DANIEL 8

The Ram, the Goat & the Little Horn

Daniel 8 — A Deep Dive

> *"And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify himself in his heart, And he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, But he will be broken without human agency.*
> DANIEL 8:25

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · THREE VOICES: TSARFATI · MACARTHUR · GUZIK

Where the story stands

1. The year is about five fifty-one B.C.

2. The third year of Belshazzar.

3. Babylon still looks secure.

The ram with two horns

DANIEL 8:3

Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns were long, but one was longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last.

THE RAM WITH TWO HORNS

A ram with two horns. One longer than the other, and the longer one came up last.

THE GOAT THAT NEVER TOUCHED THE GROUND

Then a goat from the west. Greece lies west of Persia.

A horn that reaches heaven

DANIEL 8:9

Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful Land.

A HORN THAT REACHES HEAVEN

Out of one of the four, a rather small horn. Literally, one horn out of littleness.

HOW LONG? TWENTY-THREE HUNDRED

How long? That is the question of every persecuted believer, and of Israel in every generation.

THE ORIGINAL **Judas Maccabeus rededicated the altar on 25 Kislev, 164 BC — Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication Jesus attended in John 10:22.**

Gabriel, give this man an understanding

DANIEL 8:16

And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai, and he called out and said, "Gabriel, give this man an understanding of the vision."

GABRIEL, GIVE THIS MAN AN UNDERSTANDING

Gabriel. Man of God.

PROPHECY WITH PROPER NOUNS

Here is the part skeptics cannot bear. Daniel eight is the chapter that supplies the names.

Broken without human agency

DANIEL 8:24

"His power will be mighty, but not by his own power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform his will; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.

BROKEN WITHOUT HUMAN AGENCY

A king arises. Insolent, literally fierce of face, and skilled in intrigue, a master of riddles and double meanings.

THEN I GOT UP AGAIN

Verse twenty-seven is the most practical verse in the chapter. The prophet was wrecked by what he saw.

What to carry from this chapter

1. The chapter names its own empires — Media-Persia and Greece. Alexander is foretold two centuries early.

2. Magnified is the spine: ram, goat, horn — each pride higher, each one broken.

3. The horn prospers because God hands over — “on account of transgression.” Discipline, with a date.

4. 2,300 evenings and mornings ended on a day you can look up: 25 Kislev, 164 BC.

More to carry

5 Antiochus is the sketch; the Antichrist is the portrait. Near fulfillment proves far.

6 “Not by his own power … broken without human agency.” Mighty by permission, removed by God alone.

7 Hebrew resumes at 8:1 — from here the subject is Israel, her sanctuary, her deliverance.

8 Daniel got up and went to work. Prophecy makes servants, not spectators.

Talk it through

1. Three questions for your table this week. Where are you making yourself big right now, in ministry, in opinion, in reputation, and what would it look like to be small and kept instead?

2. What are you walking through that feels open-ended, and how does a God who counts the offerings He withholds change the way you wait?

3. And what is the next right thing in front of you that does not require you to have the end figured out?

CLOSING

The ram magnified himself. The goat magnified himself exceedingly. The horn magnified itself up to heaven. And the Prince of princes broke the last one without a hand. History runs on God's clock. The king's business is still ours today.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study, reflection journal and film: see the Daniel study page.