

Historical Fulfillment

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Key Point: Although the Jews were controlled politically and economically under the reign of Alexander and subsequent Greek rulers, they were also given significant _____ and cultural independence.

3. A Little _____

Description: It grew out from one of the other horns and became great even to the “glorious land” and took away the regular offering and overthrew the sanctuary. It will challenge the “Prince” and overcome a “host” for 2300 evenings and mornings.

Interpretation: “...at the latter end of their kingdom...a king of bold face...shall arise.” (Dan. 8:23)

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Antiochus IV Epiphanes came to power in the Seleucid Empire and ruled 175-164 BC. He greatly persecuted the Jewish people, and sought to force them to embrace Greek religious and cultural practices.

* He came to power through bribery and intrigue. “by his cunning...he shall become great” (8:25)

* He armies eventually moved south and conquered the land of Israel.

⇒ The vision likens this conquest of God’s people and their land to an assault on heaven itself (8:10).

* He actively sought to suppress the true worship of God, banning the daily sacrifice and profaning the temple.

⇒ In 169 BC, Antiochus entered the Most Holy Place and then plundered the temple. Two years later in 167 BC, an assault came upon the city and many thousands were killed. His men then placed a pagan altar on top of the altar for burnt offerings and made a sacrifice to pagan gods (8:11-13).

* His persecutions and desecrations were limited to a particular period of time before a Jewish revolt restored the temple and he died under mysterious circumstances.

⇒ The 2300 is likely a reference to 1150 days, a time period roughly corresponding to Antiochus’ persecution which lasted from Sept./Oct. 167-December 164 BC.

Key Point: The persecution that the Jews experienced during the reign of Antiochus IV served to _____ the people, strengthening the resolve of the faithful and exposing those who would compromise with the world.

Implications for Eschatology (Future Events)

- The “little horn” of Daniel’s second vision is a _____ or _____ of the “little horn” described in Daniel’s first vision.

The Little Horn



Antiochus IV



End-Time Antagonist (Antichrist)

“Although the two little horns would be two distinct persons living in different periods of history, they would be characterized by similar attitudes and actions. Both would oppose God, magnify themselves to the level of deity and persecute the people of God. In other words, both would be extreme expressions of fallen man’s mania to rule the world apart from God.”—Renald Showers

Living Faithfully in “Babylon”

- If Scripture tells us what is true about God’s plans _____ the world, we can trust that it tells us what is true for how God would have us to live _____ the world.

2 Tim. 3:16-17—¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

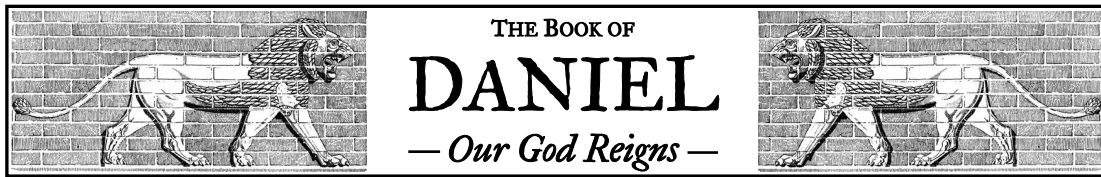
- Scripture gives us prophetic imagery and insight into the future so that we might live faithfully in the present.

Warnings against the political, economic, and cultural _____ of the world.

Rev. 18:2-5—² And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. ³ For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.” ⁴ Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; ⁵ for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

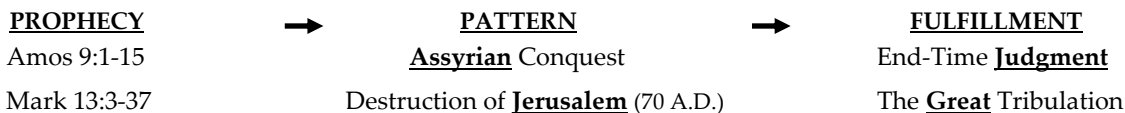
Exhortations to faithful _____ under persecution.

Rev. 13:5-10—⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear: ¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.



Part 13 — “Understanding the Present in Light of the Future” — 28 August 2022

Introduction: Prophecy, Pattern, & Fulfillment



Main Point: The Scriptures give us prophetic imagery and insight in order that we might have certainty regarding God’s plans and purposes for the future as we seek to live faithfully in the present.

Daniel’s Second Vision & Its Interpretation—Daniel 8:1-27

Important Considerations

1. Daniel’s second vision further develops what has been revealed in the other major visions of the book.

⇒ The first two key visions are found in the Aramaic portion of the book, focusing on the nature and character of the gentiles kingdoms of the earth who will rule over God’s people Israel before the establishment of God’s Kingdom. Both visions deal with the “latter days” (Dan. 2:28) and the establishment of the Kingdom of the Messiah who is to come.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Vision → Daniel’s First Vision → Daniel’s Second Vision

⇒ The focus of the second vision is on two of the coming kingdoms and a particular ruler who will arise and persecute the people of Israel. “The reason for this narrowing of kingdom concerns is due to the author’s intention to focus on the rise of Antiochus IV Epiphanes...[who] harshly persecuted the Jewish people and sought to destroy every expression of worshipping...God. Because of this, the Bible utilizes him as a type of the future antichrist to come.” —J. Paul Tanner

2. The location in which Daniel saw himself hints at the vision’s interpretation.

“Susa the citadel”

“The significance probably has to do with what Susa was about to become in the near future. When the Persian King Darius I came to the throne (522-486 BC), he made Susa one of the capitals of the Persian empire...” —J. Paul Tanner

3. The words of the angel give insight into the vision’s purpose for understanding the future.

“the time of the end”

“the latter end of the indignation”

Key Point: The second vision that Daniel received helped to explain what would happen to Israel in the near future while also prefiguring what would happen to the nation in the End-Times.

The Imagery of the Vision Interpreted & Explained

1. **The Ram**

Description: It had two horns, with one being higher than the other, and charging in multiple directions (Dan. 8:3-4)

Interpretation: *“...the kings of Media and Persia...”* (Dan. 8:20b)

“The ram was especially important for the Persians. The guardian spirit of the Persian Empire was portrayed as a ram. When the Persian king went into battle, he carried the head of a ram. Also in the ancient world different zodiac signs represented various nations. Aries, the ram, stood for Persia, and Capricorn (Latin caper, goat, and cornu, horn) was Greece.” —Thomas Constable

Historical Fulfillment

Although the kingdom of the Medes was initially the most prominent, the Persians came to dominate once the kingdoms eventually merged. Under the leadership of Cyrus the Great, the Persians moved eastward and defeated the Babylonians (525 BC). Cambyses (son of Cyrus) completed the capture of Egypt and established the Persian Empire as the dominant power in the ANE. Subsequent Persian rulers (Darius I, Xerxes) would continue to attempt to spread the empire into Europe, twice attempting invasions of Greece.

Key Point: Under the rule of the Persians, the Jews were allowed to return and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-3) and were given the right to defend themselves against their enemies (Esth. 8:10-13).

2. **The Male Goat**

Description: It had a prominent horn between its eyes and came from the west with great speed and furiously attacked and broke the horns of the ram. It became great but then its horn was broken and four others grew up from where it had been (Dan. 8:5-8).

Interpretation: *“And the goat is the king of Greece.”* (Dan. 8:21)

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