

*1 Daniel 7-8 The Son of Man and the End Times

Sixty-six years have elapsed since chapter 1, which tells of Nebuchadnezzar's second strike against Jerusalem in 605 B.C. At this time, Belshazzar had just been given a position of authority (553 B.C.), and Daniel was probably in his late sixties.

***2 Chart of Babylonian Kings** Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 B.C. after a reign of 43 years. His son, Evil-Merodach, ruled from 562 to 560 B.C.; his brother-in-law Neriglissar reigned four years from 560 to 556 B.C. After a two-month reign by Labashi-marduk in 556 B.C., the Babylonian Empire continued from 556 to 539 B.C. under the command of Nabonidus (Nitocris). Belshazzar was the son of Nabonidus. He co-reigned with his father from 553 to 539 B.C. Life Application Bible

“As interpreted by conservative expositors, the vision of Daniel [in chapter 7] provides the most comprehensive and detailed prophecy of future events to be found anywhere in the Old Testament.” Walvoord

***3 Daniel 7** ¹ Earlier, during the first year of King Belshazzar's reign in Babylon, Daniel had a dream and saw visions as he lay in his bed. He wrote down the dream, and this is what he saw. ² In my vision that night, I, Daniel, saw a great storm churning the surface of a great sea (Humanity – Rev. 17:15?), with strong winds blowing from every direction. ³ Then four huge beasts came up out of the water, each different from the others.

"Four great beasts" - These are the pictorial descriptions of the spiritual forces behind the kingdoms of man. It is parallel to Daniel's description in chapter 2 some 50 years before:

***4 Daniel 2:31–45 (NLT)** ³¹ “In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight...³⁹ **“But after your kingdom comes to an end, another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to take your place. After that kingdom has fallen, yet a third kingdom, represented by bronze, will rise to rule the world.** ⁴⁰ **Following that kingdom, there will be a fourth one, as strong as iron. That kingdom will smash and crush all previous empires, just as iron smashes and crushes everything it strikes.** ⁴¹ **The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be divided. Like iron mixed with clay, it will have some of the strength of iron.** ⁴² **But while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, other parts will be as weak as clay.** ⁴³ **This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through intermarriage. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix.**

Daniel saw the Great Sea, probably the Mediterranean (cf. Num. 34:6–7; Josh. 1:4; 9:1; Ezek. 47:10; et al.), stirred up by the four winds (or spirits) of heaven (v. 2; cf. Jer. 23:19; 49:36; Zech. 6:1–6; Rev. 7:1–3; et al.). **The sea in Scripture and in ancient Near Eastern symbolism represented the mass of humanity, the Gentile nations of the earth** (v. 17; cf. Isa. 8:6–8; 17:12–13; 57:20; Jer. 6:23; 46:7–8; 47:2; Rev. 13:1; 17:1, 15; 21:1; et al.). **The Mediterranean world seems to be particularly in view since the sea was the Mediterranean.**¹

¹ Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), Da 7:2.

***5 Revelation 17:1–2 (NASB95)** ¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, **“Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,** ² with whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of* immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.”...¹⁵ And he said to me, **“The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.**

***6 Daniel 7** ⁴ The first beast was like a lion with eagles’ wings. As I watched, its wings were pulled off, and it was left standing with its two hind feet on the ground, like a human being. And it was given a human mind.

***6a** **Babylon used both the lion and the eagle as national emblems (cf. Jer. 4:7, 13; Ezek. 17:3).** [Babylon’s winged lions can be seen at the British Museum today. David Guzik <https://enduringword.com/>] **The cropping of the lion’s wings may allude to the humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar (ch. 4) or perhaps to the deterioration of his kingdom after his death.**
Daniel Feinberg

After Nebuchadnezzar’s humbling by God, he became more humane. Tom Constable

***7 Daniel 7** ⁵ Then I saw a second beast, and it looked like a bear. It was rearing up on one side, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And I heard a voice saying to it, “Get up! Devour the flesh of many people!”

