



Go for God!

# The Book of DANIEL

## Chapter 8

### “The Time of the End!”

**Introduction:** This prophecy was given to Daniel during the time of Belshazzar 12 years before the end of the Babylonian Empire.

Chapter 8 gives details of the second and third kingdoms, which are the silver and bronze, also known as the bear and the leopard, which is the Medo-Persian and Grecian empires. There’s a dual revelation of two desolations in the Temple against the Jews and the God of Israel. The first will be under Antiochus IV Epiphanes in approximately 170 B.C. and the latter is during the time of the final Antichrist of the last days (2 Thess. Ch. 2; Rev. 13).

#### I) DANIEL’S VISION OF THE SECOND AND THIRD EMPIRES (v1-14)

#### II) ANGEL GABRIEL’S INTERPRETATION OF DANIEL’S VISION! (v15-27)

#### III) DIOBALICAL DETAILS OF THE FUTURE ANTICHRIST AND THE SEVEN YEARS TRIBULATION! (v23-27)

> Review of Chapter 2 (Gentile world empires and Christ’s Kingdom to come!)

*Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream of The Latter Days*

<b>BABYLON</b> 606-538 BC	“This image’s head was of fine gold... Thou art this head of gold.” (Daniel 2: 32, 38).
<b>PERSIA</b> 538-331 BC	“...His breast and his arms of silver... after thee shall arise another Kingdom Interior to thee...” (Daniel 2:32, 39).
<b>GREECE</b> 331-63 BC	“...His belly and his thighs of brass... another third Kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.” (Daniel 2: 32, 39).
<b>ROME</b> 27 BC-1453 AD	“His legs of Iron...And the fourth Kingdom shall be strong as Iron: for as much as Iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things.:” (Daniel 2:33, 40).
<b>DIVIDED</b> <b>ROMAN EMPIRE</b> WRE 27 BC-476 AD ERE 67 AD-1453 AD	“ His feet part of Iron and part of clay... partly strong and partly broken... they shall not cleave one to another.” (Daniel 2:33, 41-43).
<b>CHRIST’S KINGDOM</b>	“...A stone...smote the Image upon his feet...(and) became a mountain, and filled the whole earth... the God of heaven (shall) set up a Kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...:” (Daniel 2:34, 35, 44).

> **D) DANIEL'S VISION OF THE SECOND AND THIRD EMPIRES (v1-14)**  
 (v1-8) Here we see the demise of the Medo-Persian Empire, and the rise of the Grecian Empire:

- The RAM – Medo-Persian Empire



- The MALE GOAT – Grecian Empire



(“large broken horn” – Alexander the Great, he died at 32 or 33 years of age.)



**(“four notable ones” – Four Generals divide the Grecian Empire: Lysimachus – Asia Minor; Cassander – Europe; Seleucus – Asia; Ptolemy – Egypt & North Africa**

**(v9-11) “the little horn” is Antiochus Epiphanes – The “little horn” of this chapter is not the same as described in the previous chapter. There the *little horn* arises out of the *fourth kingdom* (revived Roman Empire); here the *little horn* comes out of the *third kingdom* (Grecian Empire). This *little horn* is historical, with the *little horn* of chapter 7 is to be revealed in the future. The *little horn* being presently considered came out of Syria from the Seleucid dynasty. He was Antiochus IV, or Epiphanes, the son of Antiochus the Great. He is sometimes called Epimanses, “the madman”—he was another demented ruler. Antiochus came to the throne in 175 B.C., and he made an attack on Jerusalem. It was against him that the Maccabees were raised up in Judah. Anti-Semitic to the core, he tried to exterminate the Jews. He placed an image of Jupiter in the Holy Place in the temple in Jerusalem. This was the first “*abomination of desolation.*” He also poured swine broth over all the holy vessels. Antiochus was a devotee of Jupiter of whom he may have thought himself an incarnation. He chose for himself the title *Theos Epiphanes*, meaning “God manifest.”**

**- The “Glorious Land” is Israel / Jerusalem**

**(v12) They “cast truth to the ground” – This also happened in the times of Christ, even with the Jewish religious leaders, we read in John 8:42-47 - *Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”* Today, truth is being cast down more than ever!**

**In Revelation 21:8 – “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”**

> A statue of ZEUS (Greek name) / JUPITER (Roman name) set by Antiochus in the temple of God.



