

Daniel's Second Vision

Daniel 8:1-27

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Daniel was given a vision pertaining to future oppressions of the Jews near the end of Greek world domination.

- I. Two years after his previous dream, Daniel was taken in spirit to the future capital of the Persian Empire. (v. 1-2)**
- II. Daniel's vision of the ram corresponded to his previous vision of the lopsided bear representing Medo-Persia. (v. 3-4, 15-20)**

[God] who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd
and will accomplish all that I please;
he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt,"
and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid."
"This is what the LORD says to his anointed,
to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their armor,
to open doors before him
so that gates will not be shut.
I will go before you
and will level the mountains;
I will break down gates of bronze
and cut through bars of iron.
I will give you hidden treasures,
riches stored in secret places,
so that you may know that I am the LORD,
the God of Israel, who summons you by name.
For the sake of Jacob my servant,
of Israel my chosen,
I summon you by name
and bestow on you a title of honor,
though you do not acknowledge me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other;
apart from me there is no God.
I will strengthen you,
though you have not acknowledged me,
so that from the rising of the sun

to the place of its setting
people may know there is none besides me.

I am the LORD, and there is no other.
I form the light and create darkness,
I bring prosperity and create disaster;
I, the LORD, do all these things. (Isaiah 44:28-25:7)

III. Daniel's vision of the goat corresponded to the previous vision of the four headed and winged leopard representing Greece. (v. 5-8, 15-20)

IV. Daniel was given a vision of another little horn who is similar, but different, from the one in his previous dream. (v. 9-12)

- A. This ruler would come out of the Greek empire (not Rome). (v. 9a)**
- B. He would expand in power toward Israel. (v. 9b)**
- C. He would attack oppress the people of Israel. (v. 10)**

He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." (Genesis 15:5)

And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even on the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. (Exodus 12:41 KJV)

- D. He would exalt himself and defy God's armies. (v. 11a)**
- E. He would stop Jewish religious rituals. (v. 11b)**
- F. He would desecrate (bring low) the temple. (v. 11c)**
- G. God allows all these things to take place, possibly because of Israel's unfaithfulness. (v. 12a)**
- H. He would be successful for a time. (v. 12b)**
- I. He would attack God's Word. (v. 12c)**

V. The little horn Daniel sees is Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a Syrian king in power from 175 to 164 BC, who is a type or picture of the Anti-Christ. (v. 23-25)

A. He would be empowered by Satan and allowed by God. (v. 24a)

B. He would cause great harm to God's people. (v. 24b)

After subduing Egypt, Antiochus returned in [169 BC]. He went up against Israel and came to Jerusalem with a strong force. He arrogantly entered the sanctuary and took the golden altar, the lampstand for the light, and all its utensils. He took also the table for the bread of the Presence, the cups for drink offerings, the bowls, the golden censers, the curtain, the crowns, and the gold decoration on the front of the temple; he stripped it all off. He took the silver and the gold, and the costly vessels; he took also the hidden treasures that he found. Taking them all, he went into his own land.

He shed much blood,

and spoke with great arrogance. (1 Maccabees 1:20-24)

Now on the fifteenth day of Chislew, in 167 BC, the king had an abomination of desolation built on the altar of burnt offering. They also built illicit altars in the surrounding towns of Judah, 55 and at the doors of the houses and in the squares offered they offered illicit sacrifices.

Whatever scrolls of the Torah they found, they tore up and burned; and whoever was found with a scroll of the Covenant in his possession or showed his love for the Torah, the king's decree put him to death. Through their strength they acted against the Israelites who were found in the towns each month, as on the twenty-fifth day of the month they would offer sacrifices on the illicit altar which was upon the temple altar. The women who had had their sons circumcised they put to death according to the decree, hanging the babes from their mother's necks and executing also their husbands and the men who had performed the circumcisions. (1 Maccabees 1:54-61)

C. He would deal treacherously and exalt himself. (v. 25a)

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

D. Ultimately, God Himself would cause his downfall. (v. 25b)

VI. Daniel and his readers are reassured that there will be a divinely appointed end to this time of trouble. (v. 13-14, 26)

VII. Daniel was physically and emotionally devastated by the impact of this vision. (v. 27)