



DANIEL 8: 1-27

Main Idea: God speaks through Daniel to prepare His people for a time of future judgment and to comfort them with the final outcome

Primary Truth: Because God knows all things, His word can be trusted in difficult times

- **Understanding Daniel 8**

- **– Structure –**

- This chapter provides us with another vision filled with symbolism.
- Daniel's vision took place during the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar and the angel Gabriel provided the interpretation

- **– Text –**

- The Two Animals

- **The Ram – The Medo-Persian Empire**

- The two horns of different size symbolize the two groups which made up one kingdom. Though the Persian empire started small, after uniting with the Medes this empire became powerful on a world scale.

- **The Goat – The kingdom of Greece**

- The large horn represents its first king. It is very likely that this is referring to Alexander the Great whose conquest moved quickly and covered much of the Eastern world at the time
- Following his death, the kingdom was split into four parts. The four horns that rise in the large horn's place symbolize this.
- An interesting king will rise out of the kingdom of Greece
 - He is marked by great destruction and persecution of God's people
 - He will even oppose God, considering himself to be greater



- **Many believe this speaks of the antichrist because of Gabriel’s reference to the end, but this is difficult given chapter seven, which shows that in some way, the antichrist will rise from an extension of the Roman empire**
- **If this is true, he cannot also rise from the kingdom of Greece**
- **Gabriel is likely referring to the end of the period in Daniel’s vision**
- **Who is this man?**
 - Many scholars believe this to be Antiochus IV Epiphanes
 - He also was marked by great conquest, destruction, and Persecution in Palestine
 - A few moments worth noting: He had the high priest Onias III assassinated, He slaughtered God’s people in Jerusalem, He set up altars to Zeus in the temple and desecrated the temple by offering unclean pig as a sacrifice on its altars (v.11)
 - Because of sin, God’s people were given over to him (v.12)
 - Temple worship ceased but this would all come to an end at an appointed time
 - The cleansing and rededicating of the temple happened under Judas Maccabeus (Jews still remember this moment today through celebrating the feast of Hanukkah)
 - What happened to the man who would “...be broken without human agency.”? – If this man is indeed Antiochus IV Epiphanes, one account tells us he died of grief and remorse after learning he had been defeated by the Jews and another tells us he died after falling out of his own chariot.



**CHURCH
AT HOME**



- – **Application** –
- Not only is God in control of all things, He knows all things that will occur over the course of history, but also in our own lives.
- God’s word testifies to His goodness and His activity to be working all things together for our good
- If God is good and knows all things, then He can be trusted
- If God can be trusted, then His word can be trusted and should be the primary voice in our lives, especially in difficult times
- Who or what is the primary voice in your life? What is your source of information? Could your source of information be wrong? Is your source of information also the source of your hope?
- Prioritize God’s word in your life, especially in these uncertain times
- Set aside a specific time tomorrow to spend in God’s word.
- **What’s my point? God is good and knows all things, so Him and His word should be what we trust most in our lives**