***7a** The bear represented the Medo-Persian Empire, succeeding the Babylonian Empire. In this partnership between the Medes and the Persians, the Persians dominated the relationship. Most think the **three ribs** represent their three great military conquests: Babylon, Egypt and Lydia.
David Guzik ***7b**

“The command to arise and devour much flesh indicates the extreme cruelties often practiced by the Persians, and the wide extent of their conquests.” Dr. Henry Ironside

***8 Daniel 7** ⁶ Then the third of these strange beasts appeared, and it looked like **a leopard.** It had **four bird’s wings on its back,** and it had four heads. Great authority was given to this beast.

Each animal is mighty, but dominates its prey in a different way. “The lion devours, the bear crushes, and the leopard springs upon its prey.” (Strauss)

***8a** **With the swiftness of a leopard, Alexander the Great conquered most of the civilized world all the way from Macedonia to Africa and eastward to India [334-331 B.C.]. The lightning character of his conquests (12 years) is without precedent in the ancient world, and this is fully in keeping with the image of speed embodied in the leopard itself and the four wings on its back.”** John Walvoord

***9** Alexander did not divide the empire among his four generals himself. His four leading generals divided it among themselves by force after his death. The four generals were: Cassander, ruling over Greece and its region. · Lysimachus, ruling over Asia Minor. · Seleucus, ruling over Syria and Israel’s land. Ptolemy, ruling over Egypt.

***10 Daniel 7** ⁷ Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast—terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled their remains beneath its feet. It was different from any of the other beasts, and it had ten horns.

In contrast to Greece, the rise and fall of **the Roman Empire** was slow. **It began in 241 B.C.** with the occupation of Sicily. Gradually it expanded throughout the whole Mediterranean world; Western Europe including Britain, Gaul, and Spain; and western Asia as far east as the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf. It formally ended in A.D. 410 when the Visigoths sacked Rome. However, its governmental influence persisted as late as A.D. 1453 when the last Roman ruler died in battle in Constantinople. Tom Constable

The identification of the 10 horns of this beast is more difficult. There is some obvious similarity between these 10 horns and the 10 toes of the image in chapter 2. They apparently represent 10 contemporaneous rulers (v. 17). Horns pictured strength and rulers in ancient eastern iconography, **yet scholars have not been able to agree on the identification of 10 outstanding rulers of the Roman Empire who ruled simultaneously.**

There are two basic views about the identity of the 10 horns. First, some scholars spiritualize the number 10 and the number three (v. 8). That is, they do not take them literally. Almost all interpreters in this camp are amillennial. **["Amillennial" refers, of course, to the belief that there will be no millennial (thousand year) reign of Jesus Christ on the earth.]** Of these, some believe these numbers refer to past rulers even though we cannot identify them. [Young] Others believe they refer to future rulers who will appear at the second coming of Jesus Christ. [Leupold] Again, they are not literally 10 rulers, according to this view. The number refers generally to those who will reign with Christ in the future, according to conservative amillennialists.

Second, some scholars believe we should take the numbers 10 and three literally since that is how we take the other numbers. [Walvoord, Archer, Pentecost, Wood, Feinberg, Campbell, Ironside.] Furthermore there is no clue in the text that we should interpret these numbers differently. This consistent method of interpretation is what characterizes premillennialists. **["Premillennialists" believe that the Scriptures, if interpreted literally, teach that Jesus Christ will rule on the earth for 1,000 years following His Second Coming. Even amillennialists acknowledge that if one interprets prophecy consistently literally he or she will come out with the premillennial view. They do not do so, however, because they believe that such a literal interpretation yields fanciful results. Consequently, they argue, we should adopt a different hermeneutic (method of interpretation) when reading prophecy, namely, a less literal one.]** Therefore most premillennialists believe that the 10 horns describe 10 rulers who will arise in the future and reign simultaneously. **This obviously seems to be unlikely since the Roman Empire is no longer in existence. However there seem to be indications in Daniel and elsewhere in the Bible, which I will point out later, that God will revive or realign the Roman Empire in the future.** Dr. Tom Constable

***11 Daniel 7⁸** As I was looking at the horns, suddenly another small horn appeared among them. Three of the first horns were torn out by the roots to make room for it. This little horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly.

