

THE RAM AND THE GOAT (Part 1)

Daniel 8:1-27

Two Sections of Chapter 8

I. The Content of the Vision (1-14)

II. The Interpretation of the Vision (15-27)

Key Questions to Understand Daniel's Vision of the Ram and the Goat

1. Who is the Ram? (vv. 3-4, 20) _____
2. Who is the Goat? (vv. 5-8a, 21a) _____
3. Who is the Large Horn? (v. 5b, 8a, 21b) _____
4. Who are the Four Horns? (vv. 8b, 22) _____
 - Known as "The Diadochi": **Ptolemy, Seleucus, Cassander, and Lysimachus**
5. Who is the Small Horn? (vv. 9-14,) _____

Key Factors that Argue for Antiochus Epiphanes as the Small Horn of Dan. 8:

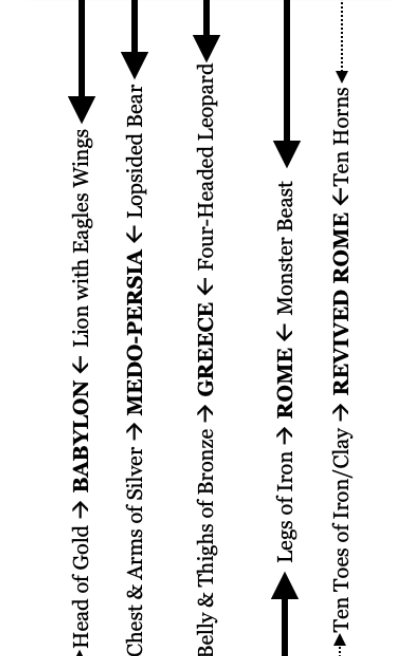
- a. He comes from **Greece** (not Rome)
- b. He parallels the 'despicable person' of Dan. 11:21 who is the successor to Antiochus the Great.
- c. He will set up the abomination of desolation in the temple (an act which corresponds to Antiochus' blasphemous sacrificing of a pig in the temple)
- d. The historical timeline of the cleansing of the temple during the Maccabean Revolt makes perfect sense of "the 2,300 days" in Dan. 8:14

HOWEVER...there are key factors that compel us to view this ALSO as a PROPHETIC PREFIGURING of The Antichrist:

- a. Dan. 8:17 and 19 state that this vision "pertains to the time of the end", a phrase that points to THE ESCHATOLOGICAL END.
 - In the OT, there are four other uses of "the time of the end" (Dan. 11:35, 40; 12:4, 9). They all appear in Daniel's final vision and point to a distant future when the Antichrist will be defeated, a resurrection will take place for God's people to everlasting life, and Christ will WIN (12:1-2). (cf. Hassler, p. 37).
- b. Jesus speaks of the Abomination of Desolation ("spoken of by the prophet Daniel") as a future event related to His 2nd Coming and thus The Antichrist (Matt. 24:15).
- c. Dan. 11:21-35, which clearly describe Antiochus, undergoes a "leap forward" in 11:36 to describe the Antichrist of the End Times ("prophetic foreshortening").

Conclusion: these prophecies, although partially fulfilled by Antiochus, await a future fulfillment in "the time of the end" (thus, the events of ch. 8 **prefigure** The Antichrist).

Daniel 2 The Segmented Statue



Daniel 7 The Four Beasts



Daniel 8 The Ram & The Goat

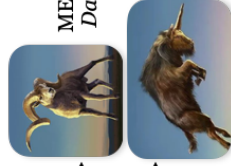


Illustration of Parallels

"Prophetic Foreshortening" Illustration

Prophet's Viewpoint (as he sees and reports it)

Peak #1
Near Fulfillment

Peak #2
Far Fulfillment

"Peak #1 will happen then Peak #2 will happen..."

HOWEVER

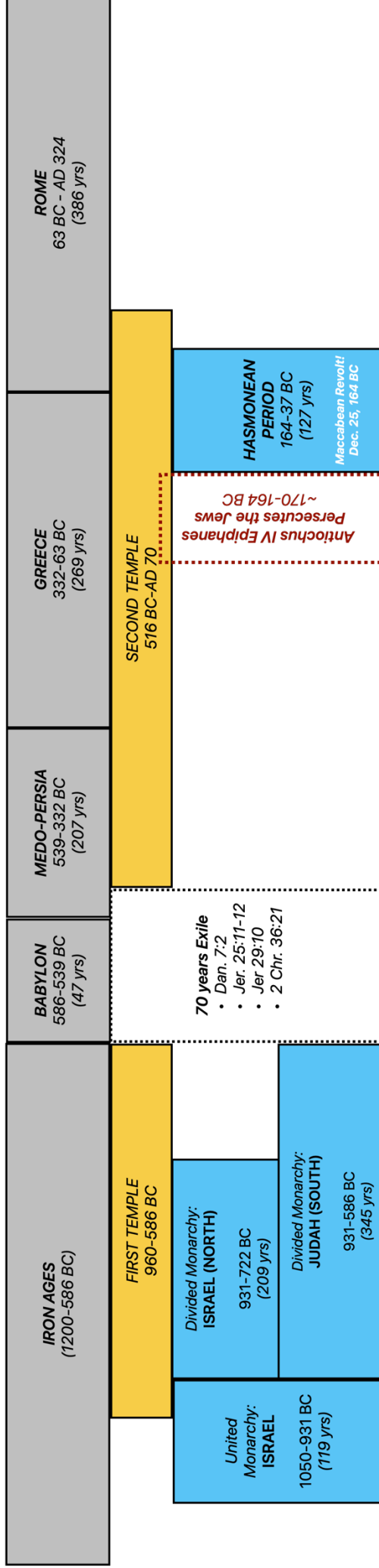
Later revelation gives, not different information, but **more**:

Valley: Previously **unforeseen** gaps of depth, distance, details, and duration

Peak #2
(same event originally foreseen)

Peak #1
(same event originally foreseen)

Timeline Overview for Daniel 8 Study



Daniel was told that after **2,300 days**, the desecrated Temple would be made righteous again (Dan. 8:14).

This occurred on **Dec. 25, 164 BC** when Judas Maccabee reclaimed the Temple (celebrated as Hanukkah).

Counting backward **2,300 days** from that date is **Sept. 6, 170 BC**, which is the period that marks the beginning of Antiochus' persecution of the Jews.