

I. Intro

A. Text: **Dan. 8:23-25**

*<sup>23</sup>And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. <sup>24</sup>His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. <sup>25</sup>By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. (Dan. 8:23-25)*

B. Context

1. Daniel was lifted up and found himself in a Persian palace in the city called Shushan. (**v. 2a**)
  - a. Same city and same royal palace where Esther lived.

C. Preview

1. Daniel's General Vision (**Dan. 8:1-8**)
2. Gabriel's General Interpretation (**Dan. 8:15-22**)
3. Daniel's Focused Vision on this Little Horn (**Dan. 8:9-14**)
4. Gabriel's Explanation of this Little Horn (**Dan. 8:23-25**)

II. Body

A. Daniel's General Vision (**Dan. 8:1-8**)

*<sup>3</sup>I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. <sup>4</sup>I saw the ram charging westward and northward*

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*and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.*

1. A ram with two high horns and one horn was actually larger than the other (**v. 3**)
  - a. The ram pushed to the North, South and West. (**v. 4**)
2. A male goat came from the West. (**v. 5**)

*<sup>5</sup>As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. Gliding across the earth without even touching the ground.*

- a. Attacked the ram that was standing by the river. (**v. 6**)

*<sup>6</sup>He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. <sup>7</sup>I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power.*

- b. Although the large horn on the goat grew great, it was broken. (**v. 8**)

*<sup>8</sup>Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.*

3. 4 Notable Horns took the Large horn's place.

#### B. Gabriel's General Interpretation (**Dan. 8:15-22**)

*<sup>15</sup>When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. <sup>16</sup>And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." <sup>17</sup>So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end." <sup>18</sup>And when he had spoken to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground. But he touched me and made me stand up. <sup>19</sup>He said,*

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*“Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end. (Dan. 8:15-19)*

1. Ram with two horns = Media and Persia (**v. 20**)
2. Male Goat = Greece (**v. 21**)
  - a. Large Horn = 1<sup>st</sup> King of Greece (Alexander the Great)
  - b. 4 Horns that replace the fourth = Greece split into 4 lesser kingdoms. (**v. 22**)
    - i. **Cassander**: Macedonia and Greece proper.
    - ii. **Lysimachus**: Thrace, Bithynia, Asia Minor.
    - iii. **Seleucid Empire**: Syria and lands to the East (including Babylon).
      - i. Founded by Seleucus I
    - iv. **Ptolemaic Empire**: Egypt and possibly Palestine.
      - i. Founded by Ptolemy

III. Little Horn (**Dan. 8:9-14, 23-25**)

A. Daniel’s Focused Vision on this Little Horn (**Dan. 8:9-14**)

1. Out of obscurity, a little horn rose to prominence. (**v. 9**)

*<sup>9</sup>Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. (Dan. 8:9)*

- a. Out of one of the 4 notable horns of verse 8, came this king/kingdom.

B. History’s Parenthetical Insert: Antiochus Epiphanes

1. Antiochus Epiphanes was the 6<sup>th</sup> Ruler of the Seleucid State/Dynasty (175-164 B.C.).
  - a. Antiochus (a Gentile) entered the temple and erected an image of Zeus before killing a pig on the altar of YHWH.

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- i. Demanded that all Jews make a sacrifice to Zeus.
    - b. Looted and pillaged Jerusalem, killing upwards of 80,000 Jews.
    - c. Forbid kosher diets, circumcision, and outlawed the Hebrew scriptures (Torah) from being read (all capital crimes).
  2. Many scholars conclude that Antiochus Epiphanes is the fulfilment of the vision concerning this Little Horn who would rise up out of the 4 horns of the Greek Empire.

C. Daniel's Focused Vision on this Little Horn – Cont. (**Dan. 8:9-14**)

1. Small in the beginning but grew exceedingly great in three directions.
2. Exalted itself, waged war against the stars of heaven (people of God): Israel. (**v. 10**)

*<sup>10</sup>It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. Mission to destroy the covenant people of God. (Dan. 8:10)*

- a. Defied the angelic host of heaven who protect Israel.
3. Even exalted himself against the Prince of the Host. (**v. 11**)

*<sup>11</sup>It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. (Dan. 8:11)*

4. As an assault on the Prince of the Host, this little horn took away the regular sacrifices to the Prince.
  5. The horn was given power/authority. (**v. 12**)

*<sup>12</sup>And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. (Dan. 8:12)*

- a. He prospered... because he was given prosperity.

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6. Conversation between two Holy Ones. (v. 13-14)

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?" <sup>14</sup> And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state." (Dan. 8:13-14)

a. How long...?

i. 2,300 days = 6 yrs., 4 months (v. 14)

7. Great Prophetic Time Marker

a. **Matt. 24:3-8:** <sup>3</sup> As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

b. **Matt. 24:15-18:** <sup>15</sup> "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup> and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.

D. Gabriel's Explanation of this Little Horn (Dan. 8:23-25)

1. End Time Emphasis

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<sup>23</sup> And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. <sup>24</sup> His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. <sup>25</sup> By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand.

2. One who will rise up in the Spirit/character of the Greek Empire. (v. 9-14)
3. This unnamed villain will emerge once sin has abounded and transgressors have reached their most sinful limit. (v. 23)
  - a. He will understand riddles (sinister schemes).
  - b. He will have unbelievable power and might. (v. 24a)
4. He will be successful in his mission to destroy the people of God. (v. 24b)
  - a. He will be so cunning that he will make deceit the way to prosperity. (v. 25a)
5. He will even rise up against God himself. (v. 25b)
6. This horn will be broken, but without human means. (v. 25c)

#### IV. **Conclusion:**

<sup>26</sup> The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.” <sup>27</sup> And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it. (Dan. 8:26-27)

- A. Highlights God’s Heart for Israel.
- B. Highlights the Might of This Coming Little Horn.
  1. No human hand could resist him.
- C. Highlights the Only Way to Deliverance

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1. This horn will be broken, but not by human hands.