

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible  
Current Book: Daniel – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Daniel 8:1-27 – *Daniel’s vision of the ram, the he goat, and the little horn.*

Today’s Message:  
“The Great Goat”



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we began the prophetic section of Daniel with a vision of four beasts coming up out of the sea. God again showed him the future of Gentile kingdoms from Babylon to the reign of Jesus Christ. And details emerged of a coming **WORLD** leader we call, “Antichrist.” Today, we will learn of a second vision that Daniel had two years later. Now God did something incredible in this vision. He showed to Daniel the rise of *the Medes and Persians* and the triumphs of *Alexander the Great* over them **BEFORE** Babylon fell – almost 200 years before Alexander was even born! God was giving Daniel (and us) progressive light on future, historical events. Part of the prophecy included a **GAP** of time after which Antichrist will rise up with more prophetic details. This is God’s message to you...

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### A. The Text Daniel 8:1-27

#### #1. The Two-horned Ram – Daniel’s vision began at Shushan in the PALACE.

##### I WAS AT SHUSHAN IN THE PALACE

✓ In the third year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a second **VISION**.

- In **8:1**, the CONTEXT is **two years after** the first and just prior to Babylon’s fall.
  - The fall of Babylon took place in **538 BC**.
- In **8:2**, the LOCATION was at **Shushan in the palace** – the Persian **THRONE**.
- In **Nehemiah 1:1**, the context for the book of Nehemiah was *in this place!*
- In **Esther 1:2**, the context for the book of Esther was *in this place!*

**Esther 1:2**  
*That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace.*

##### A RAM WHICH HAD TWO HORNS

✓ The RAM was described as having two horns – ONE HIGHER than the other.

- In **8:20**, the ram is interpreted to be the kings of Media and Persia.
- In **8:3**, the higher of the two horns came up **LAST** – this was **Cyrus the king**.
  - In **7:5**, the kingdom was described as a second beast like to a BEAR.
- In **8:4-7**, the RAM ruled and then was smitten by the GOAT and stamped upon.
  - By **330 BC**, Alexander the Great and his Grecian Empire accomplished just that!

**Daniel 7:5**  
*And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised itself on ONE SIDE...*

**2023 VISION:** *Hold the Fort!*  
*Making disciples and caring for souls!*

**#2. The Great Goat – as Daniel considered, an he GOAT came from *the west*.**

**AN HE GOAT CAME FROM THE WEST ON THE FACE OF *THE WHOLE EARTH***

✓ The GOAT was described as covering the earth and not touching the ground!

**Daniel 7:6**  
*After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.*

**Ezekiel 26:12-14**  
*... and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water ... And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon...*

- In **8:21**, the great-horned goat is interpreted to be the **FIRST** king of Greece.
  - In **336 BC**, Alexander (son of Philip of Macedon) became king of Greece at age 20.
- In **8:6**, the GOAT **ran unto** the RAM in the FURY OF HIS POWER!
  - In **7:6**, the Grecian kingdom was the third beast like a LEOPARD; 4 wings, 4 heads.
  - In **334 BC**, Alexander defeated a Persian army with 30,000 men and 5,000 calvary.
  - In **333 BC**, Alexander defeated a Persian army of 600,000 led by Darius the king.
  - In **332 BC**, Alexander defeated **Tyre** by building a LAND BRIDGE **fulfilling Ezekiel 26!**
- In **8:7-8**, the GOAT destroyed the RAM and waxed VERY **GREAT!**
  - In **331 BC**, Alexander defeated a Persian army of 1 million+ led by Darius the king.
  - By **330 BC**, Alexander **the Great** (and his Grecian Empire) had conquered the world!
- In **8:8**, when he was STRONG, the great horn was BROKEN.
  - In **323 BC**, Alexander the Great **died at Babylon** of marsh fever and intemperance.
- In **8:8**, after the great horn was broken, FOUR NOTABLE HORNS divided the rule.
  - #1: General **Gassander** – took Macedonia (Greece) and the **Western** part.
  - #2: General **Lysimachus** – took Thrace (Asia Minor) and the **Northern** part.
  - #3: General **Seleucus** – took Syria (Assyria) and the **Eastern** part.
  - #4: General **Ptolemy** – took Egypt and the **Southern** part.

**#3. The Little Horn – in the latter time of their kingdom, a king shall STAND up.**

**AND OUT OF ONE OF THEM CAME FORTH A LITTLE HORN... EXCEEDING GREAT**

✓ God has given us MORE LIGHT on the prophetic revelation about *the Antichrist*.

