

Turn in your Bibles today to Daniel Chapter 8. Some of you may be saying, “Wait a minute! We only did verses 1 through 8 on Chapter 7 last week. Because of Pastor Kevin being sick a few weeks ago, he wanted to keep the schedule as is and I was scheduled to preach Chapter 8 already.

So, here we go. Please turn to Daniel Chapter 8 and we will be looking at the whole chapter. This is a completely different vision than Chapter 7 but with the same ramifications.

Let me make very clear today that the Bible is no ordinary book. It is the inspired and authoritative Word of God to humanity.

The 66 books of the Bible lay out for us the history of the world, describing the creation, fall, redemption and restoration of the human race. The Bible tells us about the past, but it also reveals to us what is taking place now and what is to come. The Bible is a factually accurate account of reality—past, present and future.

What we are going to see is a historical description of events that happened 1000’s of years ago, and events that are extremely similar that will happen again. Daniel receives a vision, and the vision that is embedded in his mind has not happened yet.

These events that Daniel see in his vision will affect the world and the Nation of Israel dramatically. We will see today how these events come to fruition in the timeline of history.

Daniel Chapter 8 and we will read the first 14 verses.

***Daniel 8:1-14***

***<sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. <sup>2</sup> And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal. <sup>3</sup> I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. <sup>4</sup> I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great. <sup>5</sup> As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. <sup>6</sup> He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. <sup>7</sup> I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power. <sup>8</sup> Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven. <sup>9</sup> Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. <sup>10</sup> It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. <sup>11</sup> It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. <sup>12</sup> And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. <sup>13</sup> Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, “For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?” <sup>14</sup> And he said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state.”***

Now, that is a very strange vision. There is definitely a lot of imagery set before Daniel in what we just read. Let's look at the timeline and where Daniel is at the time of this vision.



First, we have gone back in time from when Daniel was in the Lion's Den and when the Medo-Persian empire had conquered Babylon. Revealing to us that Daniel did see some of the vision come to fruition. Daniel is still in the court of King Belshazzar, the Babylonian king. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of his reign, which scholars believe to be his last, and Daniel was in Susa.

Susa was the capital of the Elam province and was used by the Babylonian Empire and more so by the Medo-Persian Empire. In the books of Nehemiah and Esther you will find Susa mentioned several times as a place where the King of those times were staying.

In the vision, Daniel finds himself on the banks of the Ulai canal. The Ulai canal was a tributary that would empty into what the Greeks called the Pasitigris River and eventually empty into the Persian Gulf.

Let's visualize Daniel's vision.

Daniel sees a ram, which is a male sheep, with two horns, both high, but one higher than the other. This ram was running westward, northward and southward with great might and no one could stand against it. As Daniel was trying to make sense of the ram, a goat appears. This goat had one conspicuous horn right in the middle of its eyes.

The male goat was running over the earth as if it was not even touching the ground. This was to describe the speed of which the goat was going across the earth. Then the goat comes to the ram.

Now, there is a showdown. High Noon on the banks of the Ulai Canal! The stare down begins!

Then the goat with powerful wrath runs at the ram and strikes him down. He broke his two horns and trampled the ram under his feet, and no one could rescue the ram. The goat became exceedingly great! But then the goat's great horn is broken, and four conspicuous horns arise from the goat's head.

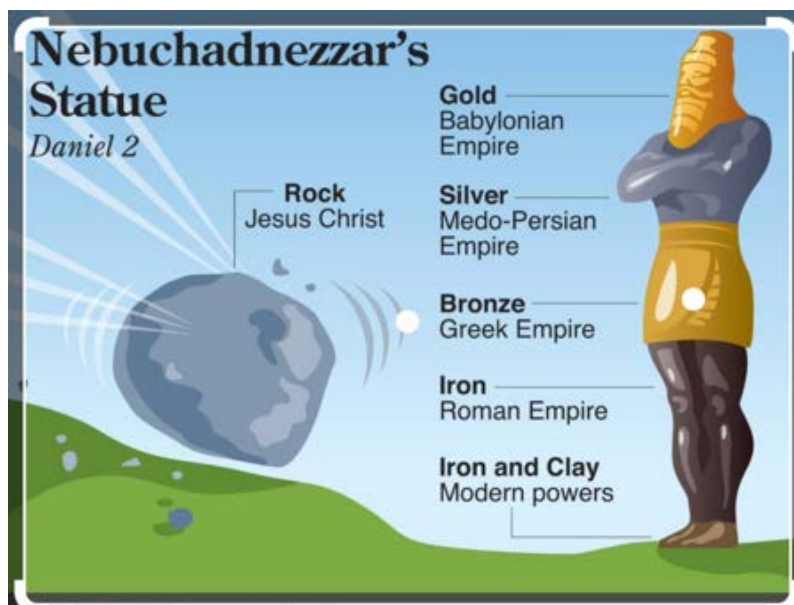
Out of those four horns came one horn that was greater than all the others and its power was directed toward the south, and the east, and the glorious land. Who do you think the glorious land represented? Jerusalem, the nation of Israel! This horn would do despicable and heinous acts against the nation of Israel and blaspheme God.

