

## DANIEL 8 NOTES

### Introduction

Much focus in Daniel about the antichrist (AC)

How much should Christians focus on AC?

For the body of Christ, he will be a factor for less than 10 years

True, he will kill many of us and many Jews, primarily in the Bible lands.

The word AC is only in 1 John and not of a person, but the spirit of AC who denies the Father and the son.

That could have applied to any Gentile, pagan beast or empire.

- It was reasonable to think it applied to Rome in the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 centuries.
- It certainly applies to Islam because they consider it blasphemy that Allah has a son.
- Could have applied to communism or even communist China today.
- The forces were always at work as II Thess 2 said.
- Combining it with other descriptions from the prophets it seems most likely to be a revived Islamic caliphate, so that's what we should be watching. They even say how they hate Israel. Just this month, in October 2020, Erdogan, the ruler of Turkey, said again that Jerusalem should be theirs.

What are the NT references to antichrist (actually very few)?

- Olivet Discourse in Matt 24 mentions A of D and Daniel the prophet specifically. That's why we are here.
- 2 Thess 2
- Then not until Rev, in the 90's AD. After the destruction of Jerusalem. This throws out Preterism and makes it future. Rev. also repeats many of the things mentioned by Daniel, which is another reason we are here, and also makes it clear these things are future.

8:1,2. 3rd year of Belshazzar. Ulai Canal is in Persia, in modern day Iran.

Chapter 5 is the very end of B's reign where he holds the feast and loses the kingdom that night.

Chapter 6 is the lion's den story under Darius, who comes after B. It's not in chronological order, but that's ok. Revelation also skips around chronologically.

8:3,4. Later in the chapter, we are told that the ram is the Medes & Persians. The Persians were more powerful and took over after the Medes. That's the historical interpretation. Generally speaking, a "beast" is an empire and a "horn" is a certain ruler.

8:5-7. The goat is the Greek Empire, the big horn fits with Alexander the Great, historically.

8:8-10. Alexander died at a young age and his empire was split up and after some internal conflict, then consolidated into 4 main kingdoms. It would seem this little horn is the same as Daniel 7 and is a future description of antichrist. Notice in this chapter there is no kingdom after the goat. AC comes out of a breakup of the goat, the Seleucid branch. The map shows this would correspond to a revival of a Mideast Islamic caliphate. There is no place for Rome here.

8:13-14. This is the first mention of the abomination of desolation in Daniel. It is also mentioned in chapters 9 and 11. Jesus refers back to it and to Daniel as a prophet.

8:15-21. Gabriel says at least twice that the vision refers to the time of the end. “Later end of the indignation” is against mankind, but specifically Israel for not keeping the law. Curse of the law. Gentiles would somehow be blessed, but the important thing was God’s covenant people. A dispensationalist could say this is all 70th week stuff is only about Israel and the church will be gone. But the church is brought into the people of God, the children of Abraham, with Israel.

“Greece” is *Javan* in Hebrew. In Gen. 10, he is one of the descendants of Japheth. Javan’s descendants appear in Assyrian documents as the Iamanu, who engage the Assyrians in a major sea battle during the reign of Sargon II (721-705 BC). The Archaemenian inscriptions refer to them as the Yauna. Homer’s Iliad informs us that Iawones (Hebrew Iawan) was the progenitor of the Ionians (Gk. Iones), while the Hebrews knew the Greeks as the Jevanim (Iewanim). The Greek/Ionian culture was the coastal areas of what we call Greece and Turkey. In the world view of Daniel and the Babylonians and Persians it meant that area way over there. The point for us is that we should expect the AC to arise in some sense from Javan, probably Turkey.

8:22-25. Rome does not fit in here anywhere. Comes from the area of the goat. Some more details about AC including the abomination of desolation. Will stand against the Prince of Princes so that means it is yet future and can only be at the Return of Christ.

Information about Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Documented in 2 Maccabees and in Josephus Wars of the Jews. Seized the throne of the Seleucid Empire in 175 BC. Warred against the Ptolemaic Empire (Egypt or the king of the south) and conquered them. Jews rebelled around 168 BC. A. mercilessly slaughtered 40,000 and 80,000 were lost (2 Maccabees 5-7). Outlawed the practice of Judaism, circumcision, the daily sacrifice. He sacrificed a pig on the alter, built a statue of Zeus, etc., etc. Prophecy can be fulfilled more than once. End times prophecies often covered more immediate things but looked through them to the Day of the LORD.

### **Things we know for pretty much for sure**

Ram is Media / Persia. Persia stronger as portrayed in the lopsided bear in Daniel 7 or the two uneven horns in Daniel 8.

Goat is Greece, Javan. 1<sup>st</sup> king is Alexander is the single horn. 4 later horns associated with Diadoche, 4 main offshoots of Alexander’s empire.

Vision is about the time of the end (what part is past, what part is future?)

Little horn again fits with Antiochus IV Epiphanes, and it fulfilled again in the end times by antichrist

Commits the abomination of desolation (definitely future)

Comes out of what was the goat’s empire (middle east) and the area of the Seleucid Dynasty in particular.

- Little horn grows great, even to the host of heaven (Rev 12:9)
- Sanctuary and offerings disrupted (abomination of desolation)
- Truth thrown to the ground, cunning, deceit prospers
- Great in his own mind, understands riddles
- Great power, fearful destruction, succeeds, destroys saints
- Fights against Prince of the host and is destroyed