

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: May 30, 2021

Title: "Antiochus IV and the Antichrist"

Text: Daniel 8:1-27

THE RECEPTION OF DANIEL'S VISION (8:1-2)

1. The Position of the Vision (8:1)

Date: 551 B.C. ... two years after vision of chapter 7.

Chronology: 12 years before the fall of Babylon described in Daniel 5.

2. The Profile of the Vision (8:1)

The visions in Dan. 2 & 7 both summarize the rise & fall of four kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The vision of Dan. 8 focuses on the 2nd & 3rd of those kingdoms: Medo-Persia and Greece. These 2 kingdoms are singled out because they have special relev. for the Jew. people.

"In this vision we get a glimpse of a terrible part of the world's future by understanding a terrible part of the Jews' past. Even though the Jews suffered horrifically under a Greek ruler, it can't compare to the suffering under the coming Antichrist." - Dr. David Jeremiah

3. The Place of the Vision (8:2)

Daniel was actually in Babylon but was transported in a vision to Susa (or, Shushan) a town *little known* at the time (551 B.C.) and *unsuspected* for its future grandeur. Long before the Persian Empire began, before Babylon fell, Daniel saw himself at the capital of the Persian kingdom.

THE REVELATION OF DANIEL'S VISION (8:3-14)

1. The Ram (8:3-4)

The ram is identified in vs. 20 as the Medo-Persian Empire. It corresponded to **the** arms & breast of silver of the image in ch. 2 & to **the** bear in ch. 7.

2. The Goat (8:5-14)

The next thing Daniel saw was a goat coming from the west. The goat is identified in verse 21 as "the king of Greece". Fall of Medo-Persia: 331 BC.

A. One Prominent Horn (8:5-8a)

The goat had a "prominent horn between his eyes". This horn symbolized the Greek Empire's first great king, Alexander the Great (21).

B. Four Prominent Horns (8:8b)

When Alexander died (323 B.C.), history tells us that four of his generals divided up the vast empire and formed separate kingdoms:

- 1) **Ptolemy** took Egypt, Cyrene, Cyprus, and Palestine.
- 2) **Seleucus** possessed Syria, Babylonia, and the Iranian Plateau.
- 3) **Cassander** ruled Macedonia and Greece proper.
- 4) **Lysimachus** controlled Thrace and most of western Asia Minor.

C. One _____ (vss. 9-14)

This king was Antiochus IV, also known as Epiphanes, the 8th ruler of the Seleucid/Syrian division (175-164 B.C.). He moved South, against Egypt; and then East (Armenia). But in 171 B.C. he turned his attention toward the "Beautiful Land" (the Jews and city of Jerusalem).

THE INTERPRETATION OF DANIEL'S VISION (8:15-25)

1. The _____ of the Vision (8:15-16)

Daniel didn't understand the vision of vss. 3-14; but Gabriel did (vss. 15-16).

2. The _____ of the Vision (8:17-19, 26b)

For the first time in chapter 8 we're told that "the time of the end" is in question in relation to the vision (verses 17, 19, 26).

3. The _____ of the Vision (8:23-25)

This futuristic emphasis (vss. 15-25) leads many conservative, evangelical theologians & expositors of the Word to conclude that this difficult passage goes beyond that which is historically fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes to foreshadow a fut. personage often identified as the world ruler of the end time (known as the Beast or Antichrist). *There are many parallels:*

- both begin modestly but increase in power and influence
- both blaspheme God with mouths that speak boastful things
- both persecute Jewish people
- both claim to be gods and put images in the temple
- both impose their own religion on the people
- both are opposed by a believing remnant that knows God
- both appear to succeed marvelously and seem to be invincible
- both are finally defeated by the coming of a redeemer:
 - *In the past, the 2nd century B.C. Judas Maccabeus*
 - *In the future, Jesus Christ, at His second coming.*

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THE _____ TO DANIEL'S VISION (8:26-27)