(v13-14) **“2300 days” – Antiochus’ persecution, September 6, 171 B.C. to December 25, 165 B.C.** After his death, Jews celebrated the cleansing of their holy place in the *Feast of Lights*, also known as Hanukkah, in celebration of the restoration led by Judas Maccabeus. This was one of the holy days celebrated at the time of Christ and which is still remembered by the Jews. It is a feast not mentioned in the Old Testament at all, because it was established in the intertestamental period between the Old and New Testaments. In John 10:22-30 - **Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.** *And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."*

(Sidenote: False doctrine - “The Seventh Day Adventists understood that the two thousand and three hundred days referred to years which, on the basis of their interpretation, were to culminate in the year 1844 with the second coming of Christ.” Walvoord, p. 188.

## II) ANGEL GABRIEL’S INTERPRETATION OF DANIEL’S VISION!

(v15-27)

(15-19) GABRIEL (God is great) - an ARCHANGEL who acts as the messenger of God; he appeared to Daniel (Dan 8:16), Zacharias (Luke 1:19), and the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38). All appearances of Gabriel recorded in the Bible are connected with the promise about the coming of the Messiah.

- Two ends: Scofield writes, Two “ends” seems to be in view here:

(v20-21) (1) historically, it is the end of Medo-Persians Empire, and the end of the third empire (Grecian) of Alexander, out of one of the divisions of which (Syria) the little horn of v.9 (Antiochus Epiphanes) arose; and

(v23-27) (2) prophetically, the end of “*the times of the Gentiles*” (see Lk. 21:24 and Rev. 16:19)—Daniel’s final time of the end (see Dan. 12:4)

## III) DIOBALICAL DETAILS OF THE FUTURE ANTICHRIST AND THE SEVEN YEARS TRIBULATION! (v23-27)

(v23a) “*fierce features*” – *The Beast*

(v23b) “*sinister schemes*” – *Political prowess*

(v24a) “*not by his own power*” – *Satanic*

(v24b) “*destroy fearfully*” – *A war machine*

(v25a) “*deceit to prosper*” – *Economic plan*

(v25b) “*destroy prosperity*” – *Mark of the Beast “666”*

(v25c) “*exalt himself*” – *Declare himself to be God*

(v25d) “*rise against the Prince of princes*” – *Blasphemies*

(v25e) “*broken without human means*” – *Smashed by a stone from Heaven (Jesus the Victor!)*



> *The Person and Ministry of the Beast, the Head of the Empire by Dwight Pentecost:*

Scripture has a great deal to say concerning the individual who will appear in the end time as the head of the Gentile powers in their ten-kingdom federation. His person and work are presented in Ezekiel 28:1-10; Daniel 7:7-8, 20-26; 8:23-25; 9:26-27; 11:36- 45; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10; Revelation 13:1-10; 17:8-14.

A synthesis of the truths in these passages will reveal the following facts concerning his activities:

(1) He will appear on the scene in the "latter times" of Israel's history (Dan. 8:23).

