

Sermon Notes

“The Ram, the Goat, and the Little Horn”

Daniel 8:1-27

July 19, 2015

Introduction:

Visions of Future Kingdoms in Daniel

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Identification
A Statue and a Stone	Four Beasts and the Son of Man	A Ram and a Goat	
Head (Gold)	Lion		Babylon (2:37-38)
Chest & Arms (Silver)	Bear	Ram	Medo-Persia (8:20)
Belly & Thighs (Bronze)	Leopard	Goat	Greece (8:21)
Legs (Iron)	Terrifying Beast		Rome
Feet (Clay & Iron)			Future Revived Empire
Stone Cut without Hands	Son of Man		2nd Return of Christ (Mk 14:61-62)

Adapted from NIV Study Bible, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 1995, “Visions in Daniel” chart, at Daniel 7.

4. Antiochus had great power (8:24); Antichrist will have greater power (cf. 11:39; 2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:7–8). Yet 8:24 says that it was not Antiochus’s “own power.” His power was that of Satan, who controlled him, and this satanic inspiration was the reason he attempted to destroy God’s people, the Jews. Antichrist also will be energized by Satan (cf. 2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:2), and this is one reason he will attack God’s people as well.
 5. Antiochus destroyed thousands (8:24); Antichrist will destroy more (Rev 13:15; 16:13–16).
 6. Antiochus prospered for a short while (8:24), and Antichrist will prosper for a brief time (11:36; Rev 17:12).
 7. Antiochus persecuted the saints (8:24); Antichrist also will oppress believers (7:21, 25; Rev 13:7).
 8. Antiochus was a deceiver (8:25); Antichrist will be the master deceiver (2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:4, 14; 19:20).
 9. Antiochus was proud (8:25). Antichrist, however, will be one of the most arrogant individuals the world has ever known (7:8, 11, 20, 25; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:5).
 10. Antiochus blasphemed God (8:25); Antichrist will blaspheme God (7:25; 11:36; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:5–6).
 11. Antiochus was not killed by human hand (8:25), nor will be the Antichrist (2 Thess 2:8; Rev 19:19–20). (Miller, S. R. (1994). Daniel (Vol. 18, pp. 237–238). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.)
5. How does this chapter fit with Daniel’s main theme of God’s absolute authority?
 6. Daniel’s predictions were fulfilled precisely and literally. Should we expect biblical predictions about our future to be fulfilled in the same way? Explain.

1. The Miraculous Predictions

- a. **The Medo-Persian Empire overcome by the Greek Empire**

b. Antiochus Epiphanes

c. The Antichrist

2. What do we learn about ourselves?

3. What do we learn about God?

Conclusion:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 7-19-15

Questions adapted from Daniel: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2013, pp. 83-94; Douglas Connelly, Daniel, Spiritual Living in a Secular World, Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2000, pp. 34-36.

Getting Started:

1. If God offered to show you snapshots of our nation's future over the next two hundred years, would you want to see them? Why or why not?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read Daniel 8. As you look through the chapter again, pick out the main images in Daniel's vision (8:1-14) and then list the matching interpretation of each image (8:15-27).
3. The "stern-faced king" (8:23) Gabriel describes is probably Antiochus Epiphanes, a Greek-speaking king who ruled Syria and Palestine from 175 to 164 BC. He hated the Jews and their God. His most infamous act was desecrating the temple in Jerusalem in 168 BC. For more than six years ("2,300 evenings and mornings," 8:14) Antiochus oppressed the people of Israel. Finally, the Jews were able to drive Antiochus out of Israel and to reclaim the temple. If you had been a Jew living under the tyranny of Antiochus, how would it have made you feel to read Daniel's prophetic prediction of the very events you were experiencing?

4. For Further Study:

Antiochus seems to be a type of the eschatological Antichrist. Many parallels exist between the two individuals:

1. Antiochus (8:9) and Antichrist (7:8) are symbolized by horns that were "little" or "small" at the beginning.
2. Antiochus was "a stern-faced king" (8:23), and Antichrist will have an "imposing" look (7:20). Both of these descriptions imply cruelty and harshness.
3. Antiochus was "a master of intrigue" (8:23), and the brilliance of the Antichrist is suggested by the "eyes" of the horn (7:8, 20). The ability to offer seemingly correct solutions to the world's perplexing problems may be one factor that will catapult Antichrist to power.