

Hope for Today

Unmarking the Forces of History

7 Key segments in Daniel Chapter 8

1. Vision of Ram & Goat
2. The 4 Horns & "The Little Horn"
3. Heavenly Conversation - 2,300 days
4. Vision of a "Man" & Gabriel
5. Interpretation of Ram & Goat
6. The Rise & Fall of the "Little Horn"
7. Affirmation of 2,300 days for the end

5 Issues to Deal with in Daniel 8

1. Who is the little Horn of Daniel 8?
2. What is his relation to the horn of Daniel 7?
3. Why the Antiochus interpretation?
4. What is the "Cleansing of the Sanctuary"?
5. Are the 2,300 days literal or not?

Daniel 8:1-3 "In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. And in a vision I looked. And it happened when I looked, I was at Shushan the palace ... which is in the province of Elam. And in vision I looked, and I was by the Ulai Canal. Then I lifted up my eyes, and looked. And behold, a ram with two horns stood before the canal having two horns, and the two horns were high but **one was higher than the other**, and the higher came up last."

As we see the images in Daniel 8, we notice that the ram was similar to the bear of chapter 7, in terms of its lop-sidedness.

Daniel 7:5 "And behold another beast, a second, like a bear. And **it raised itself up on one side,**"

Continuing with chapter 8, **Daniel 8:4** "I saw the ram pushing westward and northward and southward; so that no beasts could stand before him, ... nor any that could deliver out of his hand. But he did according to his will, and became great." Notice what the angel says is the interpretation

Daniel 8:20 "The ram which you saw having two horns are the kings of **Media and Persia.**"

Daniel 8:5-8 "... and did not touch the ground. And the he goat had an outstanding horn between his eyes. And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran to him with fury of his power. And I saw him come close beside the ram, and he was moved with anger against him, and struck the ram and shattered his two horns. And there was no power in the ram to stand before him. But he threw him down to the ground and stamped on him. And none could deliver the ram out of his hand. Then the he-goat became very great. And when he was strong, the great horn was broken. And in its place came up four outstanding ones towards the four winds of the heavens."

Again look at the similarity between the goat and the leopard of chapter 7. Speed of conquest in both. 4 horns on the goat, and the 4 heads on the leopard. These similarities are inescapable

Daniel 7:6 “The beast also had four heads; and rulership was given to it.” Here too, are symbols of the same power.

Alexander’s empire was finally divided among these 4 generals:

1. Cassander
2. Lysimachus
3. Ptolemy
4. Seleucus

Daniel 8:21-22 “And the shaggy goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. And as for that being broken, and four stood up in its place; four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in its power.”

Comparison of Visions	
Daniel 7	Daniel 8
• Babylon • Medo-Persia • Greece & Division	• Babylon ignored • Medo-Persia • Greece & Division

Daniel 8:9 “And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which became very great,” It appears to come out of the horns which is impossible, as the gender of the pronoun “them” and “horns” does not match. However because the gender of “winds” and “heavens” is neutral, one of them is the origin.

Who or what is the “Little Horn” of Daniel 8? What is its relationship to the horn of Daniel 7?

Daniel 8:23-24 “And in the latter time of their kingdom,...a king, and skilled at intrigues, shall stand up, and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and *the people who are the saints*.”

Daniel 8:25 “without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the *Prince of princes*, But he shall be broken without hands.” Look at the similarity to Daniel 2.

Daniel 2:34 “As you looked a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.”

Who or what is the “Little Horn” of Daniel 8?

Daniel 8:9 “And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which became very great,... toward the south, toward the east, toward the glorious (beautiful) land....”

Let us look at this Horn from 2 angles; Its cosmic nature and its earthly representation.

Cosmic nature of the Little Horn (Consider these 3 aspects)

- It originates from the North. This is often the point where God’s Kingdom is symbolised from

In Isaiah 14:13 “above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north” This is Lucifer (Satan) speaking before his fall.

- War against “the starry host”
 - **Daniel 8:10-11** “It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw to the ground and trampled on them. It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host.” Who is this Prince of the host?

