

Daniel 8 – Vision #3 – The Ram and the “Rough” Goat

By Holly Effiom

V1

When does this vision take place?

Was this vision very different from Daniel’s first vision?

What was Daniel’s first vision?

Who had the vision of Daniel 2?

VV2-5

Where is Daniel physically?

In his vision where is he? Why is this significant?

What is noteworthy about the ram?

1. 2 horns – one is higher than the other;
2. The higher one came up last.

What do horns signify? How is a horn different from a crown?

What was the ram doing? What does this mean?

What does it mean that no beast could stand before him?

What does the term “great” mean in this context? From where did the goat come?

What is noteworthy about this goat?

1. Came from the west, upon the face of the whole earth;
2. Didn’t touch the ground;
3. Had a “notable” horn between the eyes.

LESSON: Just reading Daniel 7 and 8, we know that when the term “horn” is used, leadership or dominion is meant. And, we know that God conveys crowns upon those who serve Him (Revelation). Leaders who serve someone else, including themselves, are horns.

VV6-8

What did the goat do? Was it a “friendly” visit with the ram?

What is “choler”? Why does scripture note this information? Why did the goat have this “choler”?

What was the outcome from their interaction?

What happened to the ram? Could anyone help the ram?

Did the goat die after his interaction with the ram? Did the goat die in battle?

What happened to the goat’s horn?

What is scripture describing in a historical sense?

V9

Why is it significant that we learn that the little horn came out of the 4 horns?

LESSON: Notice that the “little horn” is re-introduced into the discussion from Daniel 7. We have learned in our studies that whenever God “repeats” Himself what He is about to say should be remembered AND He’s about to give you greater detail. Understand, this only shows God’s desire for you to know and understand what He is doing.

Another concept to understand is that horns give birth to horns – horns reproduce, just as humans reproduce. Can the same be said for “crowns”? No, conferring leadership is a right God reserves for Himself, and Himself alone. Which of the two types of leadership is enduring? Consider: what happens to the works of man’s hands?

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Understanding this, could satan ever truly wrest dominion in the earth from Adam? If not, how can he try and gain dominion in the earth? Another question to consider: why does satan want dominion in the earth?

VV10-11

Is this the same “little horn” as the one mentioned in Daniel 7:8?

When the term “exceeding great” is used with regard to the “little horn”, what is meant?

What does this horn do to the host of heaven?

What does this horn do to the stars?

Are the “host of heaven” and the “stars” one and the same according to this verse? See Isa 14:13.

In what way will this “little horn” magnify himself, even to the Prince of the host?

What are the “daily sacrifices”? Ex 29:38-46; Ez 46:12-15

What is a sanctuary? Who’s sanctuary was cast down?

LESSON: The host of heaven are those in the earth that belong to heaven – those in the earth that bow their knee to Jesus Christ. The stars are those that inhabit heaven – the angels. The Prince of the host is Jesus Christ. So, who is the “little horn”? Is he an individual or nation? We do know that the leader of a nation is the epitome of the heart of the people that put him in power; and, that the people exemplify the heart of its leader.

So, what is this section of scripture telling us? We know that this nation or individual and its people will become great in the earth, even to the point of influencing those who bow their knee to Jesus Christ. And, that nation or individual and its people will be the destruction of those who bow their knee to Jesus Christ and even some of the angels. (Rev 12) What are some of the ways in which this might happen?

This nation or individual and its people will magnify themselves even against Jesus Christ, even causing people to not have faith in and worship God anymore; and they will cause Jesus Christ’s sanctuary to be cast down or diminished. What are some of the ways in which this might happen to Jesus’ sanctuary?

V12

Does the little horn have anyone helping him wreak this havoc?

What will be the character of those helping the little horn?

How will some of the little horn’s supporters be some of the “host of heaven”?

What does it mean to be against the “daily sacrifices”?

How can the host of heaven be against the daily sacrifices? What are some ways in which this can happen?

What is the little horns relationship with the truth? What would this look like to the “host of heaven” that are under the little horn’s control?

Will the little horn suddenly change his way for the better?

Will little horn continue to be or appear successful?

LESSON: I wondered what the difference between transgression and sin. Transgression is used a lot in scripture when it comes to this end time prophecy stuff. And, this is what came to me: driving on the 210 freeway Eastbound from Upland, the speed limit is 70 MPH. The scenery along that stretch of the freeway is gorgeous! I get a little distracted just looking at the clouds around the mountains to the north; such that by the time I started looking for my exit for the 15 freeway north to Victorville, I often find that my speedometer is reading 80 MPH!

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And then, there’s the person who sees the speed limit is 70 MPH, yet still puts pedal to metal for whatever reason. We both have broken the law, but which would you call a sin and which would you call a transgression?

The little horn will not accidentally just find himself sinning against the law of God; he will purposefully and intentionally throw off the shackles of God’s law – he will transgress God’s law! And such will be the case for some of those who had once bowed their knee to the rulership of Jesus Christ in their lives.

VV13-14

Who did Daniel overhear speaking?

What was being discussed?

According to these saints what exactly was the vision concerning?

So, what exactly is the transgression of desolation, according to what these saints were saying?

How long will this “transgression of desolation” last?

LESSON: These saints were present while Daniel was having this vision, and they were witnessing it also... and talking through it! Interesting! It was like they were all at the movie theatre and Daniel’s neighbors were discussing the movie while it was still playing on the screen... but it was for a purpose.

