

A Study of the Book of Daniel
The Most Amazing Bible Prophecy-part 1
Chapter 8

Review: In our last study on Daniel 7, we learned about 4 beasts, 11 horns, the judgment of God, and the second coming of Jesus to get His kingdom. We also learned some important principles that will help us to better understand the books of Daniel and Revelation.

1. God uses the principle of **repeat and enlargement** in unfolding the development of prophecy. The events foretold in the Bible are repeated using different symbolism, as the themes are enlarged and described in fuller detail.
2. We learned the meaning of some important symbols:

Beasts	= represent kingdoms (Dan. 7:17, 23)
Sea / Waters	= represent multitudes of peoples (Rev. 17:15/Isa. 57:20)
Winds	= symbol of war and strife (Rev. 7:1/Jer. 49:36-37)
Horns	= symbol of kings, power, authority (Dan. 7:24/Dan. 8:21)
Wings	= represents great speed for conquest (Hab. 1:8/Deut. 28:49)
Day	= represents a literal year (Ezek. 4:6/Num. 14:34)

We saw in Daniel chapter 7, that God repeated the historical revelation given to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter 2 of the metallic image. In the second repetition of the prophecy (Daniel chapter 7), God expanded on the information, by using animals to provide greater detail. The period in the “*Feet and toes*” of the metallic image represented the division of the Roman Empire into ten kingdoms, as compared to the ten horns on the fourth beast from Daniel chapter 7, symbolizing modern Europe.

In chapter 8, we will see this same principle of repetition and enlargement with even more detail provided about the Little Horn Power introduced in Daniel chapter 7. Here special focus will be given to the issues of the great judgment scene introduced in chapter 7.

Chapter 8 is broken up into five basic parts:

Daniel 8:1, 2	Historical Background
Daniel 8:3-14	Vision of Ram, He-goat, and Little Horn
Daniel 8:15, 16	Command to Make Daniel Understand
Daniel 8:17-25	Gabriel Explains the Vision
Daniel 8:26, 27	Daniel’s Reaction

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. 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.”

“Third year of the reign of King Belshazzar” – The vision of Daniel 7 took place in the first year of Belshazzar’s reign. This vision takes place in the third year, 551 B.C., chronologically between the events of Daniel chapters 4 and 5.

“After that which appeared unto me at the first” – This vision came about two years

after the Daniel's vision in chapter 7.

“At Shushan in the palace” – In vision, Daniel sees himself in Shushan, the chief city of Persia and the winter capital for the Medo-Persian Empire. The vision of Daniel chapter 8 begins with the Medo-Persian Empire rather than with Babylon.

Daniel 8:3-4, 20. Ram = Medo-Persia

v. 3-4 *“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. 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.”*

v. 20 *“The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.”*

In Bible prophecy, beasts represent kingdoms. Daniel saw “a ram which had two horns” with one horn higher than the other. Verse 20 tells us that the “two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.” Therefore, the **Ram represents the kingdom of Medo-Persian**. The ram parallels the bear with one side raised higher than the other. One horn is higher because the Persians became stronger than the Medes in this dual kingdom. The ram pushed “westward, and northward, and southward.” Geographically, this describes the conquests of Medo-Persia. These three directions correspond to the three kingdoms symbolized by three ribs in the mouth of the bear.

Westward – against Babylon

Northward – toward Lydia

Southward – toward Egypt

Daniel 8:5-8, 21-22 He-Goat = Greece

v. 5-8 *“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. 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. 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. 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.”*

v. 21-22 *“And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.”*

The goat has two meanings in Daniel 8:

1. A Symbol of Greece

“Had a notable horn” which “waxed very great” – This refers to Alexander the Great.

“Touched not the ground” – The Grecian army seemed to fly with great speed.

“Smote the ram” – Greece defeated Medo-Persia.

“The great horn was broken; and for it came up four” – At the height of his power, Alexander the Great died from a fever brought on by drunkenness. After nearly twenty years of civil unrest his kingdom was divided between his four generals: Cassander,

Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus. “*Four notable ones*” correspond to these four generals’ kingdoms. Note the parallel between these four horns and the four heads on the leopard in Daniel Chapter 7.

