

Daniels vision of a ram and a goat

8 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.

4 I watched the ram as it charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against it, and

none could rescue from its power. It did as it pleased and became great. 5 As I was thinking about this, suddenly a

goat with a prominent horn between its eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the

ground. 6 It came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at it in great rage.

7 I saw it attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering its two horns. The ram was powerless to stand

against it; the goat knocked it to the ground and trampled on it, and none could rescue the ram from its power. 8 The

goat became very great, but at the height of its power the 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.

11 It set itself up to be as great as the commander of the army of the LORD; it took away the daily sacrifice from

the LORD, and his sanctuary was thrown down. 12 Because of rebellion, the LORD's people [a] and the daily sacrifice were

given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground. 13 Then I heard a holy

one speaking, and another holy one said to him, "How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled—the vision

concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, the surrender of the sanctuary and the trampling

underfoot of the LORD's people?"

The Interpretation of the Vision

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," [b] 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. [c] 20 The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia. 21 The

shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between its eyes is the first king. 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 fierce-looking 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 those who are mighty, the holy people. 25 He will cause deceit to

prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand

against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.

26 "The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the

distant future." 27 I, Daniel, was worn out. I lay exhausted for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's

business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character

1. The vision of the ram and the goat (1-8)

- ☐ When did this happen?
- ☐ Where was Daniel when he saw this vision?
- ☐ What did Daniel see in the vision?
- ☐ What are your observations about his vision?
- ☐ What were the special features of the ram?
- ☐ What were the special features of the goat?
- ☐ Why do you think God gave this vision to Daniel?
- ☐ What does this vision and its fulfillment show us about God

II. The little horn that took away the burnt offering (9-14)

- ☐ What does a horn often symbolize in the Bible?
- ☐ Which part of the split Greek empire might this little horn come from?
- ☐ What does it mean that some of the host and stars of heaven were thrown down?
- ☐ Who is this vision describing?
- ☐ What does it mean that it became great even as great as the prince of host?
- ☐ What will this person do?
- ☐ What is he like?
- ☐ Did these things happen already or are they still future?
- ☐ What do we learn in this passage about persecution?
- ☐ What do we learn in this passage about God's sovereignty?

III. The interpretation of the dream (15-27)

- ☐ How did Daniel react when he saw the vision (15)?
- ☐ What can we learn from his response?
- ☐ What is the desire of the being who looks a man?
- ☐ Who do you think this is? Why?
- ☐ What does this teach us about God's desire for us?
- ☐ How can we understand the phrase, "the vision is for the time of the end?"
- ☐ What does verse 24 mean in that this man is powerful not by his own power? What power?
- ☐ How can we guard against becoming great in our own minds?
- ☐ How did Daniel react to the vision? Why do you think it affected him so deeply?