Good thing Daniel didn’t shush them! 😊

God apparently wanted Daniel to hear their words – He was providing Daniel with timing information. Both the sanctuary and the host were going to be given into the hands of the little horn, to be trampled underfoot for approximately 7 years; after which the sanctuary will be cleansed. Is the “time, times, and the dividing of time” of Dan 7:25; or 1260 days or 42 months of Rev 11:2-3, separate from that 2300 days? Notice, the 2300 is almost twice the 1260 days...

VV15-19

What happened while Daniel was trying to make sense of the vision he was having?

Was it an angel that appeared? What was the angel’s name? How do you know?

What in Daniel’s reaction lets you know that it isn’t a man standing before him?

Did the angel tell him not to be afraid?

What did the angel tell Daniel?

How could Daniel be in a deep sleep and yet still hear the words of the angel?

During what time period would Daniel’s vision be fulfilled? Would it be a week later? How do you know?

VV20-22

Who did the ram represent?

So, what did it mean in the vision that one horn came up after the other and was higher?

Who did the rough goat represent? Was this a nation or individual?

What did the single horn on the goat represent?

Does that single horn continue forever? What happens?

Are subsequent horns as powerful as that first horn on the rough goat?

VV23-27

When will the transgressors be fully realized? How do you know?

What will happen when the transgressors come to the full?

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- Is the “king of fierce countenance” the “little horn”? Is this a nation or individual?
- What does it mean to understand “dark sentences”?
- What else do we know about this king of fierce countenance or little horn? Will he be powerful?
- What will the little horn do with his power?
- Will he try to bring out the best in his people?
- Will the little horn, wanting his people to be honest and upright, be honest and upright himself?
- Will the king of fierce countenance use weapons of war to destroy people?
- Will people figure him out and not fall for his machinations?
- Will he ever be satisfied with his ill-gotten gains? What in the scripture tells you that he will not?
- Who does he try to take on?
- Who is the Prince of princes?
- What happens when he tries to take on Jesus?
- What does it mean that he is “broken without hand”?
- How long did the vision last? Was it in parts?
- Why did the angel tell Daniel to “shut thou up the vision”?
- What effect did this vision and interpretation have on Daniel?
- Did Daniel understand the interpretation explained by the angel?
- Did Daniel share the vision and interpretation with anyone else?

LESSON: The vision and its interpretation had a powerful effect on Daniel. Just like the vision of chapter 7, his thoughts bothered him and he didn't completely understand what was being told to him; but he faithfully recorded what was being told to him.

What did we learn from the interpretation on this vision?

1. God wanted Daniel to understand the vision; so much so that He sent the angel Gabriel to make sure he understood.
2. God wanted Daniel to understand that the vision was not of current event, but rather events far out into the future – at the end of human rulership in the earth (Dan 7:26).
3. God wanted Daniel to understand that the beasts he saw in his visions represented “kingdoms” or “empires”, and the horns the “kings” over the kingdoms/empires. Such that, the ram of Dan 8:20 was representative of the Medo-Persian Empire, in which the king of Media and the king of Persia conspired and conquered Babylon and its king.

Notice the vision of Dan 8:3 describes a characteristic of the ram's horns – “...the two horns were high: but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.” Dan 5:31, tells us that “Darius the Median took the kingdom...” (ram's horn 1) and that Daniel prospered “...in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” (ram's horn 2) Dan 6:28.

Do you remember the handwriting on the wall? Dan 5:29 “PERES” is literally translated Persians, though my KJV interprets it as “Medes and Persians”. I always wondered if the interpretation was stating God's understanding of the matter – the kingdom was indeed divided but the Persians will ultimately be the ones to rule.

Dan 8: 21 tells us that the rough goat from the west of the vision in v 5 is Grecia or Greece; furthermore, the single horn on the goat was the first king of Greece – who we know to be Alexander the great. This is the first time that the names of nations were being placed on the beasts

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of the visions, therefore, it's significant and we should try to understand why God wanted Daniel to understand this.

What does knowing the kingdom names do for our understanding of the timeline of events? Well, it definitely lets Daniel know that some of the events to occur will take place during his time – in his career, he will serve the king of Babylon, the king of Media, and the king of Persia. It is not likely that he would be alive to serve the Greeks, when their time comes; however, he's recording events that are to come for posterity – yes, even though a eunuch, Daniel has posterity, children of faith.

The visions given to Daniel also trace the path of human dominion in the earth during the Japhethic or Gentile times; which we know from Luke 21:24 to be the final period before the Son of man returns. Hallelujah!

4. So, God wanted Daniel to bear witness to the genesis of Gentile world power and to testify to its ultimate death, and the ushering in of the final period of human dominion, under the rule and reign of the Son of man, Dan 7:13-14.
5. God wanted Daniel to understand the depths to which human domination will sink towards the end of the Gentile times. Transgressors will have come to the full, hence “a king of fierce countenance” will be born, with an intimate knowledge of wickedness.
6. God wanted Daniel to be able to recognize this king of fierce countenance – he will be powerful, but not from within himself. Rev 13:2 tells us that the dragon will give him his power, seat, and great authority.
7. God wanted Daniel to record that this “little horn” will be destructive, especially toward the mighty and the holy; he will do destructive things that will cause onlookers to wonder at him; wonder that no one will or can stop him.
8. God wanted Daniel to record that this “king of fierce countenance” will use deceit in his politics, in his goal to control those he leads, and the character of the led will be deceitful. It will not be by weapons of war that he will destroy, but by means of “peace”.
9. God wanted Daniel to record that this king will think he is so clever because he prospers in his deceit that he will try to make war on Jesus Christ Himself; and that is when he will be stopped by God Himself – “he shall be broken without [human] hand” Dan 8:25.

Daniel was not going to be alive when this “little horn” manifests itself; so, for whom was this information recorded?