***11a** Daniel noticed an eleventh horn arising among the ten, which displaced three of the 10 horns. This horn had human eyes, probably symbolic of intelligence, and a mouth that spoke

boastfully (cf. vv. 11, 20, 25). **This is quite clearly Antichrist** (cf. Isa. 27:1; Matt. 24:5, 15; 2 Thess. 2:3–4; 1 John 2:18; 4:3; Rev. 13; 17; 19). Tom Constable

***12 Daniel 7** ⁹ I watched as **thrones were put in place** and the Ancient of Days sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, ¹⁰ and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from His presence. Millions of angels ministered to Him; many millions stood to attend Him. **Then the court began its session, and the books were opened.**

***12a Isaiah 66:15–16 (NIV84)** ¹⁵ See, YaHWeH is coming with fire, and His chariots are like a whirlwind; He will bring down His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶ For with fire and with His sword YaHWeH will execute judgment upon all men, and many will be those slain by YaHWeH.

******The description of God here is important. His appearance signifies His purity. He is a Judge who is untainted by corruption or sin. As James said: **James 1:17 (ESV)** ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Thus His judgments are absolutely just and He has kept a record of all human thoughts, words and deeds.

***13 Revelation 20:11–15 (NIV84)** ¹¹ Then I saw **a great white throne and Him** who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.** ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

***14** Revelation refers to this final judgment where the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The Book of Life is the heavenly registry of those who have accepted Christ's gift of salvation (Revelation 3:5). All believers' names are written in the Book of Life and they need not fear judgment. Unbelievers, however, will be judged according to their works but their works, no matter how good, will not be able to save them.

We all must stand before almighty God and give an account of our lives. If your life were judged by God today, what would He say about it? How would he measure it against His will for you? We should live each day with the full awareness that we must appear before God to give account for how we used our lives. How will you measure up? Life Application Bible

***15 Daniel 7** ¹¹ I continued to watch because **I could hear the little horn's boastful speech. I kept watching until the fourth beast was killed and its body was destroyed by fire.** ¹² The other three beasts had their authority taken from them, but they were allowed to live a while longer.

***15a Revelation 13:5–6 (NIV84)** ⁵ The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months (3½ years). ⁶ He opened his

mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander His name and His dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

***16 Daniel 7** ¹³ As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like **a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven**. He approached the Ancient One and was led into His presence. ¹⁴ **He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey Him**. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

***16a Daniel 2:44** “During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever.

Because Jesus commonly used the title “Son of Man” to describe Himself, this is the most frequently quoted verse from Daniel in the New Testament. **It is very significant that Jesus used this title above all others when describing Himself, some 31 times in Matthew alone.** Tom Constable

***17 Matthew 24:29–31 (NLT)** ²⁹ “Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ **And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** ³¹ And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

***17a Matthew 25:31–33 (NLT)** ³¹ “**But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with him, then He will sit upon His glorious throne.** ³² **All the nations will be gathered in His presence, and He will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.** ³³ He will place the sheep at His right hand and the goats at His left.

***18 Matthew 26:62–64 (NLT)** ⁶² Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Well, aren’t you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?” ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I demand in the name of the living God—tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” ⁶⁴ **Jesus replied, “You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.”**

***18a** “This refers, not to His inherent sovereignty over the universe as God the Son (as consubstantial and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit), but to His appointment as absolute Lord and Judge by virtue of His atoning ministry as God incarnate—the One who achieved a sinless life (Isa 53:9), paid the price for man’s redemption (Isa 53:5–6), and was vindicated by His bodily resurrection as Judge of the entire human race (Acts 17:31; Rom 2:16).” Archer

***19 Philippians 2:5–11 (NIV84)** ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ **Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name**

that is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

***20 Daniel 7**¹⁵ I, Daniel, was troubled (*Lit. "my spirit was distressed within me".*) by all I had seen, and my visions terrified me.¹⁶ So I approached one of those standing beside the throne and asked him what it all meant. He explained it to me like this:¹⁷ **"These four huge beasts represent four kingdoms that will arise from the earth. ¹⁸ But in the end, the holy people of the Most High will be given the kingdom, and they will rule forever and ever."**

Daniel 7¹⁹ Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, the one so different from the others and so terrifying. It had devoured and crushed its victims with iron teeth and bronze claws, trampling their remains beneath its feet.²⁰ I also asked about the ten horns on the fourth beast's head and the little horn that came up afterward and destroyed three of the other horns. This horn had seemed greater than the others, and **it had human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly.**

***21 Daniel 7**²¹ As I watched, this horn was waging war against God's holy people and was defeating them,²² until the Ancient One—the Most High—came and judged in favor of His holy people. Then the time arrived for the holy people to take over the kingdom.