Daniel, the one who had interpreted dreams in the past, is now needing this vision explained to him. The Lord brings the help that Daniel needs and he sends, the angel Gabriel to reveal to him what this vision meant of the future events to happen.

We will read the rest of the Chapter.

### ***Daniel 8:15-27***

***15 When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." 17 So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end." 18 And when he had spoken to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground. But he touched me and made me stand up. 19 He said, "Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end. 20 As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. 22 As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power. 23 And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. 24 His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. 25 By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. 26 The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now." 27 And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.***



Where we are right now is the Babylonian Empire represented by the Gold. King Belshazzar is ruling at the time of Daniel's vision and his reign is about to end. The Babylonians had ruled for centuries. Where the nation

of Israel comes into that timeline is when King Nebuchadnezzar comes and lays siege to Jerusalem and brings the families of nobility, the young, the strong, and the best from Israel to Babylon.

As the prophet Jeremiah prophesied from God this captivity would be for 70 years. This captivity is still in progress when the Medes and Persians come in and conquer Babylon.

This is where we are in view of this image as represented by the silver.

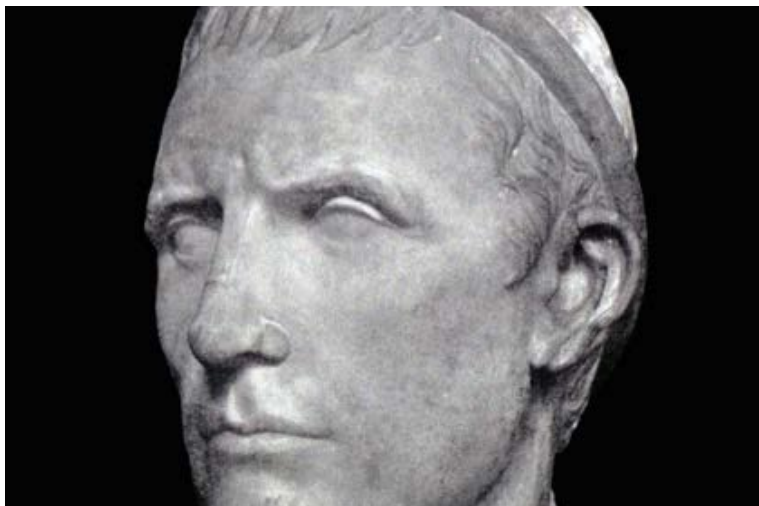
In the vision, the ram, represented the Medo-Persian Empire. The Medo-Persian Empire existed from the time it conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. to around 331 B.C. There were many kings that served during that time, but as we saw those kings were represented by the two horns on the ram because of the Empire being called Medo-Persia. One was higher referring to the fact that the empire grew more under King Cyrus who was a Persian.

Daniel lived to see this event from his vision as he lived during the time of King Darius and King Cyrus I.

Now we look to the bronze portion of the statue. In 331 B.C. Alexander the Great began his conquest of the world. In the vision Alexander the great is represented by the goat. History tells us that Alexander the Great came in and there was nothing going to stand in his way, and he came in fast and hard. This begins the Grecian Empire.

Alexander the Great never lost a battle but he died in 323 B.C. at a young age of 33 a drunkard and a glutton.

Upon his death, the Greek Empire was divided between four of his generals, eventually divided into the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, the Seleucid Empire in the east, the Kingdom of Pergamon in Asia Minor, and Macedon. From the Seleucid Empire rose a king, which is represented by the one horn that came from the other four.



Antiochus Epiphanes. Antiochus became one of the most brutal and blasphemous rulers ever to persecute the Jews. During his reign of power from 175 B.C. to 164 B.C. his armies murdered up to 40,000 Jews. Once in Jerusalem he outlawed any Jewish worship in the Temple.

1. He commanded the Jews to stop worshipping God, Yahweh, and worship Zeus.
2. Antiochus took all the articles out of the Temple the Jewish priests used for worship.

3. Antiochus set up an altar to Zeus in the Temple.
4. To cap off all these atrocities, Antiochus sacrificed pigs to Zeus on the altar he set up.

All this was described in verses 9 through 11.

1. That this king's power was directed to the glorious land, which is Jerusalem.
2. He threw down stars to the ground that represented the people of Israel because of the reference that when God told Abraham to look in the sky, "Look at the stars, number them if you can. So shall your offspring be.

