

## **Dan11 - God's Awesome Prophecy - Dan 8:1-27**

**There is SO MUCH Material in this Ch – It's Crazy to do it ALL on a Sun Morning – SO HOLD ON**

**Quick Review – The we HAVE to Jump IN**

**The FIRST Vision of the History of the World was in Ch 2 – It was Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Man Statue**

**Then – In Dan Ch 7 – We revisited the History of the World from God's Perspective – In Daniel's Vision of the 4 Beasts**

**TODAY (Ch 8) – We REVIEW the History of the World with a FOCUS on some very FINE TUNED Prophetic Truths**

**Here's the Big Picture I'd like us to Grasp Today – GOD'S PROPHECIES – ARE AWESOME**

**Let's Pray**

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**Daniel 8:1 (nlt)**

***1 During the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, I, Daniel, saw another vision, following the one that had already appeared to me.***

**The Previous vision Daniel's referring to is the one we last studied in Ch 7**

**& BOTH of THESE Visions Came After the Visions Nebuchadnezzar had that Daniel Interpreted (1<sup>st</sup> half)**

**BUT – they are all in Essence SPEAKING to the SAME thing  
THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD !!**

**Daniel 8:2 (nlt)**

***2 In this vision I was at the fortress of Susa, in the province of Elam, standing beside the Ulai River.***

**In this vision – Daniel was PROJECTED to the City of SUSA  
Which was the Capital of the World Ruling Empire**

**The interesting thing is – it WASN'T the capital of the World Ruling  
Empire WHEN Daniel Had his Vision**

**It BECAME the Capital of Medo-Persian Empire –  
which would Conquer the Babylonian Empire in the Near Future**

**So for starters – Daniel SEES himself in the FUTURE Capital of  
The RULING Empire of Medo-Persia – Which hadn't happened**

**SO MUCH of this Ch – is God  
PROVING His PROPHETIC ACCURACY – it's incredible**

**& I want you to ask your self – WHY??**

**WHY is God going thru this Trouble to PROVE  
how 100% accurate His Written Prophecies are**

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**So now – Here COMES the Medo-Persian Empire**

### **Daniel 8:3-4 (nlt)**

**3 As I looked up, I saw a ram with two long horns standing beside the river. One of the horns was longer than the other, even though it had grown later than the other one.**

**4 The ram butted everything out of his way to the west, to the north, and to the south, and no one could stand against him or help his victims. He did as he pleased and became very great.**

**This is the Medo-Persian Empire that Conquered Babylon**

**it corresponds to the Arms & Chest of Silver of the Image in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream back in Dan Ch 2 –**

**& it corresponds to the BEAR in the previous Vision (Ch 7) which we last studied**

**& JUST AS the BEAR was Lopsided - So ONE of these Horns is Longer than the other – representing the strength of Persia OVER the Medes**

**Perfectly Accurate Prophecy – Perfectly Proven by History**

**In the Book of Daniel - God is laying out the History of the World Over & Over again in different ways – to make sure we GET IT**

**& using the RAM to represent the Medo-Persia Empire is perfect – because the Guardian Spirit of that Empire – was a RAM**

**& the PERSIAN King actually wore the HEAD of a RAM – when he addressed his Army (*just little details*)**

**& AS v.4 says - the Medo-Persia Army could not be stopped - & it easily conquered the known world**

**& THEN – the NEXT World Ruling Empire – was GREECE**

**Daniel 8:5-7 (nlt)**

***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, which had one very large horn between its eyes,***

***6 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.***

**This is the incredible Word-Conquering Army  
of Alexander the Great**

**& when Greece was first established as a Colony  
It was with the story of a GOAT leading them to their land**

**& Notice the SWIFTNESS –  
The Goat's feet didn't even touch the Ground**

**This corresponds to the LEOPARD with FOUR WINGS in Ch 7**

**& all the way back to Dan Ch 2 – This is corresponds  
to the BRASS BELLY of the Image of a man**

**& v.5 says this Goat comes “From the West” – which is the direction  
Alexander the Great came to destroy the Medo-Persian Empire**

**& The tremendous speed w/ which Alexander the Great conquered the World - INSPIRED the BLITZKRIEG Attacks of Adolf Hitler**

**Which is why V.5 this Kingdom's FEET didn't touch the Ground**

**But while Alexander the Great was still in his early 30's  
His personal reign came to an ABRUPT End**

**Daniel 8:8 (nlt)**

***8 The goat became very powerful. But at the height of his power, his large horn was broken off. In the large horn's place grew four prominent horns pointing in the four directions of the earth.***