***21a Revelation 13:7–8 (NIV84)**⁷ **He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**⁸ All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

"To wear out the saints means to harass them continually so that life becomes a wretched existence." (Wood)

"Such continual and protracted pressure far more effectively breaks the human spirit than the single moment of crisis that calls for a heroic decision. It is easier to die for YaHWeH than to live for Him under constant harassment and strain." Gleason Archer

***22 Daniel 7**²³ Then he said to me, "This fourth beast is the fourth world power that will rule the earth. It will be different from all the others. It will devour the whole world, trampling and crushing everything in its path.²⁴ Its ten horns are ten kings who will rule that empire. Then another king will arise, different from the other ten, who will subdue three of them.²⁵ **He will defy ("put himself at the side of" God – claiming deity) the Most High and oppress the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws, and they will be placed under his control for a time, times, and half a time. (3½ years)**

The phrase "whole earth" does not necessarily mean the whole planet. The Old Testament generally uses this term to refer "to the entire territory of the Near and Middle East that in any way relates to the Holy Land." Gleason Archer

Another view is that a “one-world government under a worldwide dictator” is in view. Pentecost Later revelation seems to support the second view (Rev. 13). Tom Constable

“The ten-nation confederacy of the future anticipated in these prophecies would naturally be considered a revival of the Roman Empire if for no other reason than that it is portrayed as an integral part of the fourth empire.” John Walvoord

***22a** “Our Lord ministered on earth three and a half years, and the Antichrist shall enact his Satanic ministry for the same length of time.” Joseph A. Seiss, *Voices from Babylon: Or the Records of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 311.

***23** The little horn spoke pompous, blasphemous words, perhaps like the Fascist Creed of Italy (cited in Talbot): “I believe in Rome Eternal, the Mother of my fatherland; and in Italy, her first born; who was born of her virgin womb by the grace of God; who suffered under the barbarian invader, was crucified, slain, and buried; who descended into the sepulcher, and rose from the dead in the nineteenth century; who ascended to heaven in her glory in 1918 and 1922 [by the march on Rome]; who is seated at the right hand of Mother Rome; who will come thence to judge the quick and the dead; I believe in the genius of Mussolini; in our Holy Father, Fascism, and in the communion of its martyrs; in the conversion of the Italians; and in the resurrection of the Empire! Amen.” ***23a – Benito Mussolini**

This little horn will **intend** to change times and law perhaps as at the **French Revolution**, where radicals wanted to institute a ten-day work week, and declared 1792 (the year of the Revolution) as year 1.

The power of the little horn over the **saints** is limited. It will last for three-and-one-half years (**time and times and half a time**). This phrase is used in Revelation (11:2-3, 12:6 and 13:5) to refer to half of the last seven-year period of man’s rule on this earth (the seventieth week of Daniel). David Guzik

***24 Daniel 7** ²⁶ “But then the court will pass judgment, and all his power will be taken away and completely destroyed. ²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will last forever, and all rulers will serve and obey Him.” ²⁸ **That was the end of the vision. I, Daniel, was terrified by my thoughts and my face was pale with fear, but I kept these things to myself.**

***25** Two things signal the beginning of a new section in the book here. These two things are a return to the Hebrew language in the original text (cf. 1:1–2:3) and an emphasis on the nation Israel. Evidently Daniel wrote the remainder of this book in Hebrew because the revelation in it concerned his people particularly. Chapter 7 recorded the general history of “the times of the Gentiles,” from the time Nebuchadnezzar took the Jews into captivity until the Son of Man’s return to the earth. Chapter 8 reveals more detail about the second (Persian) and third (Greek) kingdoms and especially how they relate to Israel. Tom Constable

***26 Daniel 8** ¹ **During the third year of King Belshazzar’s reign, I, Daniel, saw another vision, following the one that had already appeared to me.** ² In this vision I was at the fortress of Susa (Shushan – over 200 miles East of Babylon), in the province of Elam, standing beside the Ulai River.