Now this reference that he was great as the Prince of the host, comes from Antiochus adding Epiphanes to his name. Epiphanes means: illustrious one or god manifest. Antiochus was identifying himself as a god.

The Jews gave him another name. It was Epimanes, which means: mad one! As he proved to be to the Jews. Antiochus in all his power couldn't conquer one thing and that was his death. Similar to Alexander the great, he did not die in battle. Antiochus died of a terrible disease that saw his flesh rot away and no one could stand to be around him from the stench that came from his body.

In Daniel's vision is prophecy of the future from God. Within this latter part of the prophecy, it has dual meaning. This is speaking of two future events. Antiochus' reign and persecution of the Jews. As well as a man that fulfills these descriptions given in verses 23 to 25 and is described in Chapters 9 and 11 of the book of Daniel.

This man will be the Antichrist of the end times.

As it was promised and fulfilled that Jesus would come to save us, it is prophesied, primarily by Jesus himself, that he would return. Before Jesus returns, he gives prophecy and warnings of what will be taking place on this earth. Daniel had a vision from God! Jesus, being God, upon the disciple's question of him to describe the end times, tells them how it will be.

***Matthew 24:15-21***

***<sup>15</sup> "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup> and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. <sup>19</sup> And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.***

Now there is a lot here in these words of Jesus. The point to make here is in relation to the vision that Daniel had. Daniel saw future events that were going to take place. Not only in the near history of the Jewish nation but also to the very end of time.

We see this to be a fact, because when Jesus spoke to his disciples, he didn't say that the Abomination of Desolations had already taken place. Jesus said, when you see the Abomination of Desolations take place, speaking to a future event even to the disciples.

What and when, is the Abomination of Desolations? For the Abomination of Desolations to take place there is one event left to happen. Anyone want to tell me what that event is? RAPTURE

Now the question is for some here today. What is the Rapture?

We have already covered that as it was prophesied that Jesus, the Messiah, would come. Jesus said that after his death, burial, and resurrection he would come back to earth. That comes in two steps.

1 Thessalonians Chapter 4 the Apostle Paul explains the first step.

### ***1 Thessalonians 4:16-18***

***<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.***

Those verses mean, that Jesus will call those that are true followers of Jesus Christ up to himself one day. Jesus will gather us together and take us to heaven.

Then, what happens is what Jesus prophesied about in Matthew 24, that there will be great tribulation like has never been seen on the earth since the beginning of the world, and will never be again.

This great tribulation is for 7 years. The first 3 ½ years are somewhat peaceful. There will be a lot of chaos because everyone that is left after the true followers of Jesus Christ are gone, are trying to figure out what happened. There will be a great leader to come forward that will bring peace to the world.

This great leader will make a peace treaty with Israel. The Jewish Temple will be rebuilt, and the Jews will be allowed to begin sacrifices again.

Okay, so that's the rapture. Now the Abomination of Desolations.

A new world leader takes power. In Daniel 8 he is described as a: King of Bold Face. In Daniel 9:27 it describes the treaty he makes with Israel for 7 years.

### ***Daniel 9:27***

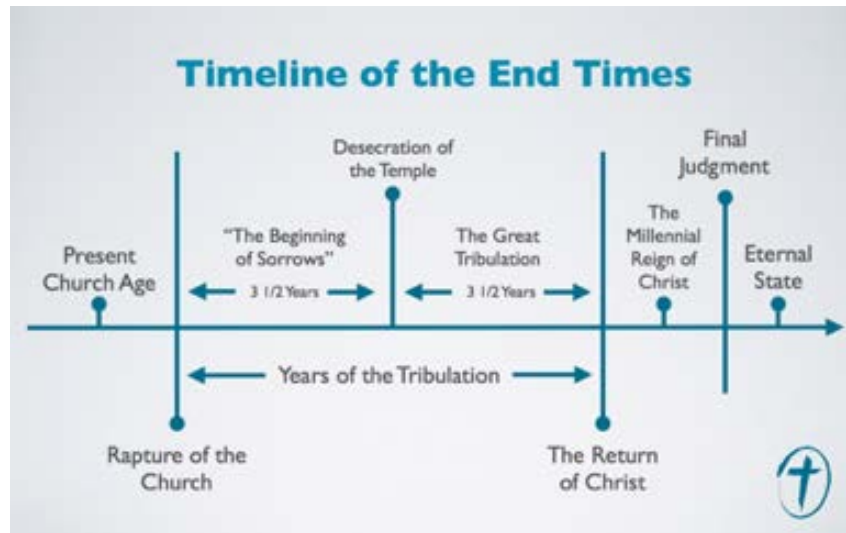
***<sup>27</sup> And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.***

The one week is reference to 7 years of the peace treaty. The half of the week means that after 3 ½ years into the treaty this man stops everything and does what is recorded in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. The Apostle Paul is still describing what to expect and how to prepare for the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus.