**The Large Horn being broken off is a referring  
to the SUDDEN DEATH of Alexander the Great**

**As Alexander the Great Died at the peak of his conquests,  
only in his early 30's – From Alcoholism & Malaria**

**There's a story of a High Priest Meeting Alexander the Great  
when he was riding toward Jerusalem**

**& The Priest showed him these Vs's in Daniel**

**Alexander the Great looked at it - & fell to his knees – Stunned that  
he may be looking at his OWN history in the Holy Scrolls**

**& of course – God's Prophecy came perfectly to pass**

**& The 4 Prominent Horns in V.8 - Are the 4 Generals  
of Alexander the Great**

**that Divided the Kingdom after his death**

**None was ever as Powerful as Alexander – but each of them took control of basically 1/4 of the Greek World Empire**

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**Now – ONE of those 4 Ruling Dynasties was the Seleucid Dynasty Which RULED ALMOST into the NT Period**

**& out of this Ruling Dynasty came a KING who was a FOR-RUNNER to the Anti-Christ**

**His name was Antiochus Epiphanes**

**& He Terrorized the Jewish people for 3 Yrs – During His 9 Yr Reign over this part of the Greek Empire**

**This occurred during what we call the Inter-testament Period – Between the OT & the NT – Around 170 BC**

**& we know A LOT about this guy – From the Jewish Historian Josephus – AND from the Historical books of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Maccabees**

**& it is this Antiochus Epiphanes – (a Fore-Runner to the Ultimate Anti-Christ) who is perfectly described in the next vs's**

**Daniel 8:9 (nlt)**

***9 Then from one of the prominent horns (one of the 4 Greek Kingdoms) came a small horn whose power grew very great. It extended toward the south and the east and toward the glorious land of Israel.***

**& then – V.10 makes a possible reference to just HOW HIGH – the POWER BEHIND this TYPE of Anti-Christ - WAS**

## **Daniel 8:10 (nlt)**

***10 Its power reached to the heavens, where it attacked the heavenly army, throwing some of the heavenly beings and some of the stars to the ground and trampling them.***

Now –Some Scholars see these “heavenly” beings –  
as a ref to God’s Holy people (Israel)

& some see a possible connection  
to the “Power Behind” **Antiochus Epiphanes**

Which is the Power behind ALL Fore-Runner Anti-Christ’s

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## **cont’g - Daniel 8:11-12 (nlt)**

***11 It even challenged the Commander of heaven’s army by canceling the daily sacrifices offered to him and by destroying his Temple.***

***12 The army of heaven was restrained from responding to this rebellion. So the daily sacrifice was halted, and truth was overthrown. The horn succeeded in everything it did.***

1<sup>st</sup> of all - Remember – When Daniel is writing . . .

The Temple had Already **BEEN DESTROYED** by Nebuchadnezzar  
at the beginning of the Babylonian Captivity

So this is the **FIRST TIME** anyone hears anything  
about the Temple being rebuilt

But God’s Prophecy is always **PERFECT**

**This is the Temple built after the captivity by Zerrubbabel –  
& the Temple Greatly expanded by Herod in Jesus Day**

**Unfortunately – in the first vision of it –  
is it being Desecrated by this Fore-Runner of the Anti-Christ**

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**Antiochus Epiphanes means – “Manifestation of god” - & it’s pretty  
easy to tell what Spiritual Power influenced his name - & him**

**He HATED the Jews – & he attacked them  
with a “Supernatural” intensity**

**This one who wanted to be “The Manifestation of god”  
came into the temple with a Pig**

**Slit it’s throat & Threw the blood of a Pig all over the Temple**

**Going into the Holy of Holies & throwing Pigs blood all over –  
Desecrating the Entire Temple**

**This is called – The Abomination of Desolation**

**He then set up a Entire new system of Sacrifices  
& Set HIMSELF up AS GOD**

**For over 3 yrs he terrorized the Jewish people**

**He Forced them into pagan worship Right INSIDE the Temple**

**He forbade the observance of the Sabbath & Circumcision  
& BURNED all the Sacred Scrolls he could get**



**Josephus the Historian tells us of 2 mothers who unlawfully circumcised their babies - & Antiochus killed the babies – hung them around their mothers necks – then marched them to the high point of the wall & threw them off**

**The Historical Book of Maccabees - describes a mother of 7 boys who defied his laws – & Antiochus cut out the boys tongues then literally FRIED them to death on a Hot surface over a fire One at a time – while she watched**

