

DIAMONDS FROM DANIEL

by

William G. Heslop, D.D., Litt., S.D.

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CHAPTER EIGHT

THE VISION OF THE RAM AND HE GOAT

The Key:

“The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia and the rough goat is the king of Grecia” (8:20-21).

THE VISION 8:1-19

THE INTERPRETATION 8:20-27

“Behold a ram which had two horns”

The Medo-Persian empire with Cyrus and Darius as the two kings

“The two horns were high”

Both Cyrus and Darius were great kings

“But one was higher than the other”

Cyrus was the greater of the two kings.

“And the higher came up last”

Darius took the kingdom on the death of Belshazzar but the power and prestige of Cyrus increased until he was supreme.

“I saw the ram pushing westward”

The conquest of Babylon (westward) by the Medes and Persians (Ram)

“And northward and southward”

West, north and south set forth the world wide ambitions of the Medes and Persians. He finally conquered and ruled the world

“So that no beasts might stand before him”

(1) From the Divine viewpoint, empires, kingdoms, nations are bestial.
(2) No other king or kingdom could withstand the onslaughts of the Medes and Persians.

“Behold an he goat”

Greece

“And touched not the ground”

Rapidity of Conquest

“The goat had a notable horn between his eyes”	Alexander the Great
“And he came to the ram”	War against the Medes and Persians
“And he was moved with choler against him”	The anger, fury, rage, madness of Alexander against the Medes and Persians.
“And smote the ram”	Victory of Greece
“And brake his two horns”	Defeated and destroyed the power of Cyrus and Darius
“There was no power in the ram to stand before him”	The collapse of the Medo-Persian empire before the onslaughts of Alexander
“Therefore the he goat waxed very great”	Worldwide conquests, victories and dominion of Alexander the Great
“And when he was strong”	When the empire of Greece was supreme
“The great horn was broken”	Death of Alexander 323 B.C.
“And for it came up four notable ones”	Division of the world empire of Greece under four Generals
“And out of one of them”	Out from one of the four rulers of the divided empire
“Came forth a little horn”	Antiochus Epiphanes, one of the outstanding types and forerunners of the final Antichrist
“Which waxed exceeding great”	Antiochus Epiphanes became popular and powerful
“Toward the South and toward the East”	Egypt and Chaldea
“And toward the pleasant land”	Palestine
“And it waxed great even to the host of heaven”	Opposition of Antiochus toward the Jews, God’s ancient people

“And it cast down some of the host to the ground”

Indignities, insults and humiliations to which the Jews were subjected by Antiochus Epiphanes

“And of the stars to the ground”

The priests and leaders also were persecuted and humiliated by Antiochus Epiphanes

“Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host”

The High Priest even was not exempt. Antiochus Epiphanes would brook no superior either in politics, parliament or even in religion. These are all striking characteristics of the future Antichrist

“By him the daily sacrifice was taken away”

Jewish worship was prohibited

“And the place of his sanctuary was cast down”

The temple was polluted and profaned by the wicked and fierce Antiochus Epiphanes. This king of fierce countenance, indwelt and controlled by Satan, attempted the wholesale destruction of God’s holy people. He trampled upon the Old Testament scriptures and refused the Jewish people either the right or the privilege of temple worship.

“And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression (Read 12-25)”

The expression **“By reason of transgression”** expresses the tragedy of it all. The sufferings of the Jews both past and present have been brought about because of their waywardness, willfulness and wickedness. It was a punishment for national sins. The fact that Antiochus Epiphanes practiced and prospered was because of the perpetual perverseness of the people of God. This punishment for past and present national sins would continue 2300 days. This tribulation through which the Jews passed was a type and foreshadowing of the coming GREAT TRIBULATION as Antiochus Epiphanes was a type of the Antichrist. It is instructive to remember that the prophetic office seems always to be connected with the failure of God’s people.

I will make thee know

“And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision”

“So he came near where I stood; and when he came I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision. Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be the last end of the indignation for at the time appointed the end shall be” (Daniel 8:16-19).

With the eighth chapter of Daniel the book continues in the Hebrew language. The visions relate largely to the Jews and Jerusalem. The scene narrows from worldwide prophecies to those affecting the covenant people of God.

The eighth chapter of Daniel depicts the Gentile powers as cruel, fierce, brutal, rapacious, wild beasts. We here look into the heart of world governments and see them as they really are and not as they appear to be. The whole genius of worldly government is seen to be selfish and cruel. Greed is shown to be Governor and Mammon is revealed as the Monarch. That which man calls “patriotism” and “commercialism” is seen and revealed by the spirit of God as animalism and diabolism. Daniel 7 and 8 gives us God’s own viewpoint of the “powers that be.” Gentile governments, sovereigns and rulers are revealed as wild, rapacious, unclean beasts that are destined to perish.