### ***2 Thessalonians 2:3-4***

***<sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God.***

This man who has now taken power of the whole world. Cancels the treaty and makes himself not only ruler of the world but says he is god, and you must worship him. This man walks into the newly built temple and sits down on a throne in the temple and says everyone now must worship me.



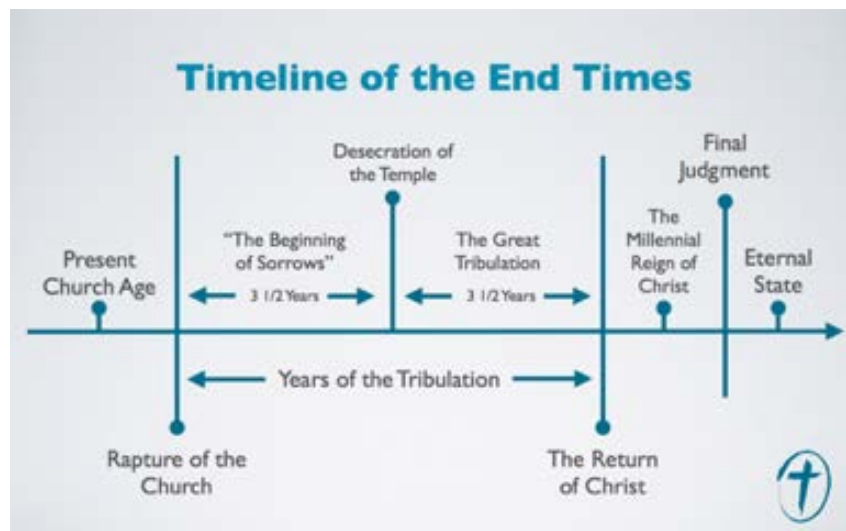
The Abomination of Desolations is that he sets up a statue of himself and says everyone must bow down to this statue and to me.

This man is the Antichrist! He is the ultimate false prophet! You will not be able to buy anything unless you take his mark, which is called the mark of the beast as described in Revelation 13:16-17. The hatred this man begins to direct towards the Jews and Israel is like no other as well.

At the end of the 7 years, the Antichrist will form an army from around the world and they will march towards Israel. As it seems like all is lost, Jesus and those of us raptured with him come back and in the valley of Megiddo, we fight the last great battle called the Battle of Armageddon.

The Antichrist and the false prophet are thrown into Hell and Satan is thrown into the bottomless pit. This ends Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming as he will now rule and reign on this earth from the Temple in Jerusalem for 1000 years. After the 1000 years, Satan is released from the bottomless pit to deceive those on earth one last time. One last time there is siege upon Jerusalem and those people are destroyed by fire.

Satan is then thrown into Hell and then all those that did not repent and surrender their life to the Lord Jesus Christ will be judged and then they will also be thrown into Hell for all of eternity.



On the timeline you see the Final Judgment and the Eternal State.

Some of you right now are going, MIND BLOWN!

Daniel at the end of his vision and interpretation was overcome and was sick for some days. We read he was appalled by the vision. Some of you may be feeling that right now.

Here is the point! Daniel only lived through a portion of the prophecy. The rest of the prophecy came true and is a historical fact and the Bible recorded 100's of years before it happened. Here is the thing! Everything recorded in this Bible has come to pass except these future events I just mentioned.

If everything else has come to pass, then what do you think is going to happen in the future. Everything I just described from the Bible.

Jesus promised he is coming back, and he will. He could come back today, are you ready! Let's say his return is delayed. By way of the grave, many of us will go to Heaven because we are saved. The rest of us that aren't saved will go to Hades, and eventually hell.

If you are not saved and the rapture takes place you are left behind on this earth to endure the 7-year tribulation. You may say, even so, I would never follow the antichrist, I would never take his mark! Really, the percentages are extremely high you will. That is why Jesus said in Matthew 24, let the reader beware.

In 2 Thessalonians 2 verses 9 through 11, it says the Antichrist comes with all power of false signs and wonders and deceives those that are perishing because you have already refused to believe the truth of Jesus and be saved. You are already delusional by sitting in here week after week and you refuse to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

The Apostle Paul writes that God will send a great delusion that you will believe on this false prophet, and you will be condemned for all of eternity in Hell. So, I say, Beware Listener! Beware!

Since the Bible is all true, then the way to be saved is true. Many false prophets continue to distort the Gospel. To be saved is only through conviction of our sin by the Holy Spirit and then we repent of our sins, call on the Lord to save our soul, then we are surrender our lives to the Lord in humble obedience following him and obey his Word.

It is not being baptized as a child, it is not good works, it is not following any of the other 4200 religions in the world! It is only through Jesus Christ! Will you call on his name today to be saved. Our Decision Team will be waiting for you after I pray!