- (2) He will not appear until the Day of the Lord has begun (2 Thess. 2:2).**
- (3) His manifestation is being hindered by the Restrainer (2 Thess. 2:6-7).**
- (4) This appearance will be preceded by a departure (2 Thess. 2:3), which may be interpreted either as a departure from the faith or a departure of the saints to be with the Lord (2 Thess. 2:1).**
- (5) He is a Gentile. Since he arises from the sea (Rev. 13:1) and since the sea depicts the Gentile nations (Rev. 17:15), he must be of Gentile origin.**
- (6) He rises from the Roman empire, since he is a ruler of the people who destroyed Jerusalem (Dan. 9:26).**
- (7) He is the head of the last form of Gentile world dominion, for he is like a leopard, a bear, and a lion (Rev. 13:1). (Cf. Dan. 7:7-8, 20,24; Rev. 17:9-11.) As such he is a political leader. The seven heads and ten horns (Rev. 13:1; 17:12) are federated under his authority.**
- (8) His influence is worldwide, for he rules over all nations (Rev. 13:8). This influence comes through the alliance which he makes with other nations (Dan. 8:24; Rev. 17:12).**
- (9) He has eliminated three rulers in his rise to power (Dan 7:8, 24). One of the kingdoms over which he has authority has been revived, for one of the heads, representing a kingdom or king (Rev. 17:10), has been healed (Rev. 13:3).**
- (10) His rise comes through his peace program (Dan. 8:25).**
- (11) He personally is marked by his intelligence and persuasiveness (Dan. 7:8, 20; 8:23) and also by his subtlety and craft (Ezek. 28:6), so that his position over the nations is by their own consent (Rev. 17:13).**
- (12) He rules over the nations in his federation with absolute authority (Dan. 11:36), where he is depicted as doing his own will. This authority is manifested through the change in laws and customs (Dan. 7:25).**
- (13) His chief interest is in might and power (Dan. 11:38).**
- (14) As the head of the federated empire he makes a seven-year covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27), which is broken after three and one-half years (Dan. 9:27).**
- (15) He introduces an idolatrous worship (Dan. 9:27) in which he sets himself up as god (Dan. 11: 36-37; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5).**
- (16) He bears the characterization of a blasphemer because of the assumption of deity (Ezek. 28:2; Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:1, 5-6).**
- (17) This one is energized by Satan (Ezek. 28: 9-12; Rev. 13:4), receives his authority from him, and is controlled by the pride of the devil (Ezek. 28:2; Dan. 8:25).**
- (18) He is the head of Satan's lawless system (2 Thess. 2:3) and his claim to power and to deity is proved by signs wrought through satanic power (2 Thess. 2:9-19).**
- (19) He is received as God and as ruler because of the blindness of the people (2 Thess. 2:11).**
- (20) This ruler becomes the great adversary of Israel (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; Rev. 13:7). (21) There will come an alliance against him (Ezek. 28:7; Dan. 11:40, 42) which will contest his authority.**
- (22) In the ensuing conflict he will gain control over Palestine and adjacent territory (Dan. 11:42) and will make his headquarters in Jerusalem (Dan. 11:45).**

(23) This ruler, at the time of his rise to power, is elevated through the instrumentality of the harlot, the corrupt religious system, which consequently seeks to dominate him (Rev. 17:3).

(24) This system is destroyed by the ruler so that he may rule unhindered (Rev. 17:16-17).

(25) He becomes the special adversary of the Prince of Princes (Dan. 8:25), His program (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 17:14), and His people (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; Rev. 13:7). (26) While he continues in power for seven years (Dan. 9:27), his satanic activity is confined to the last half of the tribulation period (Dan. 7:25; 9:27; 11:36; Rev. 13:5). (27) His rule will be terminated by a direct judgment from God (Ezek. 28:6; Dan. 7:22, 26; 8:25; 9:27; 11:45; Rev. 19:19-20). This judgment will take place as he is engaged in a military campaign in Palestine (Ezek. 28:8-9; Rev. 19:19), and he will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20; Ezek. 28:10).

(28) This judgment will take place at the second advent of Christ (2 Thess. 2:8; Dan. 7:22) and will constitute a manifestation of His Messianic authority (Rev. 11:15).

(29) The kingdom over which he ruled will pass to the authority of the Messiah and will become the kingdom of the saints (Dan. 7:27).

*(v26) Seal up the vision – it is not for Daniel’s time, it is for today, in the latter time of their (Gentile) kingdom the revived Roman Empire across the whole world!*

*Jesus said in Luke 21:23-24 - For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

**(v27) Daniel was distraught, however, believers today have unsealed this vision through the New Testament and are comforted with the ultimate victory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**