Westward . . . northward . . . southward

Eastward is not mentioned because the Persians came from the East and pushed on to the conquest of the world.

The goat had a notable horn

Alexander the Great was born 356 B.C. Daniel saw him and gave a succinct record of his rise and fall more than a century before he was born. The Ram actually became the emblem of the Medo-Persian Empire as the goat was the emblem of the Grecian empire. The word AEGEAN (sea) actually means Goat Sea. The son of Alexander was named AGUS which means “*Son of the Goat.*”

And touched not the ground

Alexander conquered the world. The incredible swiftness of his conquests and victories is beautifully set forth in the expression “**he touched not the ground.**”

Meeting with little or no opposition, so fast and so furious did he advance that he became a world conqueror and world dictator when as yet a young man. The name of this “**notable horn**” still lives in history as ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

Breaking the “two horns” of the Medo-Persians he became absolute master of the Persian Empire and the third world ruler of history.

Four notable ones

Alexander conquered Egypt, Palestine, Phoenicia and Tyre and ruled from Greece to the Ganges. Having conquered the world, but failing to conquer himself he died in India of intemperance, and left no successor. His kingdom was divided and fell to four of his generals.

The pleasant land

The different names given to the land of Palestine are:

- (1) Canaan, Leviticus 14:34,
- (2) The Holy Land, Zechariah 2:12,
- (3) The Lord's Land, Hosea 9:3,
- (4) Emmanuel's Land, Isaiah 8:8,
- (5) Land of Israel, I Samuel 13:19,
- (6) Land of the Hebrews, Genesis 40:15,
- (7) Land of Judah, Isaiah 26:1,
- (8) Land of Promise, Hebrews 11:9,
- (9) The Pleasant Land, Daniel 8:9
- (10) Palestine.

It has been THE NERVE CENTER of the earth since the days of Abraham. It has been THE TRUTH CENTER from which has flowed a stream of Divine Revelation since the birth of Christ; and the STORM CENTER of warring nations since the days of Joshua. It is to become THE PEACE CENTER of the earth during the millennial reign of Christ and THE HOME CENTER of all Israel throughout the ages to come.

The host of heaven

This host refers to God's people or the Jews and was fulfilled during the days of the Maccabees (Read vs. 24). The Hebrews were God's holy and chosen people. They are cast off for the present, but shall be grafted in again after the rapture of the Church.

The prince of the host

This prince refers to the High Priest and points to Christ as may clearly be seen by reading vs. 25. The little horn of Daniel 8:9 refers to Antiochus Epiphanes who waxed exceeding great, destroyed wonderfully, slaughtered the Jews, profaned holy things and actually challenged God to do battle against him. Antiochus was a John Baptist of the Antichrist.

That certain saint

It is more than likely that MOSES the representative of the law and ELIJAH, the representative of the prophets shall be permitted to take an active part in all the affairs of the Hebrew people.

Daniel does not give the names of these two saints just as John the Revelator fails to give the names of the two witnesses of the Book of Revelation. Daniel saw that one was speaking and that the other was addressing the numberer of secrets or the wonderful numberer which would lead to the conclusion that one special angel has charge of numbers, as well as TIMES AND SEASONS which have to do with the Israel of God.

Unto 2300 days

The eighth chapter of Daniel describes the prophet's vision of a ram (Persia) with two horns (Cyrus and Darius) pushing its irresistible way to world dominion. The prophet then beholds an he goat (Greece) and notices that the goat has a special horn between its eyes (Alexander). In his hour of greatest triumph Alexander died and his kingdom was divided between four of his generals. One of these generals ruled over Syria. Out from the Syrian division of the Grecian empire the little horn (Antiochus the madman) came. Antiochus Epiphanes became the bitterest enemy of God's people. He entered the pleasant land (Palestine) persecuted the Jews, took away the daily sacrifice, polluted the temple, spilled the blood of swine upon the altar dedicated to the Lord, killed 100,000 Jews, desolated the land, practiced and prospered. All this was foreseen and foretold by Daniel the prophet. Such desolation, destruction and devastation was to continue for 2300 days or six years, four months and twenty days or almost seven years. Antiochus Epiphanes was a striking type of the coming desolator, the Antichrist.

