**The Destiny of Daniel—Chapter 8—The Ram and the He-goat; (and, Antiochus and the Antichrist)**

This chapter begins the Hebrew part of Daniel which continues until the end, with the visions relating wholly to the Jews and Jerusalem. *In the ancient manuscripts, the Book of Daniel here resumes using the Hebrew language, while the section from* [***Daniel 2:4***](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Daniel+2:4&t1=en_nas) ***to 7:28*** *was written in Aramaic.* The scene before us narrows from whole-world prophecies to those affecting God’s chosen covenant-people in the five centuries between the exile and the birth of the Messiah. Antichrist, like Christ, is seen in the immediate future, as well as in the “end times” Tribulation period. The eighth chapter begins the vision, and then, the tenth through twelfth chapters, conclude the account of the Antichrist of the final kingdom. Between the two visions the ninth chapter is inserted to reveal God’s final plans (seventy weeks of years).The King of Babylon, **Belshazzar, who reigned from 553-539 B.C., for 14 years is cited. Set-up for Daniel is as follows: Chapters 2-7 are in Aramaic, Chapter 1 and 8-12 are in Hebrew. Chapter 7—the Times of the Gentiles, Chapter 8—The Ram and the He-goat, the Persian and Greek empire. The chronological order of Daniel is: Chapters 1-4, 7-8, 5-6, and 9-10.** : The prophecy in this passage reads equally true of both Antiochus and Antichrist. This is an example of a prophetic passage that has both a *near* and *far* fulfillment, very often the case in O.T. prophecies.