Daniel was in Sushan on business for the king. (vs. 8) Sushan is mentioned both in Nehemiah and Esther.

***26a Nehemiah 1:1 (NKJV)** ¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, *in* the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel,

***26a Esther 1:1–2 (NKJV)** ¹ Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this *was* the Ahasuerus who reigned over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, from India to Ethiopia), ² in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which *was* in Shushan the citadel,

***27** Sushan stood about 200 miles east of Babylon and approximately 150 miles due north of the top of the Persian Gulf. Archaeologists discovered the Code of Hammurabi there in 1901. See *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, s.v. "Shushan," by Merrill F. Unger. The site of Susa is in modern Iran whereas the site of Babylon is in modern Iraq. "The Ulai [Canal] can best be identified with an artificial canal which connected the rivers Choastes [or Choaspes, modern Kerkha] and Coprates [modern Abdizful] and ran close by Susa."² ***26a – Map**

*****Daniel is in the area of Persia and sees the future kingdom.**

***28 Daniel 8** 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.

It wasn't a stretch to use a **ram** to represent the Medo-Persian Empire. "Ammianus Marcellinus, a fourth century historian, states that the Persian ruler bore the head of a ram as he stood at the head of his army." (Wood)

"The ram was the national emblem of Persia, a ram being stamped on Persian coins as well as on the headdress of Persian emperors." (Strauss)

Daniel 8 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. ⁸ The goat became very powerful.

***29 The ram was especially important for the Persians. The guardian spirit of the Persian Empire was portrayed as a ram.** When the Persian king went into battle, he carried the head of a ram. Also in the ancient world different zodiac signs represented various nations. **Aries, the ram,**

² Tom Constable, [*Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible*](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), Da 8:2.

stood for Persia, and Capricorn (Latin *caper*, goat, and *cornu*, horn) was Greece. Tom Constable

“Alexander’s conquest of the entire Near and Middle East within three years stands unique in military history and is appropriately portrayed by the lightning speed of this one-horned goat. Despite the immense numerical superiority of the Persian imperial forces and their possession of military equipment like war elephants, the tactical genius of young Alexander, with his disciplined Macedonian phalanx, proved decisive.” Alexander magnified himself exceedingly in two ways. He extended the borders of his empire after he conquered Medo-Persia even farther east, into modern Afghanistan and to the Indus Valley. He also became extremely arrogant. He regarded himself as divine and made his soldiers bow down before him. This resulted in his troops revolting. Gleason Archer

***30** The greatness of Alexander’s Empire was not only in its vast dominion but also in its cultural power. Alexander the Great was determined to spread Greek civilization, culture, and language across every land he conquered. As God guided history, He used Alexander’s passion to spread Greek culture to prepare the world for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of Alexander’s influence, *koine* (common) Greek became the common language of the civilized world – and the language of the New Testament. David Guzik

Daniel 8 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.

“Expositors, both liberal and conservative, have interpreted this verse as representing the untimely death of Alexander and the division of his empire into four major sections. Alexander, who had conquered more of the world than any previous ruler, was not able to conquer himself. **Partly due to a strenuous exertion, his dissipated life, and a raging fever, Alexander died in a drunken debauch at Babylon, not yet thirty-three years of age.** His death left a great conquest without an effective single leader, and it took about twenty years for the empire to be successfully divided.” Walvoord, *Daniel . . .*, p. 184. Whitcomb, p. 111, wrote that Alexander’s empire covered one and a half million square miles.

***31** The vision is explained by Gabriel later in this chapter: 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.** 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.**

***32 Daniel 8** ⁹ Then from one of the prominent horns came a small horn whose power grew very great. It extended toward the south and the east and toward the glorious land of Israel.