Here was a plain prophecy that Antiochus would not only forbid the Jews the right of free worship, but that the persecution would last almost seven years. The fulfillment of this prophecy may be read in Jewish history between the close of the Old Testament by Malachi and the opening of the New Testament by Matthew. It was prophecy. It is now history.

2300 days

These days are literally EVENINGS AND MORNINGS. For almost SEVEN years Antiochus stopped the Jewish worship forbidding them to offer their daily sacrifices. It points forward to the seven years of great tribulation.

Then shall the sanctuary be cleansed

How wonderful beyond words to describe that Daniel should have seen all these things for centuries before they became actual history. Long before Antiochus was born Daniel foretold what he would do. Daniel also foretold his doom and then beheld God's sanctuary cleansed.

- Antiochus may come to his end, but God's sanctuary endures.
- Cain may destroy his brother, but God will bring in His substitute, Seth, and through the line of Seth Christ the seed of the woman shall be born.
- Pharaoh may decide on the destruction of all baby boys, but God will save his Moses and give him an education at Pharaoh's expense.
- Saul may determine the death of David but God watches over his own and David is crowned king of all Israel.

- Antiochus Epiphanes may desolate the land, pollute the temple and profane God's holy things, but after Antiochus Epiphanes is dead, doomed and damned THEN shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

God's word, God's people, and God's Sanctuary shall continue despite all the devils and madmen of either the past, present or future. It makes us shouting happy to know that GOD IS TO HAVE THE LAST WORD. Hallelujah!

Make this man to understand

Divine wisdom cometh from above. We may obtain a general knowledge in the schools of earth but wisdom and understanding concerning Divine things whether past, present or future cometh from above. It was the pleasure of the Lord God to make Daniel understand the vision.

Make this man to understand the vision

The critics of the book of Daniel alter the words THE VISION and in their place insert the words THE HISTORY. They seem to hate Daniel much more than they hate the devil. If they exercised their ingenuity in order to get rid of sin and Satan as they certainly do to get rid of these scriptures there would be fewer devils and more Daniels in our poor heartbroken world.

At the time of the end shall be the vision

There is a definite day appointed by God for the full accomplishment of all these visions. It seems clear that these visions were not given in order to inform Daniel about Maccabean times merely but to reveal the truth about the Antichrist and the end of time.

It seems perfectly plain that while the little horn was to come out of the divided Grecian empire and that the prophecy received its partial fulfillment in the history of Antiochus Epiphanes and the terrible persecution of the Jews under his murderous regime, nevertheless, the prophecy was intended also as a profile picture of the future Antichrist and end time.

As Abel, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and Melchizedek were types of Christ, (See "*Gems from Genesis*") so Antiochus Epiphanes was a type of the Antichrist and hence Daniel 8 is to have a future and fuller fulfillment.

"At the time of the end shall be the vision."

"I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation."

"At the time appointed the end shall be."

The above words of Daniel 8:16-19 give the key which unlocks this portion of Daniel's great vision. As the day of Pentecost was but a partial fulfillment of the great prophecy of Joel, so Daniel 8:16-19 looks past Antiochus Epiphanes and Maccabean times to the Antichrist and the great tribulation.

The time of the end

The time of the end takes in the whole period from the close of the Old Testament Scripture to the reign of Christ over the Earth. The Church period under which we now live and which has already been running its course for 1900 years was not revealed by Daniel. When Christ was born he was born the King of the Jews. He was God's king and the Messiah of Israel. Rejected as King (which of course was all foreseen and foretold by God) He became, through death, the Saviour of the World.

The last end of the indignation

The indignation or tribulation through which the people of God passed during the persecution under Antiochus Epiphanes was a foreshadowing of the greater indignation and tribulation of coming days after the rapture of the Church.

At the time appointed the end shall be

Known unto God are all his works from the beginning. The plans and purposes of God may be hindered, but cannot be finally frustrated. God's purposes for the world shall all be perfectly accomplished. God must win and they who side with God shall win with Him.

Daniel 8:17-19 while primarily dealing with Antiochus Epiphanes nevertheless sweeps on to the time of the end. Antiochus Epiphanes was simply a forerunner of the coming Antichrist. As Isaac and Joseph and Daniel were types of Christ so Cain, Nimrod and Antiochus Epiphanes were types of the Antichrist.

Greece with all its refinement, culture and art, produced the Old Testament Antichrist while the so-called Christian nations produce the New Testament Antichrist. Antiochus Epiphanes was the first great world ruler to systematically oppose the worship of the Jewish people and hence the need of prophecy in order to warn the godly and faithful remnant of his coming. Antiochus was the forerunner of the Antichrist. Had the plans and purposes of Antiochus succeeded the first advent of Christ would have been impossible and hence he stood in the same relation to the first advent of Christ that Antichrist does to His second advent.