**This Pre-Runner to the Anti Christ – killed over 100,000 Jews just prior to the N.T Times**

**& his Reign of Terror was Perfectly Prophesied in God’s Word 400 Years before it happened**

**WHY ?? – Maybe so you & I will BELIEVE what God’s Word says about the ULTIMATE Anti-Christ ??**

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**The one THREAD that runs thru ALL Fore-Runner Anti-Christ’s Is the unnatural Desire to Destroy God’s People ISRAEL**

**It Should be pretty CLEAR where that Spiritual Motivation comes from**

**It reminds us of other FORE-Runner’s to the Anti-Christ**

**We just walked thru the Anti-Christ history of Adolf Hitler at the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem –**

**& we see the same Power behind the Unnatural commitment  
to Annihilate Israel - that Radical Islam holds  
as A TOP COMMAND from their god**

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**& So – As we often cry “How Long O Lord” –  
even the Angels ask the same question in V.13**

**Daniel 8:13-14 (nlt)**

***13 Then I heard two holy ones talking to each other. One of them  
asked, “How long will the events of this vision last? How long will  
the rebellion that causes desecration stop the daily sacrifices?  
How long will the Temple and heaven’s army be trampled on?”***

***14 The other replied, “It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings;  
then the Temple will be made right again.”***

**Now – this is incredible**

**The Desecration of the Temple – was brought it to an END  
by The MACCABEAN REVOLT**

**Started by an Old Priest who died – But the Revolt  
was picked up by Judas “The Hammer” Maccabeus**

**Who led a Rebellion that Returned the Temple to the Jews  
& allowed them to Re-Consecrate the Temple  
& begin the Daily Sacrifices again**

**The Number 2300 Evenings & Mornings (v.14)  
refers to the Daily Sacrifices (One in the Eve, One in the Morn)**

**& so 2300 Eve’s & Morn’s – is actually only HALF that many Days  
or 1150 days – or just over 3 years**

**Which is Exactly HOW LONG  
the Temple Remained Desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes**

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**& we KNOW the Exact DATE the Temple was Restored  
Because the Jewish People celebrate it every year**

**When the Temple was Taken back by the Maccabean Revolt –  
The 1<sup>st</sup> thing they did was find oil  
to Re-Light the lamps of the Menorah**

**Which were Needed for the 8 Day Re-Consecration Ceremony  
Required to Restore the Temple**

**But they could only find enough Oil for 1 day**

**So they put the oil in the lamps - & Began the 8 day Ceremony  
to Re-Consecrate the Temple**

**& Miraculously the oil lasted for the full EIGHT DAYS**

**Ending on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the 9<sup>th</sup> month of Kislev –  
Which is OUR Dec 25, 165 BC**

**2300 Eve's & Morn's after the Desecration of the Temple**

**& this Miraculous 8 Day Ceremony to Rededicate the Temple  
is celebrated every year as – HANUKKAH (*means Consecration*)**

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**Guys – There is NOT a Verse - is OUT of Place in your Bible**

**It is Proven, Proven, & Proven Again**

**God's PROPHETIC WORD – REMAINS TRUE & ACCURATE**

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**SO– we've gone thru the Prophecy NOW**

**But starting in V. 15 – Daniel wants to UNDERSTAND  
what he has seen in his Vision**

**& so AS it is explained to Him – we get a good SUMMARY  
*Because God wants us to KNOW THIS***

**Daniel 8:15-16 (nlt)**

***15 As I, Daniel, was trying to understand the meaning of this vision, someone who looked like a man stood in front of me.  
16 And I heard a human voice calling out from the Ulai River, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of his vision."***

**GABRIEL is God's Special Messenger**

**He appears only 4 times in Scrip (twice in Dan, twice in Luke) –  
& every time Gabriel is Delivering a Special Message**

**& so we read - Daniel 8:17-19 (nlt)**

***17 As Gabriel approached the place where I was standing, I became so terrified that I fell with my face to the ground. "Son of man," he said, "you must understand that the events you have seen in your vision relate to the time of the end."  
18 While he was speaking, I fainted and lay there with my face to the ground. But Gabriel roused me with a touch and helped me to my feet.***

**19 Then he said, “I am here to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath. What you have seen pertains to the very end of time.**

**So Gabriel makes it CLEAR – These are END-TIMES Prophecies**

**& Now Daniel - YEARS Before ANY of it happens**

**Is going to NAME the next TWO World-Ruling Empires**

**Daniel 8:20-22 (nlt)**

**20 The two-horned ram represents the kings of Media and Persia.**

**21 The shaggy male goat represents the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes represents the first king of the Greek Empire. (Alexander the Great)**