History has identified this little horn as Antiochus IV (Epiphanes), the eighth king of the Seleucid dynasty. He ruled Syria from 175 to 164 B.C. (cf. 1 Macc. 1:10; 6; 16), and he conducted military campaigns in all of these directions (cf. 1 Macc. 1:20). Therefore the point of reference is Syria. JohnWalvoord

****Now a reference to the spiritual warfare behind the Greek leader Antiochus and the anti-Christ of the end times:**

***33 Daniel 8¹⁰ 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.**

“He was . . . one of the greatest persecutors Israel has ever known.” Whitcomb, p. 111. Cf. Heb.

***33a Ephesians 6:10–12 (NLT)¹⁰** A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

***34 Daniel 8¹¹ 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.

It appears from these verses that the reference is to the spiritual forces of wickedness behind the actions of the anti-Christ.

Of course this happen with **Antiochus** and again in 70 AD with the Romans and again in the last days, with the anti-Christ!

***34a Matthew 24:15–20 (NIV84)¹⁵** “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.¹⁷ Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

First century Christians heeded Jesus warning and fled Jerusalem in 70 AD as the Romans came to destroy it. This caused a rift with the Jews who believed they were traitors and distained Christians from that point.

***35 Daniel 8¹³** 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 (6½ years); then the Temple will be made right again.”¹⁵ As I, Daniel, was trying to understand the meaning of this vision, someone who looked like a man stood in front of me.

***35a** Three years later, on December 25, 164 B.C., Judas Maccabaeus, a Jewish nationalist, led the Jews in rededicating the temple to Yahweh. This is the event that Jews have celebrated with Hanukkah ever since. Tom Constable

Regardless of how we solve the 2,300 (6½ years) evenings and mornings problem there is general agreement among the scholars that Antiochus fulfilled this prophecy. I do not know the exact numbers of the years involved here, before 164 B.C. when Antiochus died, but I

believe the 2,300 days was a period of persecution during his domination of the Jews. Tom Constable

“A persecutor of the Jews in Russia asked a Jew what he thought the outcome would be if the wave of persecutions continued. The Jew answered, ‘The result will be a feast! Pharaoh tried to destroy the Jews, but the result was the Passover. Haman attempted to destroy the Jews, but the result was the Feast of Purim. Antiochus Epiphanes tried to destroy the Jews, but the result was the Feast of Dedication (“Hanukah”).” Campbell

***36 Daniel 8** ¹⁶ And I heard a human voice calling out from the Ulai River, “Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of his vision.” 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.

Daniel 8 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.”** 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. 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. ²³ **“At the end of their rule, when their sin is at its height, a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power.**

Antiochus IV gained the throne of his father (Antiochus III) by murdering his brother, the former king Seleucus Philopator. The son of Philopator was the rightful heir to the throne, but Antiochus IV had him held hostage in Rome. Antiochus IV legitimized his rule mainly through flattery and bribery.

***36a** Antiochus IV assumed the title *Epiphanes* meaning, “illustrious” and alluding to deity. The ancient Jews twisted his name into “*Epimanes*” meaning, “madman.” David Guzik

***37** Antiochus was an infamous persecutor of the Jewish people. He wanted them to submit to Greek culture and customs and was more than willing to use murder and violence to compel them. **Antiochus Epiphanes is sometimes called the “Antichrist of the Old Testament.”** He prefigures the Antichrist of the end times. Just as Antiochus Epiphanes rose to power with force and intrigue, so will the Antichrist. As he persecuted the Jews, so will the Antichrist. As he stopped sacrifice and desecrated the temple, so will the Antichrist. As he seemed to be a complete success, so will the Antichrist.

The first attack of Antiochus against the Jews of this time was to settle a rivalry for the office of high priest. A pious high priest, Onias III, was removed from office and was replaced with his brother Jason because Jason bribed Antiochus. Then in 172 b.c. another brother (Menelaus) gave Antiochus an even bigger bribe and replaced Jason. A year later Menelaus started selling many of the temple’s gold utensils to raise money to pay off the bribe. Onias III rebuked him, and Menelaus had him murdered. Meanwhile, Jason gathered armies and fought against Menelaus to regain the office of High Priest. Antiochus Epiphanes came in to Jerusalem in 171 b.c. to defend the man who paid him a bigger bribe to be the High Priest. David Guzik

“In one assault on Jerusalem, 40,000 Jews were killed in three days and 10,000 more were carried into captivity.” Campbell, p. 95. The ancient sources of information about Antiochus’ persecutions are 1 and 2 Maccabees and Josephus.