**Daniel 7:8**  
*I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the EYES OF A MAN, and a MOUTH SPEAKING GREAT THINGS.*

- In **8:9**, we learn that *the little horn* (Antichrist) will come from 1 of these 4.
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> beast (*Roman Empire*) which conquered these is not referred to here.
- In **8:10-14**, we learn of Antichrist's PRIDE and destruction of TEMPLE and **JEW**S!
  - In **8:11**, he will **magnify himself** proving his FATHER! **Isa 14:11-15; Ezek 28:12-19**
  - In **8:11**, he will **take away** the DAILY SACRIFICE in the TEMPLE (which will be rebuilt)
  - In **8:11-14**, he will CAST DOWN the truth, the sanctuary, and the host: **2,300 days!**
- In **8:15-27**, Gabriel is told to help Daniel **UNDERSTAND** the vision.
  - In **8:19**, Daniel was told this vision relates to THE LAST END of the INDIGNATION!
  - In **8:20-21**, the identity of the RAM (Medes/Persians) and GOAT (Greece) was given.
  - In **8:22-23**, the Antichrist will stand up IN THE LATTER TIME of THEIR KINGDOM.
  - In **8:24**, the Antichrist will be POWERED BY SATAN – **Revelation 13:2**
  - In **8:24**, the Antichrist will DESTROY WONDERFULLY – *the mighty and holy people!*
  - In **8:25**, the Antichrist will use GOVERNMENT POLICIES to cause craft to prosper.
  - In **8:25**, the Antichrist will use **PEACE** to DESTROY MANY – *peace covenant*. **Dan 9:27**
  - In **8:25**, the Antichrist will STAND UP AGAINST the PRINCE of princes! **2Ths 2:8-9**

**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.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Daniel 11:36</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>And the king shall do ACCORDING TO HIS WILL; and he shall EXALT HIMSELF, and MAGNIFY HIMSELF above every god, and shall speak marvellous things AGAINST the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that THAT IS DETERMINED SHALL BE DONE.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Daniel 11:37</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Neither shall he REGARD THE GOD OF HIS FATHERS, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall MAGNIFY HIMSELF above all.</i></p>
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## Tyre

**Ezekiel 26:3-14** (Approximately 600 BC)

<sup>3</sup> Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up.

<sup>4</sup> And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.

<sup>5</sup> It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD: and it shall become a spoil to the nations.

<sup>6</sup> And her daughters which are in the field shall be slain by the sword; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people.

<sup>8</sup> He shall slay with the sword thy daughters in the field: and he shall make a fort against thee, and cast a mount against thee, and lift up the buckler against thee.

<sup>9</sup> And he shall set engines of war against thy walls, and with his axes he shall break down thy towers.

<sup>10</sup> By reason of the abundance of his horses their dust shall cover thee: thy walls shall shake at the noise of the horsemen, and of the wheels, and of the chariots, when he shall enter into thy gates, as men enter into a city wherein is made a breach.

<sup>11</sup> With the hoofs of his horses shall he tread down all thy streets: he shall slay thy people by the sword, and thy strong garrisons shall go down to the ground.

<sup>12</sup> And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise: and they shall break down thy walls, and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water.

<sup>13</sup> And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard.

<sup>14</sup> And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the LORD have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

## Nebuchadnezzar

Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to mainland Tyre for 13 years. The mainland city of Tyre was destroyed in 573 BC, but the island city of Tyre remained a powerful city for several hundred years.

## Alexander the Great

As Peter Green<sup>1</sup> stated:

Alexander had made it known that he intended to reach Tyre by building a mole across the strait...Alexander began what was to prove the longest and most grueling military operation of his entire career. He began by demolishing Old Tyre to provide the foundation-stones and rubble...The mole, in its final form, is said to have reached a breadth of no less than 200 feet. Alexander wanted to assault the fortifications on as wide a front as possible. At first, the Tyrians treated his project as a joke...But the rapid, efficient progress of the work soon made them change their tune. Endless tons of rock went into the sea without appreciably raising the foundation-level. Alexander's engineers had constructed a number of naval battering rams, each mounted on a large platform lashed across two barges. Other similar floating platforms carried heavy catapults...he felt seriously tempted to abandon the siege and march on to Egypt. It was now high summer: For nearly six months he labored before the walls of Tyre, and all in vain. If Alexander held on, it was because he had long ago passed the point of no return. To give up the siege now would be more costly than to go through with it. Concentrated bombarding broke down one section of the wall, and badly shook what remained...a wide section had battered into rubble. When the last organized resistance was broken, Alexander's veterans raged through the city on a ferocious manhunt, all restraint abandoned, hysterical and half-crazy after the long rigors of the dreadful siege, mere butchers now, striking and trampling and tearing limb from limb until Tyre became a bloody, reeking abattoir. Some citizens locked themselves in their homes and committed suicide. Alexander had ordered that all save those who sought sanctuary were to be slain, and his commands were executed with savage relish. The great city over which Hiram once held sway was now utterly destroyed. Against Alexander's mole, quiet now under the summer sky, sand began to drift from the coastal dunes, softening the sharp outline of blocks and joints, linking Tyre ever more closely to the mainland. The flail of the Lord had done his work all too well. With each passing century, the peninsula grew wider. Today, deep under asphalt streets and apartment blocks, the stone core of the fantastic causeway still stands: one of Alexander's most tangible and permanent legacies to posterity.

<sup>1</sup> Peter Green, Alexander of Macedon, 356-323 B.C. A Historical Biography (Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press & Oxford, England: University of California Press Ltd, 1991), 251-261.