

BOOK OF DANIEL
"The Grecian Little Horn"
Daniel 8:1-27

Introduction

1. God's Spirit directed the writing of all Scripture. Not by dictation, but by inspiration. Note: Dan. 1:1-2:3 in Hebrews; 2:4-7:28 in Aramaic; 8:1-12:13 in Hebrew.

2. Daniel is a book of prophecy. Each chapter adds to the information relayed to us concerning God's prophetic calendar.

3. The vision of this chapter avers the dominance of a Grecian personality in the end time. The main features of this vision are easy to identify. Here they are:

1. Its REGISTRATION, vv. 1, 2.

a. Timed with Belshazzar. v. 1.

b. Located at Shushan. v. 2.

c. Revealed to Daniel. vv. 1, 2.

This is NOT a dream as modern psychologists would have us believe, but a revelation of divine truth! Cf. Heb. 1:1, 2.

2. Its REVELATION, 3-12.

a. The butting ram, vv. 3-4.

The ram in ancient times symbolized power and control and its horn spoke of strength. It was the symbol of Persia, as the cock stands for France, the lion and unicorn for Britain, the eagle for America, etc.

Note these details: 1) 2 horns: Medo-Persia, 2) 1 horn higher: Persia dominant. 3) Pushing: extent of dominance.

- b. The conquering goat. vv. 5-8.
Whereas in the previous chapter Greece is considered a leopard-bear, here in relation to Israel it is a domesticated animal.

Note these details: 1) From the west: this was new. 2) Whole earth: shows extremities of empire. 3) Notable horn: Alexander III (son of Philip II of Macedon). 4) Moved against Persia: in 331 BC he overthrew Persian power at Arbela. Took Susa, Persepolis, and Ekbatana. 5) Broken up: Selucus--Syria; Ptolemy--Egypt; Lysimachus--Thrace Cassander--Macedonia.

- c. The prominent horn. vv. 9-12.
- 1) Rises from Greece. Difference between Daniel 7 and 8.
 - 2) Marked as Antiochus Epiphanes IV in line of Seleucus usurped throne in 175 BC and reigned for 11 years.
 - 3) Marched to Mesopotamia (east), Egypt (south), and Palestine (glorious land).
 - 4) Opposed Jews. Killed 40,000 in three days and took 10,000 captive. Flouted their religion by removing orderly and legitimate worship.
- d. The sinful people. v. 12.
All because of transgression, Israel fell under this situation. Sin against God is the most dispicable thing imaginable.
- e. The timed period. vv. 13, 14.
For 2300 literal morning and evenings--the dastardly deeds of Antiochus continued. Terminus ad quem was 165 BC.

Conclusion. The historical movements of events as Daniel saw them have taken place. Their prophetic significance was made known to him as he "sought for the meaning" (v. 15). God wants us to know His will.

NOTES