“This suppression came to a head in December 168 B.C., when Antiochus returned in frustration from Alexandria, where he had been turned back by the Roman commander Popilius Laenas, and vented his exasperation on the Jews. He sent his general, Apollonius, with twenty thousand troops under orders to seize Jerusalem on a Sabbath. There he erected an idol of Zeus and desecrated the altar by offering swine on it. This idol became known to the Jews as *‘the abomination of desolation’*, which served as a type of a future abomination that will be set up in the Jerusalem sanctuary to be built in the last days.” Gleason Archer

1 Maccabees 1:29-32: 29 Two years later the king sent to the cities of Judah a chief collector of tribute, and he came to Jerusalem with a large force. **30** Deceitfully he spoke peaceable words to them, and they believed him; but he suddenly fell upon the city, dealt it a severe blow, and destroyed many people of Israel. **31** He plundered the city, burned it with fire, and tore down its houses and its surrounding walls. **32** They took captive the women and children, and seized the livestock.

1 Maccabees 1:52-61 ⁵² Many of the people, everyone who forsook the law, joined them, and they did evil in the land; ⁵³ they drove Israel into hiding in every place of refuge they had. ⁵⁴ **Now on the fifteenth day of Chislev, in the one hundred forty-fifth year,^f they erected a desolating sacrilege on the altar of burnt offering.** They also built altars in the surrounding towns of Judah, ⁵⁵ and offered incense at the doors of the houses and in the streets. ⁵⁶ The books of the law that they found they tore to pieces and burned with fire. ⁵⁷ Anyone found possessing the book of the covenant, or anyone who adhered to the law, was condemned to death by decree of the king. ⁵⁸ They kept using violence against Israel, against those who were found month after month in the towns. ⁵⁹ On the twenty-fifth day of the month they offered sacrifice on the altar that was on top of the altar of burnt offering. ⁶⁰ According to the decree, they put to death the women who had their children circumcised, ⁶¹ and their families and those who circumcised them; and they hung the infants from their mothers’ necks.

1 Maccabees 1:41-50 **41** Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people, **42** and that all should give up their particular customs. **43** All the Gentiles accepted the command of the king. Many even from Israel gladly adopted his religion; **they sacrificed to idols and profaned the Sabbath.** **44** And the king sent letters by messengers to Jerusalem and the towns of Judah; he directed them to follow customs strange to the land, **45** to forbid burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings in the sanctuary, to profane Sabbaths and festivals, **46** to defile the sanctuary and the priests, **47** to build altars and sacred precincts and shrines for idols, to sacrifice swine and other unclean animals, **48** and to leave their sons uncircumcised. They were to make themselves abominable by everything unclean and profane, **49** so that they would forget the law and change all the ordinances. **50** He added “And whoever does not obey the command of the king shall die.”

***38 Daniel 8** ²⁴ **He will become very strong, but not by his own power. 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.**

***38a** Both the rule of Antiochus Epiphanes in the past and of the Antichrist in the future are marked by **deceit. 2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 (NIV84)** ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹² and so that **all will be condemned who have not believed the truth** but have delighted in wickedness.

Note to self: If I don't believe the truth that God makes plain to me from His Word, then I open myself up to being deceived.

***39 Daniel 8** He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power. 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.**

***39a** The coins of Antiochus Epiphanes were inscribed with this title: "**theos epiphanies**" meaning, "**God manifest.**"

***39b** The coming Antichrist will also exalt himself: **2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NIV84)** ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

***40 Matthew 24:36–44 (ESV)** ³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ **For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.** ³⁸ **For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,** ³⁹ **and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.** ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

One of the most difficult ways the Lord tests us is with prosperity. That's the description of the "Days of Noah." This year, let's ask the Spirit to remind us that we will be called to account for how we spend the time God gives us, and for how we spend the Lord's money. Let's commit before God to prove ourselves faithful and make the most of every opportunity.

***41** ⁴² **Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.** ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ **Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**

***41a Ephesians 5:14–16 (NLT)** ¹⁴ ...This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light." ¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.