

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

THE DANIEL PROPHECIES

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The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- Daniel Chapter 8: **Alexander, Antiochus, & the Anti-Christ**
- The events foretold in this vision were all fulfilled within two hundred years.

Daniel has a prophetic vision of a ram with two unmatched horns and the goat with one horn which will displace the ram

This speaks of the coming conflict between:

- the 2ND and 3RD world empires
- the East and the West

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

I. OBSERVATIONS FROM DANIEL'S VISION—8:1-3, 15-20

- **Daniel 8:1-3 (NIV)** (1) In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, I, Daniel, had a vision, after the one that had already appeared to me. (2) In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal. (3) I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- **Daniel 8:15-20 (NIV)** (15) While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. (16) And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision." (17) As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end." (18) While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet. (19) He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end. (20) The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- **Susa became the capital of the Persian Empire.**
- In Susa, that Daniel has his vision of the ram with two horns.
- He is later told that the ram is a symbol of Medo-Persia
- Daniel asks to know the meaning of this vision
- It is revealed to him by the angel Gabriel

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- God's Word is true, accurate, and eternal. It cannot be destroyed.
- **Isaiah 40:8 (NIV)** The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."
- Regardless Of What Man Does the Bible will stand forever!

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- **Daniel 8:17:** "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end."
- **Daniel 8:19:** He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end."
- This passage also points us to both the days near Daniel and to the end of time -- the days when Jesus returns once & for all

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

II. THE OPPRESSION OF PERSIAN EMPIRE—8:4

- **Daniel 8:4 (NIV)** I watched the ram as he charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against him, and none could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

III. THE OPPOSITION FROM THE GOAT (GREECE)—8:5-7, 21

- **Daniel 8:5-7 (NIV)** (5) As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground. (6) He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at him in great rage. (7) I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- **Daniel 8:21 (NIV)** The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king.
- The National Emblem Of Greece Is A Goat.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- When Greece arrives on the scene, it will come with great swiftness
- Even though outnumbered -- Alexander moved his troops with fury and power against the Persians.
- And the result was: The nation of Greece conquers Persia as the Bible predicted.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

Why Alexander made such a lasting impression:

- *The background and upbringing of Alexander*
- *Alexander's rise to power*
- *His popularity*
- *Alexander's behavior in battle*
- *His methods of unification – helped him to build his empire*

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The Reasons for the Swiftiness of Alexander's Army

- *Reason 1: It was a Standing Army.*
- *Reason 2: The Army was Paid.*
- *Reason 3: The Training was Constant.*
- *Reason 4: It had a Cavalry.*
- *Reason 5: The Battle Tactic of Speed*
- *Reason 6: His Logistics and the Loyalty of His Soldiers*
- *Reason 7: The Extended Use of Siege Weapons*
- *Reason 8: Strong Leadership*

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THINGS THAT LED TO ALEXANDER'S DOWNFALL

- *His Loss of Influence and Respect*
- *Alexander was greedy and kept pushing them to conquer more, thus losing their support.*
- *Alexander fought and killed his friend*
- *He lost the trust from the already unhappy troops.*
- *He started to feel as though he was “a god”*
- On June tenth, 323 B.C., A little more than a month from his thirty-third birthday, Alexander the Great died.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

IV. THE OPPRESSIVE KING—8:8-10, 22-24

- **Daniel 8:7-10 (NIV)** (7) I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power. (8) The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven. (9) Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. (10) It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- **Daniel 8:22-24 (NIV)** (22) The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power. (23) "In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. (24) He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- Daniel saw the Goat rise in power. Yet at the apex of its strength when it was strong, that's when it was broken.
- Alexander could have reigned and lived in freedom, he ended up destroyed by pride
- He rose to the place of world domination, yet his life was empty
- He was not free – he was a slave to his rebellion & pride

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- **James 4:6 (NIV)** ..."God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
- Pride will bring trouble into our lives
- Humility will be returned with God's grace
- Pride puts us in opposition to God

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- Pride is possibly the most common sin of all.
- Pride remains a characteristic feature of fallen human nature and one of the hardest evils to overcome
- The essence of pride is self-centeredness.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- **Proverbs 16:18–19 (NIV)** — 18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.
- **Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NIV)** — 23 This is what the Lord says: “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord.
- **Matthew 23:12 (NIV)** — 12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- There is only one who can receive Glory, the Lord shares His Glory with no one.
- **Proverbs 11:2 (NIV)** — 2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.
- **Proverbs 29:23 (NIV)** — 23 A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- Those Who Seem To Be Closest To The God
- Are Those Who Go Thru A Trying Time Of A Humbling Walk In The Presence Of The Lord
- i.e. Isaiah: Who Said As Came Close To The Lord
- **Isaiah 6:5 (NIV)** (5) "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

The Opposite Of Pride Towards God Is Submission To God

- To submit; to humble oneself; to obey; to offer; to succumb; to surrender; to relinquish.
- The NT word "submit" means to put yourself under God
- Submission does not mean slavery or servitude -- but simply the recognition of God's authority in our lives

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When we don't submit to God we become slaves to sin, self and Satan

- We need to submit to God – for our own sake & freedom
- What rebellion saddles you with -- Submission to God frees you for

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There is a battle going on for our destiny in life

- “Will I submit to the Lord’s will for my life?”
- We must make a choice.
- A war is ended in one of two ways. Either there is a total surrender or there is total destruction

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- **Mark 8:36 (NIV)** What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- ***Alexander was*** a man who made himself to be God.
- ***Jesus, who was*** God, humbled Himself and became a man
- ***Alexander*** is simply a memory.
- **Jesus is the Messiah --** He is coming again.

Jon Courson

The Rise And Fall Of Alexander The Great

- *Lord, humble us, use us, let us learn the lesson of Alexander the Great*
- All kings and kingdoms will bow to you – they will all crumble and fall
- May we never have to look back at our lives and say...
“what did it profit me to gain the world, but lose my soul?”