- **Joshua 5:14** “And he said, No but as **captain (Prince) of the host** of the Lord am I now come.” In this case Joshua recognized that he had met God! I believe that the Prince of the Host is clearly Jesus!
- **Exalted against the Prince of Host**

While we are on this exploration of the Horn from the North, let’s go backstage and ask the question - Why is there pain & suffering? God made a perfect world The Book of Revelation gives the answer

Revelation 12:7 “And there was war in heaven: Michael and His angels going forth to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels,”

The Book of Revelation gives the answer = It all started with war in Heaven!

Why was there WAR in Heaven? Where did this DRAGON come from? Look at the description of Satan before the fall.

Isaiah 14:12-14 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of the Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High,”

Ezekiel 28:15 “You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.” **Vs. 17**, “Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour.”

God created an angel with free will – Lucifer, but he chose to become a Devil!

War in Heaven? How successful were Satan’s method’s?

Revelation 12:4 “His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth” What does that mean in practical terms? What is the tail a symbol of? The answer I believe is found in Isaiah.

Isaiah 9:15 “the elder and honoured man is the head and **the prophet who teaches lies is the tail:**” So clearly those who teach lies like Satan use these lies (the tail) to deceive.

The war in Heaven resulted in war & trouble on the earth!

Revelation 12:8 “And he prevailed not, neither was their place found anymore in heaven.”

Revelation 12:9 “And the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.”

Daniel 8:11-12 “... and the daily sacrifice was taken away by him, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down. And an army was given to him against the daily sacrifice because of transgression, and it cast the truth to the ground. And it worked and succeeded.”

Similarities between horns of chapter 7&8

1. Both same symbol “Horn”	6. Both are Blasphemous powers
2. Both described as “Little”	7. Both are final anti-God powers
3. Both become “Great”	8. Both involve time prophecies
4. Both are persecuting powers	9. Activities go to the “time of the end”
5. Both target “the People of the saints”	10. Both supernaturally destroyed

Daniel 8:13-14 “Until when shall the vision last, concerning the daily sacrifice and the transgression that astounds, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled? And he said to me, ‘For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state (**cleansed**)

The vision starts during the reign of Medo-Persia – Cleansing of the Sanctuary

There are 2 key areas in focus – the Little Horn, The Prince and People

Daniel 8:17 “But he said to me, Understand O son of man, for the vision is for the time of the end.” **Daniel 8:26** “And the vision of the evening and morning which was told was true. But you shall shut the vision; for it shall be for many days.” **So the vision goes right up to the end of time!**

Who or what is the “Little Horn” of Daniel 8?

Look at the following. Daniel: A Comm. On the Book of Daniel – John Collins page 343.

“The image of the Little Horn is borrowed from chapter 7 but fits the context nicely All commentators recognise that the chapter (Ch.8) in its present form refers to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes”

Who was Antiochus Epiphanes?

He was a Seleucid (Greek) who defiled Jerusalem’s temple by sacrificing a pig on its altar! While this was terrible I believe that evidence from Daniel shows that Antiochus cannot be the little horn.

Why Antiochus Epiphanes cannot be the Little Horn

1. He never “became great”. He had a nickname “Epimanes” or “fool”
2. He never “Conquered the South, the East and the Glorious Land”
3. He Never “Came at the latter end of the their reign “He was 8 of 20 kings”
4. He does not match the time period. Even the 1150 days. He is short by 60 days!
5. His death does not match - “by no human hand” - He died of natural causes!
6. Jesus speaks of the “Abomination that causes desolation as coming after His time.”
7. He never “cast down the place of His sanctuary” Never damaged or destroyed the temple!

Comparison of Visions	
Daniel 7	Daniel 8
• Babylon • Medo-Persia • Greece & Division • Rome • Division of Rome • Little Horn • Judgment	• Babylon ignored • Medo-Persia • Greece & Division • Little Horn (Pagan & Papal Rome) • Little Horn (Pagan & Papal Rome) • Little Horn (Pagan & Papal Rome) • Cleansing of the Sanctuary

From the comparison above one can clearly see that the Cleansing of Ch. 8 is the Judgemnet of Ch. 7!

Daniel 7 sees Jesus as the Son of Man & Daniel 8 sees Him as Prince of Host, The High Priest.

Jesus, Prince of the Host, now applies the benefits of His life & Death to us!