

"Alexander, Antiochus, and Antichrist" **Daniel 8**

1. The vision recorded by Daniel here in chapter 8 comes to him 2 years after the vision of chapter 7. In his vision, Daniel saw himself in the palace in the Persian royal city of Susa (more than 200 miles east of Babylon). 100 years after Daniel, the Persian king, Xerxes, builds a palace in Susa, which is where the events in the book of Esther take place. This palace is also where Nehemiah served as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes.

What 2 animals does Daniel see in the vision? A _____ and a _____.

2. The ram had 2 long horns and was standing in front of the Ulai Canal. One horn was longer than the other, and the longer horn arises after the shorter one. What does this description remind us of as we look back at the bear in Daniel 7:5?

What kingdom does the ram (and the bear) represent (8:20)?

Who is represented by the longer horn that will overshadow the smaller one?

In what directions does the ram begin to charge?

The ram's power was unstoppable and none could escape as his dominance spread over all the territory. Persia extended its empire to the west, north, and south with a vast army.

3. But Daniel also sees a goat with a single powerful horn and its speed (reminiscent of the leopard in 7:6) was so great that it did not touch the ground. The power and might that characterize the ram now belong to the goat. The goat strikes the ram and shatters the ram's two horns.

What kingdom does the goat represent (8:21)?

Who do you think represents the single, powerful horn of 8:5? _____ the Great

4. As the goat elevates in power (v.8), its large horn is broken off. **Alexander** died at the age of 32. At the peak of his power, he was cut off in 323 B.C. and 4 prominent horns (4 generals: Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus, and Seleucus) take his place. And then out of one of the 4 horns rises another horn. This horn starts little but becomes a great persecutor of the people of Israel ("the Beautiful Land" of verse 9).

Daniel was able to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dreams in chapters 2 and 4 but who is sent to interpret the meaning of this vision in chapter 8? Why would Daniel have been understandably terrified?

5. The one horn of verse 9 that arises years later out of the other 4 horns is **Antiochus**. Antiochus attacks and burns Jerusalem and then desecrates the temple. But this prophecy also looks beyond Antiochus to a future person (the **Antichrist**) who will "oppose the Prince of princes". Whom is the "Prince of princes" referring to?

6. What is Daniel's response after the interpretation of this overwhelming vision (v. 27)?

Can you think of a time you were awed by the presence and holiness of God?