**22 The four prominent horns that replaced the one large horn show that the Greek Empire will break into four kingdoms, but none as great as the first.**

**This is absolutely INCREDIBLE – Daniel is NAMING the NEXT World-Ruling Empires – BEFORE they come on the scene**

**This Prophecy is written SO ACCURATELY**

**that Critics ARBITRARILY SAY it must be a FORGERY because the details are TOO ACCURATE**

**But it’s NOT a Forgery - & those Critics Don’t Have a SHRED of Evidence to support their claims**

**I think God just Wants to BLOW YOUR MIND With His ability to PRE-WRITE History**

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**& now Remember – Antiochus Epiphanes is a FORERUNNER  
of the ULTIMATE Anti-Christ  
who will wage the FINAL Battle Against God**

**& look at the SAME MOLD they come from**

**Daniel 8:23-25 (nlt)**

**23 “At the end of their rule (the 4 Greek rulers), when their sin is at its height, a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power.**

**24 He will become very strong, but not by his own power (see Satan there). He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders and devastate the holy people.**

**25 He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning. He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power.**

**This describes Antiochus Epiphanes well – But it ALSO  
Describes the Ultimate Anti-Christ, Doesn't it?**

**He will rise to power, destroy & devastate,  
magnify himself as god, & even “Take On” The Prince of Princes**

**& finally he will be Broken, but NOT by Human Power**

**& WHILE the Maccabean Revolt was going on in Jerusalem**

**Antiochus Epiphanes was travelling - & history says he got  
a mysterious Disease that Literally caused his Flesh to ROT**

**& he DIED – But NOT by Human hands**

**& the Ultimate Anti-Christ will also Die (eternally)**

**& Also – NOT by Human Hands -  
But by the WORD of the LORD**

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**& then - finally**

**Daniel 8:26-27 (nlt)**

**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.”**

**27 Then I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for several days.  
Afterward I got up and performed my duties for the king, but I was  
greatly troubled by the vision and could not understand it.**

**Gabriel says to Daniel – TRUST ME – This Vision is TRUE  
But it will NOT Happen for a LONG TIME**

**But it STILL made Daniel - SICK**

**AND Gabriel was NOT ONLY talking about  
the Antiochus Epiphanes Anti-Christ**

**But also the Ultimate Anti-Christ - who is STILL in the Future**

**Because the Ultimate Anti-Christ will come  
JUST AS the Fore-Runners Came (tho 1<sup>st</sup> w/ fake peace)**

**With a RAGE against God’s People Israel  
Just like the RAGE of ISLAM today against Israel (& us)**

**THIS is what the Spirit Of Anti-Christ - Looks Like**

**And MAYBE the ULTIMATE ANTI-CHRIST is IN the World today  
IF NOT Today – We KNOW He WILL BE**

**We KNOW He will be  
Because God’s Word Guarantees He WILL BE**

**& God’s Word Has been Proven Accurate Time & Time Again  
in Historical Event after Historical Event**

**& If God’s Word has been Proven Accurate  
re: the FORERUNNER of Anti-Christ**

**Then God’s Word will be Proven Accurate  
re: the ULTIMATE Anti-Christ**

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**Guys – These Prophecies Are SO Amazingly Accurate  
about the Kingdoms of the World  
& the Fore-Runner of the Anti-Christ**

**That it should move us to BELIEVE What God says  
about the Ultimate Anti-Christ**

**if God has been 100% accurate in his Prophecies SO FAR . . .**

**what’s the chance the REMAINDER of his Prophecies  
will be Equally as Accurate?**

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**God's Word is TRUE  
God's Word is ACCURATE  
& it can be TRUSTED Completely**

**& ANYBODY Who says it CAN'T BE  
Has NEVER Honestly studied it**

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**& God's Word says the Terror of the Ultimate Anti-Christ  
is going to be nothing like this world has ever seen**

**But we have a Guarantee of Salvation OUT OF that Terror  
... Jesus tells the Persevering Church in**

**Revelation 3:10–11 (ESV)**

***10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.***

***11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.***

**BELIEVE God's PROPHETIC Word**

***& HOLD FAST the Faith you Have - so that no one may seize your crown – Because Jesus says - I am coming soon***

**& if you haven't Made the Choice  
to believe God's Word – WHY NOT ??**

**Make THE CHOICE - to BELIEVE GOD – & TRUST His WORD  
& it will Radically, & Eternally, Change YOUR LIFE**

**Let's Pray**