2. A Symbol of Satanic Activity

Dan. 8:10-13

“*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. Yea, **he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.** 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. 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?**”*

“**Magnified himself**” – Like Satan, the Little Horn is proud and selfish, exalting himself even to Jesus Christ.

“**Daily sacrifice was taken away**” – The word “*daily*” means continual. This power would seek to take away the continual intercession of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

“**His sanctuary was cast down**” – This power would point people to an earthly sanctuary in place of the heavenly sanctuary where Jesus ministers in our behalf.

“**By reason of transgression**” – Like Satan, the Little Horn is a lawless power.

“**It cast down the truth**” – Like Satan, the Little Horn hates God’s truth and His law.

“**How long?**” – Like Satan, the Little Horn will not escape God’s judgment. The scapegoat is a satanic symbol in Israel’s day of judgment, the great Day of Atonement.

Two goats were used on the Day of Atonement. One, representing Christ, was sacrificed. The other, representing Satan, was banished to the desert.

Leviticus 16:5-10

“*And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house. And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD's lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a **scapegoat** into the wilderness.”*

Key Point:

Every sacrificed animal in the Hebrew sanctuary [temple] represented the Great Sacrifice, Jesus Christ. Each pointed toward the sacrifice Christ made as the **LAMB OF GOD**. Jesus paid for the sins of mankind by the shedding of His blood at the cross of Calvary. The scapegoat could not represent Jesus, for it was not sacrificed.

With the ram, he-goat, and the Little Horn’s desolation of the sanctuary, Daniel chapter 8 speaks symbolically of the Day of Atonement. In this yearly sanctuary service, the LORD’s goat symbolizing Christ was sacrificed as a sin offering. The high priest took some of the goat’s blood into the Most Holy Place and sprinkled it seven times on and before the mercy seat of the Ark of

the Covenant. He was asking God to not only forgive, but to cleanse their record of sin. Next, he would come from the Most Holy Place, into the Holy Place, stopping at the Altar of Incense, and placing blood upon the horns of the Altar. He was now asking God to cleanse the sanctuary from the uncleanness caused by the sins of the children of Israel. After the sanctuary had been cleansed by blood of the LORD's goat, the high priest would symbolically place the blame of the sins of God's people upon the head of the scapegoat. The scapegoat was then led into the wilderness to die far away from God's presence and camp of Israel, thus showing a separation between the people and their sins. The scapegoat symbolizes Satan. The Day of Atonement ceremonies pointed to the final cleansing of the God's heavenly sanctuary during the divine judgment after 1798. In this judgment, proper blame for the origin of sin is placed upon the head of Satan before his final banishment from the presence of God and His people at the end of time.

Leviticus 16:15-16, 18-22

*"Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and **sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:** And he shall make an atonement for the holy [place], because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. . . . And **he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it;** and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. And **he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.** And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, **he shall bring the live goat:** And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.*

"Azazel" – The Hebrew word for scapegoat is *Azazel* which literally means **"fierce or furious god"** (Dr. Albert R. Treiyer, *The Day of Atonement*, p. 257).

"The scapegoat" named *Azazel* is a symbol for Satan. (see **Leviticus 17:7**)

Leviticus 17:7

KJV *"And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto **devils**, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations."*

NKJV *"They shall no more offer their sacrifices to **demons**, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations."*

ASV *"And they shall no more sacrifice their sacrifices unto the **he-goats**, after which they play the harlot. This shall be a statute forever unto them throughout their generations."*

"A hairy goat" remains an important symbol of Satan in modern occult literature.

Key Point:

The demonic qualities of the he-goat of Daniel 8:

1. The goat flies like a spirit being (v. 5).
2. The goat is furious like *Azazel* (v. 7).
3. The goat's little horn attacks Jesus Christ and the host of heaven (v. 11).
4. The goat's little horn is broken by divine intervention in the judgment (v. 25).

Daniel 8:8-9

“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. 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.”