**Daniel 8 Set-up**

**Vs.**1-2—Introduction

**Vs.** 3-8—the Ram and the Goat Verses

**Vs.** 9-14—“The Little Horn”

**Vs.** 15-27—Interpretation of Daniel’s Vision

**15-**19—Introducing Gabriel, 20-21—Meaning of Ram and Goat, 22- 26—Meaning of “Little Horn”, 27—Daniel’s Response

**Read Daniel 8:1-8**

1. **Daniel saw more details about prophecy than John did. What year is this?** Third year of Belshazzar.
	1. **Who is King?**
	2. **Where is Daniel?**
2. **What “beasts” are in view? Which empires appear?**
3. **What is the setting?**
	1. **Was Daniel actually in Shushan?**
		1. **Where is Shushan?**  Shushan--Susa. Though then comparatively insignificant, it was destined to be the capital of Persia after Cyrus' time. Therefore Daniel is transported into it, as being the capital of the kingdom signified by the two-horned ram ([Nehemiah 1:1](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nehemiah/1-1.html) , [Esther 1:2-5](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Esther+1:2-5) ).
		Elam--west of Persia proper, east of Babylonia, south of Media. Daniel was not present there personally, but in vision. Ulai--called in PLINY Euloeus; by the Greeks, Choaspes. Now Kerah or Karasu. So in [Daniel 10:4](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/10-4.html) he receives a vision near another river, the Hiddekel. So Ezekiel ([Ezekiel 1:1](http://www.biblestudytools.com/ezekiel/1-1.html)) at the Chebar. Perhaps because synagogues used to be built near rivers, as before praying they washed their hands in the water ([Psalms 137:1](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/137-1.html)). This is in Persia, and normally Daniel would not be there. 230 miles east of Babylon. This was the home of Esther, and the city of Nehemiah.
4. **Who is the Ram in verse 3-4?** Answer is in verses 15-20.It wasn't a stretch to use a ram to represent the Medo-Persian Empire. "Ammianus Marcellinus, a fourth century historian, states that the Persian ruler bore the head of a ram as he stood at the head of his army." (Wood) "The ram was the national emblem of Persia, a ram being stamped on Persian coins as well as on the headdress of Persian emperors."
	1. **What are the two horns?**
		1. **What is “one higher?”** This is reminiscent of the bear that lifted up on one side. Persia became more dominant. No “eastward” here. This is referring to Cyrus, the Great. Xerxes was the last great king of Persia, in Esther’s time. He attacked the Greeks with an army of 300,000. The Greeks were defeated by him in an early battle, and they hated the Persians!  **(Remember the “Spartans”—the “Three Hundred.”)** One. . . higher than. . . other. . . the higher came up last--Persia, which was of little note till Cyrus' time, became then ascendant over Media, the more ancient kingdom. Darius was sixty-two years old ([Daniel 5:31](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/5-31.html) ) when he began to reign; during his short reign of two years, being a weak king ([Daniel 6:1-3](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Daniel+6:1-3) ), the government was almost entirely in Cyrus' hands. Hence HERODOTUS does not mention Darius; but XENOPHON does under the name of Cyaxares II. The "ram" here corresponds to the "bear" **(**[**Daniel 7:5**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/7-5.html) **),** symbolizing clumsy firmness. The king of Persia wore a jeweled ram's head of gold instead of a diadem, such as are seen on the pillars at Persepolis. Also the Hebrew for "ram" springs from the same root as "Elam," or Persia [NEWTON]. The "one horn higher than the other" answers to the bear "raising itself on one side."
		2. **Xerxes was the last great ruler in Persia. Discuss how Esther is involved in this.**
5. **In Verse 5, who is the “He Goat?”** Answer is in verses 21-22.Greece. In 334 B.C., Alexander first encountered the Persian army, and by 331, the Persians are broken in a battle near Nineveh.
	1. **What does “touched not the ground” imply?** Speed...Alexander defeated Darius II. The Persians were huge, 2 million man army, and fought with elephants (the tanks of the ancient world). He conquers the entire Persian Empire, and even pushes out its border.
	2. **Who is the “notable horn”**? Alexander the Great….took the command in his twenties….died at the age of 32.
		1. **What does “horn” represent?** "Horn" in the East is the symbol of power and royalty.
6. **How does the “nephilim theory” play into Alexander the Great’s birth**? Mother Olympus helped in the assassination of Alexander’s father, Philip, and claimed Alexander’s father to be a snake.
7. **In Verse 6, describe the scene.** Ram pushing westward--Persia conquered westward Babylon, Mesopotamia, Syria, Asia Minor. Northward--Colchis, Armenia, Iberia, and the dwellers on the Caspian Sea. Southward--Judea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya; also India, under Darius. He does not say eastward, for the Persians themselves came from the east ([Isaiah 46:11](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/46-11.html)). Did according to his will--([Daniel 11:3](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/11-3.html), 16; compare [Daniel 5:19](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/5-19.html)). Standing before the river--Ulai. It was at the "river" Granicus that Alexander fought his first victorious battle against Darius, 334 B.C.
8. **What happens to the horn?**
	1. **Who followed it?**
	2. **Who are the Four “Notable ones” t**he-goat--Græco-Macedonia. Notable horn--Alexander. "Touched not. . . ground," implies the incredible swiftness of his conquests; he overran the world in less than twelve years. The he-goat answers to the leopard ([Daniel 7:6](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/7-6.html)). Caranus, the first king of Macedonia, was said to have been led by goats to Edessa, which he made the seat of his kingdom, and called Æge, that is, "goat-city." When he was strong. . . great horn was broken--The empire was in full strength at Alexander's **death by fever at Babylon,** and seemed then least likely to fall. Yet it was then "broken**." His natural brother, Philip Aridoeus, and his two sons, Alexander Ægus and Hercules, in fifteen months were murdered**. Four . . . toward . . . four winds--Seleucus, in the east, obtained Syria, Babylonia, Media, &c.; Cassander, in the west, Macedon Thessaly, Greece; PTOLEMY, in the south, Egypt, Cyprus, &c.Egypt; Lysimachus, in the north, Thrace, Cappadocia, and the north parts of Asia Minor.
	3. **Who is Cassander?** Ruling over Greece and its region….Macedonia and Greece…married to Alexander’s sister
	4. **Who is Lysimachus?** One of the two tutors of Alexander…Thrace, Bithynia, most of Asia Minor…tutor of Alexander…Turkey... was ruling over Asia Minor.
	5. **Who is Seleucus?** Syria, lands to the east, to India… ruling over Syria and Israel's land….one of Philip’s generals
	6. **Who is Ptolemy?** Egypt
	7. **Compare to Daniel 7: 6, the beasts of Daniel 7.**



