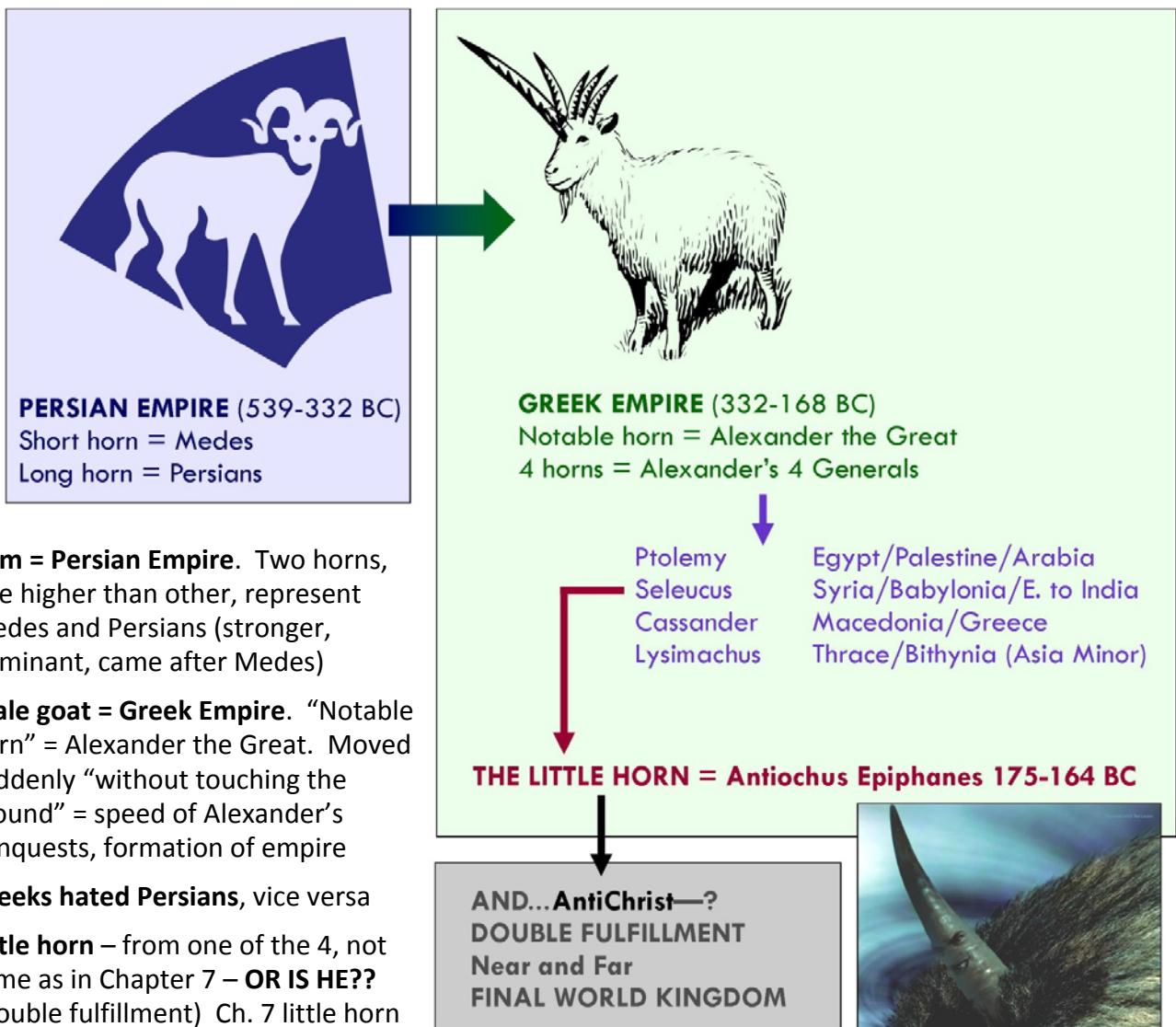


THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Chapter 8

- In this chapter Daniel is given a dream **that focuses on only two world empires, - Persia and Greece.**
- Look for **double fulfillment.** That is where a portion of prophecy may have an immediate or soon fulfillment in some historical event, but this event then also stands as a type or a foreshadowing of the ultimate fulfillment in end times.
- **Language returns to Hebrew** – focus back on Israel
- **No controversy**– symbols are clear, even interpreted in most cases.
- **Visions take place** at end of Babylonian empire, around 550 BC, 100s of years before most precisely fulfilled (no late dating!)
- **Elam = Persia. Susa/Shushan = Persian royal city** (250 mi. E of Babylon) (no “palace” or “citadel” at time of dream, but would be!)