“**Four notable ones**” Represents the four horns, or generals that took over Alexander the Great's kingdom, Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus.

“**Four winds of heaven**” Represents directions, or points on the compass.

“**Out of one of them**” A Little Horn comes out one of the “four winds” symbolizing that from one of the areas or directions, that the four generals controlled. “**Them**” does not refer to the four horns (i.e. the four sub-kingdoms into which Alexander the Great's kingdom was divided) because of the grammatical structure of the original Hebrew. In Daniel 8:8-9, “**horns**” is feminine in gender, while “**winds**” can be either feminine or masculine in gender. In the phrase “*out of them*” the word for “**them**” is masculine. Hebrew grammatical construction requires that the pronoun have the same gender as the noun to which it refers. Therefore, “**them**” must refer to the “winds” (directions of the compass), rather than to the four “horns” symbolizing the divisions of the Greek Empire. In nature, horns do not grow out of horns. They grow out of heads. This little horn of Daniel chapter 8 grows out of the goat, symbolizing another phase of Satan's control in world history.

“**Toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land**”

Daniel chapters 2 and 7 identify the fourth kingdom as the Roman Empire. In Daniel chapter 8, the first phrase of the little horn describes the political conquest of Pagan Rome in relation to the Mediterranean Sea.

“*toward the south*” – Rome conquered Northern Africa and Egypt.

“*toward the east*” – Rome conquered Greece, Babylon, and the East.

“*toward the pleasant land*” – Rome conquered Israel.

Psalms 106:24

“*Yea, they despised **the pleasant land**, they believed not his word:*”

Zechariah 7:14

“*But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid **the pleasant land** desolate.”*

Daniel 8:10-12.

“*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. Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his*

***sanctuary was cast down.** 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.”*

Characteristics and Actions of the Little Horn Power

Two Phases of the Little Horn:

1. Horizontal attack = the political conquests of Pagan Rome (v. 9)
2. Vertical attack = the spiritual assaults of Papal Rome (v. 10,12)

Six Attacks of the Little Horn During Its Vertical/Spiritual Phase

1. The Little Horn caused some of the stars to fall, and it trampled on them. (v. 10)
It destroys the mighty and the holy people (v. 24) and shall destroy many. (v. 25)
The stars represent God’s people. (Dan. 12:3; Genesis 15:5; Deuteronomy 1:10)

2. The Little Horn magnified himself, even to Christ (v. 11) (v. 25)
The Prince of heaven is Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 9:6)

3. The Little Horn undermined the continual ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. (v.11)

The word “*sacrifice*,” here used, is not found in the original Hebrew text, but many Bible translators have added this word in italics. The phrase should actually read “**the daily**” or “**the continual.**” In Dan. 8:11, the Hebrew word for “*daily*” is “*tamiyd*” which means the “**continual.**” This word is often used to describe the continual work and mediation of the high priest.

Exodus 28:30

*“And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim [literally “lights,” a synonym for stars] and the Thummim [literally “perfect ones”]; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD **continually.**”*

Hebrews 7:23-25 which describes Jesus’ *tamiyd* or continual ministry in heaven.
*“And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man, because he **continueth ever,** hath an **unchangeable** priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he **ever** liveth to make intercession for them.”*

Both Old and New Testaments teach that Jesus Christ is our High Priest and Mediator.

Psalms 110:4	<i>“Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek”</i>
1 Timothy 2:5	<i>“One mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”</i>
Hebrews 3:1	<i>“Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus”</i>
Hebrews 4:14-16	<i>“Seeing then that we have a great high priest...Jesus the son of God”</i>
Hebrews 8:1,2	<i>“We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens”</i>

The Little Horn Power took away the “*daily*,” the continual ministry of Christ as High Priest, by subverting His role as the divinely appointed Mediator who pardons sin.

4. “The place of His sanctuary was cast down” by the Little Horn. (v. 11)

“**Place**” – The word for “place” in Dan. 8:11 is *makown*, which means “fixed or established place” or “foundation.” *Makown* is used in Psalms 97:2.

Psalms 97:2

“*Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne.* Psalms 97:2

“**The Foundation Stone**” – The Church of Rome teaches that Peter is the foundation stone. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the foundation stone.