**Read Daniel 8:9-18**

1. **Who is the “little horn?” How is it different from the “little horn” of Chapter 7? Does he parallel to the “clay and iron” in Daniel 2?** These “little horns” are different; Daniel 7’s “little horn” comes up from the period of the ten horns, the Roman situation; and Daniel 8’s “little horn” is emerging out of the four horns of Alexander and before Rome is a factor. **Little horn--not to be confounded with the little horn of the fourth kingdom in** [**Daniel 7:8**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/7-8.html) **.** The little horn in [Daniel 7:8](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/7-8.html) comes as an eleventh horn after ten preceding horns. In [Daniel 8:9](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/8-9.html) it is not an independent fifth horn, after the four previous ones, but it arises out of one of the four existing horns. This horn is explained ([Daniel 8:23](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/8-23.html) ) to be "a king of fierce countenance," Antiochus Epiphanes is meant. Greece with all its refinement produces the first, that is, the Old Testament Antichrist. Antiochus had an extraordinary love of art, which expressed itself in grand temples. He wished to substitute Zeus Olympius for Jehovah at Jerusalem. Thus first heathen civilization from below, and revealed religion from above, came into collision. **Identifying himself with Jupiter**, his aim was to make his own worship universal (compare [Daniel 8:25](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/8-25.html) with [Daniel 11:36](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/11-36.html) ); so mad was he in this that he was called **Epimanes** (maniac) instead of **Epiphanes**. None of the previous world rulers, Nebuchadnezzar ([Daniel 4:31-34](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Daniel+4:31-34) ), Darius ([Daniel 6:27](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/6-27.html) [Daniel 6:28](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/6-28.html) ), Cyrus ( [Ezra 1:2-4](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Ezra+1:2-4) ), Artaxerxes Longimanus ( [Ezra 7:12](http://www.biblestudytools.com/ezra/7-12.html) ), had systematically opposed the Jews' religious worship. Hence the need of prophecy to prepare them for Antiochus. The struggle of the Macabees was a fruit of Daniel's prophecy (I Macabees 2:59). He is the forerunner of the final Antichrist, standing in the same relation to the first advent of Christ that Antichrist does to His second coming. The sins in Israel which gave rise to the Greek Antichrist were that some Jews adopted Hellenic customs (compare [Daniel 11:30](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/11-30.html) [Daniel 11:32](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/11-32.html) ), erecting theaters, and regarding all religions alike, sacrificing to Jehovah, but at the same time sending money for sacrifices to Hercules. Such shall be the state of the world when ripe for Antichrist. At [Daniel 8:9](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/8-9.html) and [Daniel 8:23](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/8-23.html) the description passes from the literal Antiochus to features which, though partially attributed to him, hold good in their fullest sense only of his antitype, the New Testament Antichrist. Waxed. . . great, toward. . **. south**--([Daniel 11:25](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/11-25.html) ). Antiochus fought against PTOLEMY Philometer and Egypt, that is, the south. **Toward the east**--He fought against those who attempted a change of government in Persia. Into it Antiochus made his inroad after his return from Egypt.
	1. **Read Rev. 13:15; Matthew 24: 15-16.** Verses 10-11,references to Israel. Son of Antiochus the Great, Antiochus IV, the Bible describes how he is against Israel.
	2. **What is the “glorious land” in verse 9? See** [**Ezekiel 20:6**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Ezekiel+20:6&t1=en_nas) **(*the glory of all lands*),** [**Ezekiel 20:6, 15, 25:9**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Ezekiel+25:9&t1=en_nas) **(*the glory of the country*), also** [**Daniel 11:16**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Daniel+11:16&t1=en_nas)**, 11:41, 45, and** [**Psalm 48:2**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Psalm+48:2&t1=en_nas)**.** . **“Toward the pleasant land”**--Judea, "the glorious land.” Its chief pleasantness consists in its being God's chosen land.
	3. **See God's chosen land referenced in** [**Psalms 132:13**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/132-13.html) **,** [**Jeremiah 3:19**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/jeremiah/3-19.html)**.**
2. **“Waxed Exceeding Great,” verse 10? What does this mean?**
	1. **And, “Stars to the ground?” Compare to: Revelation 12:4, 7-9, and 1:20.**
	2. **In verses 10-11, who are the Hosts of Heaven?**
