

Meet Satan's Masterpiece

Daniel 8:1-27

A Shift occurs from Aramaic (ch. 2-7) to Hebrew (ch 8-12). God wants to specifically talk to His people, the Jews.

Daniel's Vision (551BC – “the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar” Daniel 8:1) In Daniel's vision, he is transported to Susa, a small, nondescript city in Babylon. He saw himself standing by a canal in front of the palace. This town was insignificant to Babylon, but this place would be the very center of the next Kingdom, the Persians. Nehemiah was in the citadel of Susa (Neh. 1:1); King Xerxes reigned from the citadel of Susa (Esther 1:2).

- Imagine you are living in the center of power of the British Empire many years before the American Revolution and God shows you a vision from Washington DC, which would have been nothing at the time. God shows you the end of America before America even becomes the dominant power of today.

1. THE ATTACKS OF ALEXANDER (323 BC) (Daniel 8:5-8; 21-22)

This is one of the most amazing passages I've ever read in the prophetic word. First, the identification of the goat is not difficult. The Grecian Empire followed that of the Medo-Persians. **The first Greek colony was established by an oracle that sent a goat for a guide to build a city. The goat came to the region of Greece, and in gratitude for the goat's leading them in the right direction, they called the city Agae, meaning “The Goat City.” The name of the sea upon whose shores the city was built was called the Aegean Sea, or the “Goat Sea.”**

Five amazing prophecies:^a

- 1) **the goat represents Greece**, and the later explanation for the large horn between his eyes is that of the first king. History tells us that Greece built a kingdom like no other kingdom before it. **In twelve brief years, the Greeks conquered the entire civilized world without losing a battle.**
- 2) the reputation of the king. **He is called “a prominent horn” or a “notable horn.”** What a name for a man like Alexander the Great.
- 3) **the ruin of the Medo-Persian Empire.** God said to Daniel that when the notable horn, the great king, comes to power, he is going to come against the Persians and the Medes. **(Dan. 8:7).**
- 4) **the death of the king.** **(Dan. 8:8).** Alexander died there at the age of thirty-three, a victim of his own drunkenness and depression because there weren't any more worlds to conquer.

^a David Jeremiah and Carole C. Carlson, *The Handwriting on the Wall* (Dallas: Word Pub., 1992), 160–163.

- 5) **his kingdom was divided**, and history tells us that four of his generals literally fulfilled that prophecy. These four fellows formed separate kingdoms out of the empire Alexander had created. From one of those kingdoms came a ruler who surpassed all the others in cruelty and hatred for the Jews and their religion.

A story was told that when Alexander was on his way to Jerusalem to conquer that city, one of the Jewish priests gave him a copy of the Book of Daniel and said, "You've got to read this. You're in here!" Alexander read the prophecy, and it was said that he got down on his knees and worshiped.

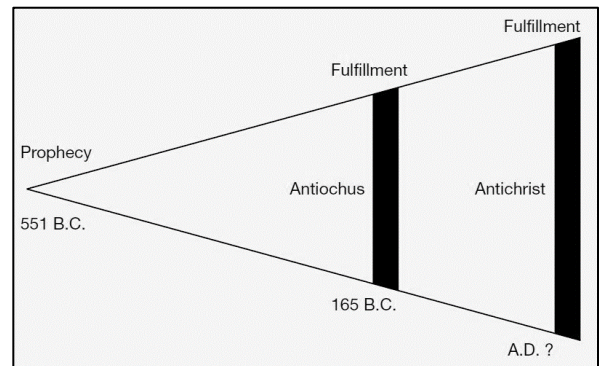
Liberal scholars who do not believe the Bible is the Word of God say Daniel is no prophet. He's just writing history around 165BC (after all of these events occur). However, **Josephus, the Jewish historian**, writes an account of the Jewish priests in 323 BC showing Alexander the Great the prophecy of Daniel 8, explaining that this was predicting the rise of Alexander himself.



2. THE ATROCITIES OF ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANIES (165BC) (Daniel 8:9-14)

Antiochus ruled Syria from 175-164 BC.

3. THE ARRIVAL OF THE ANTICHRIST (Future) (Daniel 8:23-27)



There are 100 biblical references to the Antichrist. Here are the top ten aliases for the coming world dictator:

1. The little horn (Daniel 7:8).
2. A king, insolent and skilled in intrigue (Daniel 8:23).
3. The prince who is to come (Daniel 9:26).
4. The one who makes desolate (Daniel 9:27).
5. the king who does as he pleases (Daniel 11:36).
6. A foolish shepherd (Zechariah 11:15).
7. The man of lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:3).
8. The son of destruction (2 Thessalonians 2:3).
9. The rider on the white horse (Revelation 6:2).
10. The Beast out of the sea (Revelation 13: 1-9; 17:3, 8).

WHAT DOES THE WORD "ANTI-CHRIST" MEAN? The prefix anti- can mean "against, opposed to" or "instead of, in place of." So the real question is this: Will the future Antichrist be "against" Christ or "in place of" Christ? Will he be Christ's chief adversary - His arch villain, if you will-or a false, counterfeit messiah? The answer? Both.

Antichrist's total opposition to Christ is seen in these contrasting descriptions^b:

CHRIST

The Truth
The Holy One
The Man of Sorrows
The Son of God
The Mystery of Godliness
Cleanses the Temple
The Lamb

ANTICHRIST

The Lie
The Lawless One
The Man of Sin
The Son of Destruction
The Mystery of Iniquity
Desecrates the Temple
The Beast

^b Ed Hinson, *Is The Antichrist Alive and Well?* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1998), 18.