Ephesians 2:19-20

“*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*”

I Peter 2:4-6

“*To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*”

God’s True Sanctuary Is in Heaven.

Hebrews 8:1-2

“*Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such **an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;** A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*”

The Little Horn cast down the place of God’s sanctuary and trampled it under his feet. The Little Horn redirected men’s attention to earthly, ornately-constructed counterfeits.

5. The little horn’s activities are characterized as “transgression.” (v. 12)

This parallels the lawlessness of the man of sin. (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12)

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12

“*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. **For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the***

***brightness of his coming:** Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness **in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*

- 6. The little horn threw truth to the ground. (v. 12)** In John 14:6, Jesus says that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In John 17:17, Jesus says, “**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**”

Daniel 8:13-14

*“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? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.**”*

THE BIG QUESTION – HOW LONG?

The two holy ones standing before God reminds us of the two angels on the Ark of the Covenant. From the perspective of the Most Holy Place, these angels are deeply troubled about the extent of Satan’s control over humanity and the church.

The heavenly universe asks a profound question – “*How long?*”

How long – before the persecution ends?

How long – before the truth is restored?

How long – before Jesus is honored as High Priest in heaven?

How long – before the sanctuary in heaven is restored to God’s people?

How long – before the Christian Church is restored to its purity?

THE BIG ANSWER: *“And he said unto me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14*

The “*cleansing of the sanctuary*” is the biblical term for the **Day of Atonement**.

Leviticus 16: 29-31, 33-34

*“And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that **in the seventh month, on the tenth [day] of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all,** whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: For **on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.** It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever. . . And he shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation. And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, **to make an atonement** for the children of Israel for all their sins **once a year.**”*

On this day, the high priest entered the Most Holy Place, symbolically transferred the accumulated sins from the sanctuary [temple] to the scapegoat, and then banished the scapegoat to the desert. The “*cleansing of the sanctuary*” parallels the events in the judgment scene of Daniel chapter 7:10-14.

The great Day of Atonement was also a day of judgment in which the temple was cleansed from the presence of sin. The Day of Atonement occurred on the tenth day of the seventh month, just five days before the Feast of Tabernacles, the last feast of the year. Symbolically, the Day of Atonement cleansed the temple from the confessed sins of God's people. It also symbolized the restoration of the temple to its rightful state. On the great Day of Atonement, the people were to afflict their souls by fasting and prayer. They were to engage in deep, spiritual self-examination to make sure they were right with God. Anyone who did not perform this heart-searching work was to be cut off from God's people. Those who refused reconciliation, and chose separation, God honored their decision. **Because all who refused to take the day seriously would be "cut off," this warning demonstrates that the Day of Atonement, was also a day of judgment.**

Key Point:

A prophetic day = a literal year in Bible prophecy (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34). Therefore, 2300 prophetic days, would be 2300 literal years.

Daniel 8:15-19, 26

*v. 15-19 "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. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. 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.** 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. 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."*

v. 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."

Understanding the Significance of the 2300 Days

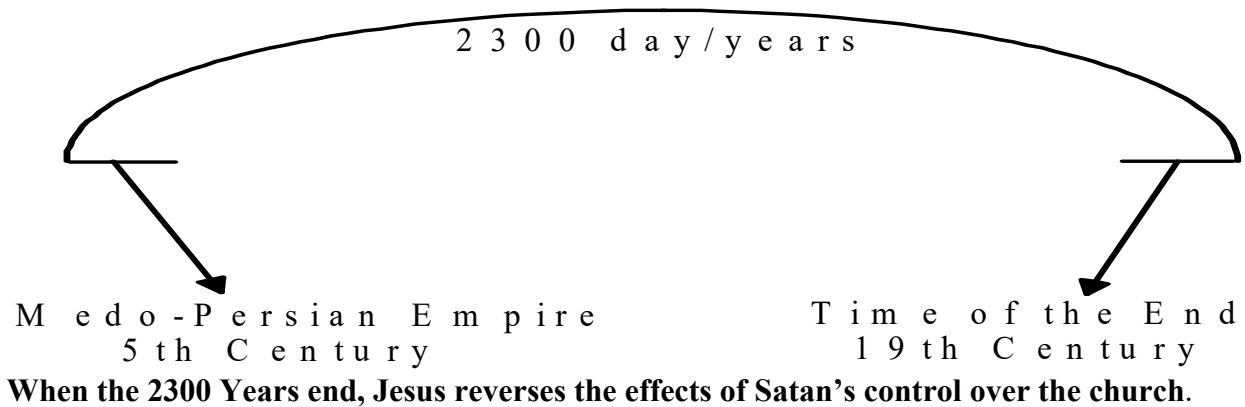
Three times in Daniel 8 Gabriel declares: The vision of the 2300 Days reaches to the time of the end.

"Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end." (v. 17)

"I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation; for it pertains to the appointed time of the end." (v. 19)

"The vision of the evenings and the mornings which has been told is true; but seal up the vision, for it pertains to many days hence." (v. 26)

The 2300 years of Daniel 8:14 begin in the days of Medo-Persia and end in the 19th century.



*“And he said unto me, **Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.**” Daniel 8:14*

*“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like **the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days**, and they brought him near before him. And **there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom**, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13-14*

*“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.**” Daniel 8:25*

Daniel 8:15-27

*“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. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. 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.** 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. 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. **The ram** which thou sawest having two horns **are the kings of Media and Persia.** And **the rough goat is the king of Grecia:** and **the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.** Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, **four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.** 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.** 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. 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.** 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. 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.**”*

Gabriel now comes to give Daniel understanding of the vision. Notice some key points.

1. The vision is for the “*Time of the End.*”
2. The ram represents Medo-Persia
3. The rough goat represents Greece
4. The great horn represents the first king – Alexander the Great led them to conquer the world.
5. The four horns represent the four generals that took over the kingdom after Alexander died.
6. The little horn represents first Pagan Rome, then Papal Rome.
7. At the end Daniel still had questions about the “*Cleansing of the Sanctuary.*”

Some have tried to say that the little horn represents Antiochus Epiphanes, but the Bible does not support this view.

Let’s consider some facts.

1. In verse 4, it says that the ram, representing Medo-Persia became “*Great.*”
2. In verse 8, it says that the he-goat, representing Greece became “*Very Great.*”
3. In verse 9, it says that the Little Horn, representing Pagan & Papal Rome became “*Exceeding Great.*” Antiochus Epiphanes, was never greater than Alexander the Great, and he was “*Very Great.*” This Little Horn power must be the same fourth kingdom, represented by the legs of iron in the image of Daniel chapter 2, and the non-descript beast with 10 horns in Daniel chapter 7.

4. Daniel 8:23

“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.”

The Hebrew word for “*Latter*” is “*’achariyth*,” which means, “*the last or end.*” Antiochus Epiphanes was 8th in the line of 26 leaders in the divided kingdom of Greece. He was not at the “*end*” as the Scriptures tell about the “*Little Horn.*” He was in the Seleucus dynasty and ruled for 12 years and was at the end, told to leave Egypt, by Rome that was rising in power. He therefore, couldn’t be the “*King of fierce countenance.*”

5. This verse tells us that the “*Little Horn*” would arise at the end of the kingdom of Greece. We know from the prophecies of Daniel chapters 2 and 7 that the next kingdom to rise would be the Pagan Roman Empire. Notice the comparisons from Daniel chapters 2, 7, and 8 on the fourth kingdom, Pagan Rome.

Daniel 2:40

“And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.”

Daniel 7:7, 19

V. 7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.”

V. 19 “Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass;

which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;”

Daniel 8:23-24

“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. 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.”

As we can see the “*Little Horn*” from Daniel 8 represents first, the Pagan Roman Empire that is political and conquers land, and then, transfers power to, the political-religious Roman Catholic Church, that attacks Jesus, His Sanctuary, His continual High Priest ministry in our behalf, His people, and His Truth! This leads us to the end, where Judgment sets the record straight.