		1. **See Deuteronomy 4:19, 17:3, I Kings 22: 19-22, 2 Chronicles 18:18, Jeremiah 33:22, Isaiah 34:4, and Nehemiah 9:6.** It cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground: The host and stars are symbols used in the Old Testament for angels, kings and leaders, or the people of God at large. This prediction was fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes and his attacks against rulers and against God's people in general. The terms *stars of heaven* ([Genesis 12:3](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+12:3&t1=en_nas) and 15:5) and the *hosts of the Lord* ([Exodus 12:41](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Exodus+12:41&t1=en_nas)) are at times used of God's people in general. This is a reference to Israel, and the person is the son of Antiochus the Great, the III, the Seleucid Empire. His son, Antiochus IV, (the 8th king of the Syrian dynasty, 175-164 B.C., infamous brother of Cleopatra), got the throne following the murder of his brother, and held another brother hostage to be the king, and came to the throne with flattery and bribery. And he is described here setting the stage for the future…a double identity here. **He sets the stage for the antichrist. We will see him more in Daniel 11. Came to power in 175 B.C., invaded Egypt and defeated Ptolemy VI, and as he returned from Egypt he destroyed Jerusalem, the temple was desecrated. He decides to make Jerusalem a buffer between his battle regions. Calls himself, “Epiphanes,” the illustrious one. But, the Jews use a pun and call him, “Epimanes,” which means “the madman.” Israel's land was contested between the dynasties of Seleucid and Ptolemy, but the Seleucids gained power over the region in the days of Antiochus III (198 b.c.). Antiochus IV gained the throne of his father (Antiochus III) by murdering his brother, the former king Seleucus Philopator. The son of Philopator was the rightful heir to the throne, but Antiochus IV had him held hostage in Rome. Antiochus IV legitimized his rule mainly through flattery and bribery. Antiochus IV assumed the title *Epiphanes* meaning, "illustrious" and alluding to deity. The ancient Jews twisted his name into "*Epimanes*" meaning, "madman." Antiochus Epiphanes erected a monument in the temple of himself, and sacrificed a pig.** .
3. **Verse 11 explains in detail the actions of Antiochus Epiphanes. Detail his history:**
	1. **Antiochus Epiphanes exerted his dominion** toward the south, toward the east, and toward the land of Israel.
	2. **Antiochus Epiphanes murdered other rulers and persecuted the people of Israel** (cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them).
	3. **Antiochus Epiphanes blasphemed God and commanded idolatrous worship directed towards himself** (exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host).
	4. **Antiochus Epiphanes put a stop to temple sacrifices in Jerusalem** (by him the daily sacrifices were taken away).
	5. **Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the temple** (the place of His sanctuary was cast down).
	6. **Antiochus Epiphanes opposed God and seemed to prosper** (he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered).
	7. **“And trampled them down”—explain.** Antiochus's suppression of the Jews came to a head in December of 168 b.c. when he returned in defeat from Alexandria. **He ordered his generals to seize Jerusalem on a Sabbath. There he set up an idol of Zeus and desecrated the altar by an offering of swine and sprinkling the pig's juices in the sanctuary.** Sacrifice stopped because the temple was desecrated. [1 Macabees 1:29-32](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Maccabees+1:29-32&t1=en_nas) and 1:52-61 describe how Antiochus persecuted the Jews. [1 Macabees 1:41-50](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Maccabees+1:41-50&t1=en_nas) describes his blasphemies (see Appendix A, page 139). **By some estimates he was responsible for the murder of more than 100,000 Jews**.
4. **In verses 11-12, why did he take away the daily sacrifice? Explain: “place of his sanctuary was cast down” and “a host was given him against the daily sacrifice?”** He demanded them to sacrifice pigs on the altar, to stop circumcision, and threatened death to those who did not comply. He totally outlawed Judaism.
5. **What does “sanctuary” mean? Compare verses 11, 13, 14?**
	1. **The temple in Jerusalem?**
6. **In verse 11, what does “exalted himself” mean? Read Matthew 23:12, John 10:30-33, and Isaiah 14:12.**
7. **Explain “cast truth down to the ground.**”
	1. **See also Daniel 9:27.** Antiochus was known for his flattery and smooth tongue. The coming Antichrist will strike a covenant with Israel.
8. **Who is the “one saint speaking” in verse 13? Compare this to the Daniel 7:16’s “one of them that stood by.”**
9. **What is the “desolation” mentioned in verse 13? Define the “Abomination of Desolation?”** "making desolate," that is, Antiochus desolating profanation of the temple.
	1. **Compare with** [**Daniel 11:31**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/11-31.html) **and** [**12:11**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/12-11.html) **.**
	2. **Parallel with Rome and the last Antichrist,** [**Matthew 24:15**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/24-15.html)
10. **In verse fourteen, discuss the 2,300 days.** The Hebrew actually says, “2,300 Evening/Mornings.” **2300 evenings and mornings, could be 1150 days…..almost like 3 ½ years.** For two thousand three hundred days: Literally, Daniel heard a holy one say "two thousand three hundred *mornings and evenings*." Bible students debate if this means 2,300 days or 1,150 days. 2,300 days is **almost seven years.** Either understanding is possible, but it is more likely that this means 2,300 days. **The date when the temple was cleansed is well established as December 25, 165 b.c. If we count back 2,300 days from then, we come to the year when Antiochus Epiphanes began his persecution in earnest (171 b.c.).** However, if we take it to **mean 1,150 days it can refer to the time the temple was actually desecrated. Philip Newell makes this case: "For a duration of time during which 2300 daily sacrifices would ordinarily have been offered, one at evening and one in the morning, as specified in** [**Exodus 29:38-43**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Exodus+29:38-43&t1=en_nas)**. Since there are two of these daily, the actual time period involved is 1150 days, or slightly over three years. This, in fact, was the time of the Maccabeus tribulation, 168-165 b.c., at the end of which the sanctuary was 'cleansed' by Judas Maccabeus in his restoration of the evening and morning sacrifices (**[**2 Maccabees 10:1-5**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Maccabees+10:1-5&t1=en_nas)**)."