- **Ram = Persian Empire.** Two horns, one higher than other, represent Medes and Persians (stronger, dominant, came after Medes)
- **Male goat = Greek Empire.** “Notable horn” = Alexander the Great. Moved suddenly “without touching the ground” = speed of Alexander’s conquests, formation of empire
- **Greeks hated Persians, vice versa**
- **Little horn** – from one of the 4, not same as in Chapter 7 – **OR IS HE??** (Double fulfillment) Ch. 7 little horn from 4th, last kingdom. Ch. 8 little horn from 3rd kingdom – Lots of speculation!

- **Glorious Land = Israel**
- **ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES** – 175 – 164BC, Seized power, hated Jews, Hellenized, Jews resisted, Antiochus attacked Jerusalem. Temple desecrated (dedicated to Jupiter Olympus, sacrificed pig on altar, used harlots in festivals – created “abomination of desolation”)
- **Apocrypha, 1st and 2nd Maccabees** – describes horrible reign of Antiochus
- **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** – term used in Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11. Also referred to by Jesus (Matthew 24:15-22, also 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4) as something still to come, even though Antiochus’ reign was almost 200 years earlier! Good indication there will be another “abomination of desolation” (literally, “abomination that CAUSES desolation”) **confirms double fulfillment.**
- **V 10 difficult to interpret** – battle in spiritual realm? Antiochus thought of himself as god, selected his own title (Epiphanes, “god manifest” or god in the flesh). Passage reminds us of Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, which speak of the power BEHIND evil man. May be a double reference to the enemy.
- **2300 days** – best interpretation is literal, that is about 6 1/3 years of actual persecutions, desolations until rededication of the Temple (approx 170 -164 BC)
- **Hanukkah** – Feast of Dedication, Festival of Lights (25 Chislev 164 BC) celebrates the reclaiming, cleansing and rededication of the Temple (miraculous supply of oil to keep the lampstand, Menorrah, lighted). Mentioned in John 10.
- **Gabriel**, first time angel named in scripture – Gabriel – always on a “messianic mission” – telling about Messiah. Later we are introduced to another archangel, Michael (Daniel 10, 12, Jude, Rev 12) who always seems to be on a military mission, as commander of armies and protector of Israel.
- **Gabriel makes Daniel understand this is also about the time at the END of time.** Up to now, to us it was clear Antiochus was the fulfillment of this passage, but now Gabriel indicates it goes beyond....far beyond. **(Telescoping prophecies, near and far fulfillment)**
- **V 18-19** – Clearly end time prophecies (the other end of the little horn prophecy, the far fulfillment). Antiochus Epiphanes is NEAR fulfillment, Antichrist is FAR fulfillment
- **“Latter time of indignation”** – “time of Jacob’s trouble,” “Tribulation”
- **V20-22** – Clear interpretation given. No room for debate.
- **V23-25** – Portrait of Little Horn (both Antiochus and Antichrist): fierce features, cunning and sinister, will have great power, most likely demonic power, terrible fierce ruler, destroys powerful and holy people, against Israel, will prosper for a time, deceitful reign, full of pride, will exalt himself (even come up against the “Prince of princes” [Jesus, Antichrist will do this, not Antiochus], will be brought down by God.
- Prophecies projected to far future, well after Antiochus Epiphanes. Still waiting.
- **“in the latter time of THEIR kingdom”** End of Greek Empire, Seleucid Dynasty. Modern re-emergence of ancient kingdoms (Seleucid/Ptolemaic dynasties): Greece (1830), Afghanistan (1921), Egypt (1922), Turkey (1924), Iran (1925), Iraq (1932), Saudi Arabia (1932), Lebanon (1930), Jordan (1946), Syria (1946), Pakistan (1947), Israel (1948)
- **Will Antichrist also arise from these areas?** (Israel, Syria???) Antichrist “the Assyrian” (Micah 5)??
- **Daniel seals up the vision for the future.** Was not “understandable” in his day. Becoming clearer in our times, as geo-political alignments keep changing and other end times prophecies are fulfilled every day.



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