8:3; Matt4:4](#))

-Sid Nash: 06/16/2025. Latest version: <https://sidnash.org/docs/Dan8.html>