** Between 6-7 years that Antiochus begins to perpetrate his deeds **170 B.C., and dies in 164 B.C.**  **The Macabees restore the temple in 164 B.C., while Antiochus destroys it in 170 B.C.** The Macabees throw off the yoke of the Greek empire, cleanse the temple of what the Seleucids did, and restore the sacrifice—rededication of the Temple, today it is called **Hanukkah**. **Compare** [**Genesis 1:5**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/genesis/1-5.html) **. Six years and a hundred ten days. This includes not only the three and a half years during which the daily sacrifice was forbidden by Antiochus [JOSEPHUS, Wars of the Jews, 1:1.1], but the whole series of events whereby it was practically interrupted: beginning with the "little horn waxing great toward the pleasant land," and "casting down some of the host" (** [**Daniel 8:9**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/8-9.html)[**Daniel 8:10**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/8-10.html) **); namely, when in 171 B.C., or the month Sivan in the year 142 of the era of the Seleucid, the sacrifices began to be neglected, owing to the high priest Jason introducing at Jerusalem Grecian customs and amusements, the palæstra and gymnasium; ending with the death of Antiochus, 165 B.C., or the month Shebath, in the year 148 of the Seleucid era**. **Thus, in** [**Daniel 9:24-27**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Daniel+9:24-27) **, the times of Messiah are foretold to the very year; in** [**Daniel 8:14**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/8-14.html) **the times of Antiochus, even to the day; and in** [**Daniel 11:5-20**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Daniel+11:5-20) **the Syro-Egyptian struggles in most minute detail**. TREGELLES thinks the twenty-three hundred "days" answer to the week of years ([Daniel 9:27](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/9-27.html) ), during which the destroying prince ( [Daniel 9:26](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/9-26.html) ) makes a covenant, which he breaks in the midst of the week (namely, at the end of three and a half years). The seven years exceed the twenty-three hundred days by considerably more than a half year. This period of the seven years' excess above the twenty-three hundred days may be allotted to the preparations needed for setting up the temple-worship, with Antichrist's permission to the restored Jews, according to his "covenant" with them; and the twenty-three hundred days may date from the actual setting up of the worship. But, says AUBERLEN, the more accurate to a day the dates as to Antiochus are given, the less should we say the 1290, or 1335 days ( [Daniel 12:11](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/12-11.html) [Daniel 12:12](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/12-12.html) ) correspond to the half week (roughly), and the twenty-three hundred to the whole. The event, however, may, in the case of Antichrist, show a correspondence between the days here given and [Daniel 9:27](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/9-27.html), such as is not yet discernible. **The term of twenty-three hundred days cannot refer twenty-three hundred years of the treading down of Christianity**. Judas Maccabeus celebrated the Feast of Dedication after the cleansing, on the twenty-fifth of the ninth month, Kisleu (I Macabees 4:51-58; II Macabees 10:1-7; [John 10:22](http://www.biblestudytools.com/john/10-22.html)). As to the antitypical dedication of the new temple, see [Ezekiel 43:1-27](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Ezekiel+43:1-27) , &c.; also [**Amos 9:11**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/amos/9-11.html)**-12. This passage has been a favorite springboard for elaborate and fanciful prophetic interpretations. A popular and tragic interpretation of this passage took one year for every day, and William Miller used 2,300 "year-days" to calculate that Jesus would return in 1844 (2,300 years after Cyrus issued the decree to rebuild the temple). His movement ended up giving birth to the Seventh-Day Adventists, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and several other movements.** This amazingly specific prophecy was written some **350 years before the time of Antiochus Epiphanes.** Great prophetic fulfillment like this demonstrates that God not only *knows* the future, He also *guides* the future
11. **Daniel meets Gabriel…..describe the encounter in verses 15-18.**
12. **In verse 16, who is speaking to Gabriel? What man is speaking?**
	1. **See Luke 1:19-20 and 26-33.** Gabriel in Bible.
13. **What does Gabriel explain?** verses 17-20
14. **See verse 18, what is the purpose of seeing Antiochus Epiphanes?** Just as Antiochus Epiphanes rose to power with force and intrigue, so will the Antichrist. As he persecuted the Jews, so will the Antichrist. As he stopped sacrifice and desecrated the temple, so will the Antichrist. As he seemed to be a complete success, so will the Antichrist. "From what Antiochus did to Jews in his day, therefore, one may know the general pattern of what the Antichrist will do to them in the future."
15. **Read and discuss Matthew 24:15’s reference to “The Abomination of Desolation?” Compare with Daniel 8.**
16. **Three times in this chapter, it is stated that the vision pertains to the end times. What is the significance of “three times?”** (Verses 17, 19, and 26).

