

THE THINGS WHICH
DANIEL SAW CONCERNING
THE GENTILE KINGDOMS
AND THEIR RULE
(Chapter 8)

I. The Vision which Daniel had in the palace at Shushan concerning the Gentiles and their Rule.

- A. Daniel saw a ram standing by the river of Ulai (8 : 3 , 4) .
1. Notice this ram had two horns. One horn came up and then when the second horn came up it came up higher than the first one (8 : 3) .
 2. Daniel saw this ram moving North, South, and West and becoming great so that no other beasts could stand in his way (8 : 4) .
- B. Daniel saw also a rough he-goat come and smite the ram, break his two horns, and destroy him (8 : 6 , 7) .
1. Notice this he-goat had a great horn between its eyes (8 : 5) .
 2. Notice secondly when this he-goat grew very great its great horn between its eyes was broken and four others came up in its place which went in four different directions (8 : 8) .
 3. Then we see that out of these four horns one grew exceedingly great and magnified himself and took away the daily sacrifice by transgressing (8 : 9 - 12) .
- C. Daniel was also told in his vision of a King of Fierce Countenance who would stand up in the latter time and destroy the Lord's people and even confront the Prince of Princes (8 : 23 - 25) .

II. THE INTERPRETATION THAT DANIEL WAS GIVEN

- A. The ram with the two horns are the Kings of Media and Persia (8 : 2 0)
- B. The he-goat is the King of Greece and the horn between its eyes is the first king of that Kingdom (8 : 2 1) .
- C. The four horns which came up when the great horn was broken are four kingdoms 8 : 2 2) .
- D. The little horn that comes out of the four horns seems to be the King of Fierce Countenance of verse 23. But the description goes further than that fulfilled in one of the Kings following the Kingdom of Greece.

III. THE THINGS WHICH WOULD COME TO PASS CONCERNING THE GENTILE KINGDOMS ACCORDING TO THIS CHAPTER

- A. We see first of all that the Babylonian Kingdom would fall to the Medes and Persians (8 : 4 , 2 0) .
- B. Secondly the Kingdom of the Medes and the Persians would fall to the Greeks (8 : 7 , 2 1) .
- C. Thirdly we see out of the Kingdom of Greece would arise four Kingdoms (8 : 2 2) . This was fulfilled at the death of Alexander the Great. His son, Hercules, was killed and the Kingdom was divided among his four generals. Cassander assumed power over Macedonia and Greece; Lysimachus took control of Asia Minor; Seleucus took over Syria and the Near East; and Ptolemy assumed control of Egypt.
- D. Finally we see that out of these Kingdoms would arise a King who would desecrate the worship of the Jews and destroy many of them (8 : 9 - 1 4) . This was no doubt fulfilled in 168 BC when Antiochus Epiphanes IV of Syria offered a sow upon the altar in the Temple at Jerusalem. In its place he erected an altar to Jupiter and forbade the Jewish sacrifices and worship. This set off the Maccabean wars which resulted in regaining Jerusalem and rededicating the temple in 165 B. C. This time of persecution ran 2300 days beginning around 171 BC when Antiochus first plundered Jerusalem (8 : 1 4) .

- E. Thus we have seen that Daniel's vision of this chapter gives us details about the second and third Kingdoms of Medo-Persia and Greece.

IV. SOME DETAILS WHICH POINT OUT SOME DEFINITE THINGS.

- A. Notice in the description of the King of Fierce Countenance that while this prophecy was apparently fulfilled in part in the person of Antiochus Epiphances IV, it presents him as a type of the Antichrist who will come in the last days. Notice he :will stand up against Christ and be destroyed (8:25; Rev. 19:19,20).
- B. Notice secondly that the desecration of the temple and the desolation of its worship and its sacrifices is also a type of what the Antichrist will do in the middle of the Tribulation Period (8:11-13; Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:15).