

A Vision of the Inter- Testament Period

Daniel 8:1-27

Introduction

- **In the visions recorded in Daniel 8 (near the end of the Babylonian regime) and 11 (at the beginning of the Persian regime), the macroscopic view becomes microscopic.**

Introduction

- **In these two visions, attention focuses on the development of the kingdoms of Medo-Persia and Greece, in particular.**

Introduction

- **Most of what Daniel saw in the visions of chapters 8 and 11 transpired in the Intertestamental Period, the approximately four **hundred** years between the close of the Old Testament canon and the beginning of the New Testament revelation.**

I. The Facts of the Prophecy

- A. The first thing Daniel saw was a two-horned **ram** whose horns were uneven—one was higher than the other (8:3).



I. The Facts of the Prophecy

- ⦿ A. This is a reference to the kings of **Media and Persia**” (8:20).



I. The Facts of the Prophecy

- ⦿ B. The second thing Daniel saw was a **goat** with a conspicuous horn between its eyes that was moving so fast its feet never touched the ground (8:5).



I. The Facts of the Prophecy

- ⦿ **B. With fury and speed, the goat butted the ram, breaking its two horns and stomping it into the ground (8:6–7).**



I. The Facts of the Prophecy

- ⦿ B. The rough goat is a reference to **Greece**, and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king” (8:22).



I. The Facts of the Prophecy

- C. The third thing Daniel saw was a **little** horn that grew out of one of the four horns of the rough goat (8:9).



I. The Facts of the Prophecy

- **C. The actions of this horn constitute the primary point of interest and relate most directly to the theme of **opposition** (8:10–12).**

II. The Facts of History

A. Both of Daniel's visions particularly highlight the **swiftness** and vengeance of Alexander's conquests followed in turn by the division of his realm into **four** parts under his generals: Antipater, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus.

Alexander's Divided Kingdom:



II. The Facts of History

- **B. Daniel's vision isolates the Seleucid quarter of the empire generally and the rule of Antiochus Epiphanes (the little horn) specifically and his actions against the pleasant land, i.e. Palestine.**

II. The Facts of History

- B. The little horn violates the **sanctuary**, interferes with the worship system, slaughters many of the **saints**, and defies the Lord Himself (8:10–12, 24–25; cf. 11:1–35).

II. The Facts of History

- ◎ C. He desecrated the temple by making it a shrine to **Zeus**, and, in an ultimate act of contempt, offered **swine** on the altar.
- ◎ This act most likely is that *“abomination that maketh desolate”* (11:31).

II. The Facts of History

- ⦿ **D. Antiochus did what he could to **destroy** God's chosen people and their distinctiveness in the world.**

These & other coins of Antiochus IV can be seen on David Surber's excellent ancient coins website: www.wildwinds.com/coins



Coin of Antiochos IV, 175-164 BCE with diadem, on right figure of Zeus seated



Coin of Antiochos IV, 175-164 BCE with laureate head & features resembling Zeus



(Coins are not to scale)

II. The Facts of History

- ⊙ **D. Had he succeeded in his tyrannical oppression, he would have indeed hindered the progress of time to its **messianic** fullness.**
- ⊙ **But he was “*broken without hand*” (8:25). God removed him!**

Isaiah 59:19

- ① *So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun.*
- ② *When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*

The Maccabees

- 168 BC—Greek Ruler **Antiochus** controlled Judah; He decided to make Jews worship Greek gods.
- **Judas Maccabeus**—a priest that led a rebellion against Antiochus
- **Maccabees** fled to the hills and formed an army. After many battles they drove the Greeks out of Judah and destroyed all traces of Greek gods.
- **Hanukkah**—Jewish festival that celebrates the Maccabees and their victory.
- **Judas Maccabeus's** family became new rulers and they took

Conclusion

- ① **Prophecy is **history** written beforehand.**
- ② **Because God is Omniscient, He can reveal the future to the prophets.**

Conclusion

- **It was God's plan to send His Son the first time to be offered as a sacrifice *"to bear the sins of many"* (Heb.9:28). It is God's plan that Christ will *"appear the second time without sin unto salvation"* (Heb.9:28), and establish His eternal kingdom (Dan.7:13-14).**

Conclusion

- ① **Just as certainly as Christ had to come and did come the first time, He has to come and will come the second time.**
- ② **No one can thwart God's plan & purpose!**