**Read Daniel 8:19-26**

1. **From this point on, how do we know this is eschatological?** This from then on is going to be related to the end times.
2. **Explain the two beasts and the four kingdoms.**
	1. **Does the Bible always explain its symbols?** Verses 20-22
3. **According to verse 23, did the language shift from Antiochus Epiphanes to the anti-Christ? Explain.**
4. **Who is the “King of Fierce Countenance?”**
	1. **Who gives him his power?**
	2. **Has the time shifted at this point to the end times?**
	3. **Is this the antichrist?** The answer is that though this prophecy was fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes, it also has a later fulfillment in the Antichrist, referring to the time of the end. Antiochus Epiphanes is sometimes called the **"Antichrist of the Old Testament**." He prefigures the Antichrist of the end times.
5. **Describe the Anti-Christ, according to verses 24-25.**
6. **“Mighty” and “Holy People” are destroyed. Who are they?**
7. **Review Hosea 5:15, and explain how does this verse brings King Jesus back?**
	1. **See also Zechariah 13:8-9—how much of the Jewish nation will be destroyed?** The last holocaust will take 2/3 of the Jews.
	2. **Parallel to Revelation 13:7.**
	3. **Compare** [**Luke 18:8**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/luke/18-8.html) **and** [**2 Timothy 3:1-9**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=2%20Timothy+3:1-9)**.** as to the wickedness of the world in general just before Christ's second coming. Israel's guilt, too, shall then be at the full, when they who rejected Christ shall receive Antichrist; fulfilling Jesus words, "I am come in My Father's name, and ye receive Me not; if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."
		1. **Refer to** [**Genesis 15:16**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/genesis/15-16.html)**,** [**Matthew 23:32**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/23-32.html)**, and** [**1 Thessalonians 2:16**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-thessalonians/2-16.html)**.**
8. **According to verse 25, define “craft.”** Can mean cunning or workmanship; prosperity is in his hands.
	1. **See Revelation 13:5, 17; Revelation 6:2….**rider on the white horse, a false Christ.
		1. **Define how “peace” destroys many.** Not a military leader at first, a financial specialist.
		2. **Who is the Prince of Princes?** Jesus
9. **Antiochus Epiphanies is a “type of Antichrist…. compare to Revelation 6:2.** rider on the white horse, the counterfeit of Jesus; he will stand up against “The Prince of Princes”—compare to Rev.13 first beast, subdues others, rises to power by promising false security**….The first attack of Antiochus against the Jews of this time was to settle a rivalry for the office of high priest. A pious high priest, Onias III, was removed from office and was replaced with his brother Jason because Jason bribed Antiochus. Then in 172 b.c. another brother (Menelaus) gave Antiochus an even bigger bribe and replaced Jason. A year later Menelaus started selling many of the temple's gold utensils to raise money to pay off the bribe. Onias III rebuked him, and Menelaus had him murdered. Meanwhile, Jason gathered armies and fought against Menelaus to regain the office of High Priest. Antiochus Epiphanes came in to Jerusalem in 171 b.c. to defend the man who paid him a bigger bribe to be the High Priest**.
10. **See verses 24-25, and give more attributes of Anti-Christ—“Adversary”—Psalm 74:8-10, Isaiah 59:19, Lamentations 4: 11-12, Amos 3:11; Assyrian—Isaiah 10:5, 12, Micah 5: 5,6; Belial—Nahum 1:15; Bloody and Deceitful Man—Psalm 5:6; Branch of the Terrible Ones—Isaiah 25:5; Chief Prince—Exodus 38:2; Crooked Serpent—Job 26:13, Isaiah 27:1…Zechariah 11:16-17, “Idol shepherd,”**  **“Fierce countenance”--**[**Deuteronomy 28:50**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/deuteronomy/28-50.html)**.**
11. **In verse 25, discuss “peace.”**

**Read Daniel 8:26-27**

1. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15, and discuss God’s assurance;**
	1. **See 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10**—wicked one will come, **and Revelation 19:11-16—**King Jesus returns.
2. **Why was Daniel told to “shut up the vision?”** in verse 26
3. **Explain Daniel’s physical reaction to the startling vision of Chapter 8.**
	1. **What does “astonished” mean?**
	2. **What is Daniel’s final reaction?**
		1. **Does Daniel get physically ill?**
4. **Explain the parallel between Antiochus Epiphanes and the antichrist of the tribulation time. See 2 Thessalonians 2:4.** The coming Antichrist will also exalt himself: *So that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*
	1. **See also** [**2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Thessalonians+2:9-10&t1=en_nas)**.**
	2. **How did Epiphanes end, and how will the Antichrist end? Refer to Revelation 19:20.**  History tells us that Antiochus Epiphanes died of disease, not by the hand of man. In a similar way no *man* will defeat the coming Antichrist, but the hand of Jesus will strike him down ([Revelation 19:20](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+19:20&t1=en_nas)).
5. **Compare the “sealing up of the vision” in Daniel to the command in Revelation. Refer to Revelation 1:3, 22:10.** Therefore seal up the vision: Daniel must do this because in his day the vision referred to a period far distant in its ultimate fulfillment. For us, the time is near ([Revelation 1:3](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+1:3&t1=en_nas)) and the book is unsealed ([Revelation 22:10](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+22:10&t1=en_nas)).
6. **Sum-up the central theme of Daniel 8.**

***And, here are “The Promises”……***

**I Peter 1:10-12, “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.”**

**Isaiah 12:2, “Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid…Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.**”

**The Purpose of this Chapter: \*\*It seems best to understand that an earthly king will arise at the latter part of Greece’s reign who will openly rebel against God, oppose and oppress the Jewish saints, and succeed for a short period of time. This “time of tribulation” ends an age and precedes the first coming of Jesus Christ. The fulfillment of the prophecies pertaining to the “little horn” of Chapter 8 seems to occur under Antiochus Epiphanes. And, this “ending of an era” and arrival of this “anti-Christ” also serves as a prototype of another “little horn” in the end days, who will bring about “the great tribulation,” a tribulation such as the earth has never before experienced, or never will again. This appears to be the purpose of Daniel’s vision of Chapter 8. In other words, we get a “slight glimpse” of what is to come with the real anti-Christ and the end days.**



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| **The Visions of Daniel 2, 7, and 8** |
|  **Chapter 2** |  **Chapter 7** | **Chapter 8** |  |
|  **Metals** |  **Animals** | **Animals** | **Nations** |
|  **Gold** | **Winged Lion** |  | **Babylonia** |
| **Silver** | **Lopsided Bear** | **Ram** | **Medo/Persia** |
| **Bronze** | **Winged****Leopard** | **He-Goat** | **Greece** |
| **Iron****Iron with Clay** | **Unique and****Terrible Beast** |  | **Rome****Rome II** |