The last end of the indignation

This is a very peculiar and very striking sentence. Unless clearly understood the book of Daniel in part will remain an enigma. There are two things to be noted:

- (1) the indignation
- (2) the last end of the indignation.

The indignation refers to God's punishment of His people, Israel, because of their perpetual disobedience. It sets forth the tribulation through which Israel and Judah would be pruned, purged and purified or otherwise perish in their perversity and sin.

Such indignation began in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, was continued by Antiochus Epiphanes the Syrian, and later by Titus the Roman who in A.D. 70 murdered and massacred the people of God and scattered them to the so-called four corners of the earth. The indignation continues until today and shall continue until this present Church Age has run its course.

After the coming of Christ and consequent rapture of the Church the indignation will break out with added fury and for seven years hell will be let loose on the earth (Revelation 4-19). Toward the middle of this seven years of hell on earth Satan will be cast out of the heavens and cast down to the Earth (Revelation 12).

The Antichrist will arise (typified by Antiochus) speedily followed by the false prophet and then, woe to the inhabitants of the earth for the devil is come down to you having great wrath.

The indignation, then, began with Nebuchadnezzar and continues to this hour. The *last end* of the indignation began with Antiochus Epiphanes and is yet to gather increasing momentum, force and fury until it reaches its consummation in the apocalypse of the Antichrist the coming satanic superman.

The king of Greece

No human ingenuity could have hit upon the interpretation of these divinely given dreams. Chapter 2:38 makes it perfectly plain that the head of gold was Babylon. Chapter 8:20 shows that the Medo-Persian empire was to succeed that of Babylon while Chapter 8:21 gives us to understand that Greece was to follow Persia and that Alexander the Great was the great horn seen by the Prophet. Thus scripture is its own best commentary. Persia was the cruel bear, the animal which kills for the sake of killing and which tears for the sake of tearing, a heavy, cruel ponderous-beast-empire. The leopard or panther with its four wings wonderfully portrays the rapid triumphs of Alexander's armies and his insatiable love of conquest. The rough he-goat was the Grecian empire and the great horn was its first king. Human sagacity alone can neither see nor foretell such stupendous events. This is the finger of God.

The rough goat is the king of Grecia

The Bible is self-explanatory. All light must be sought for and found in the Book itself. It may not always harmonize with our puny preconceived ideas but in that case we will change our ideas. Here is a clear prophecy which reveals that Greece would eventually gain imperial ascendancy and worldwide supremacy.

The rough goat like the abdomen of brass in the image of Nebuchadnezzar plainly sets forth the rise, progress and ruin of the third world empire of Greece. In the first image Greece was likened unto a leopard and here the first king of Greece is symbolized by a goat, yea, a rough goat.

Daniel beheld the rise and ruin of Alexander the Great long before the goat was born. Selah.

The latter time of their kingdom

The word THEIR has to do with the successors of Alexander the Great. The word KINGDOM refers to the kingdom of Greece which was divided after the death of Alexander.

When the transgressors are come to the full

There is a ripening of both sin and holiness. When the cup of Pharaoh's iniquity was full the judgment of God mercilessly fell. Both in time and in eternity men must increase either in goodness or wickedness either in sin or holiness so that the sinner shall become more and more and more sinful while the saint shall become more and more and more holy. Both in heaven and in hell there will be eternal increase. ***"He that is holy let him be holy still more and more and he that is filthy let him be filthy still more and more and more."***

Increase, development and growth is God's unalterable law. The lost shall become more and more like the devil while the redeemed shall become more and more like Christ.

A king of fierce countenance

Here is one principle of Biblical Hermeneutics or interpretation which materially helps in the understanding of many otherwise difficult portions of Scripture. It is the principle of the two in one or sometimes three in one pictures of persons, places and things.

Adam before the fall was in many ways a picture of the second man and last Adam, our Lord Jesus Christ. Holy, harmless, sinless, undefiled, monarch of all creation and ruling over a sinless world he plainly pictures Christ as the coming King.

Eve also before the fall was clearly a picture of the Bride of Christ. Taken from the wounded side of Adam, builded by God into a loving, winsome bride and helpmeet, reigning and ruling side by side over a sinless creation and with the whole world under their holy feet and obedient to their sovereign sway, Eve was plainly intended by the Lord as a picture of the Bride of Christ.

The same thing applies to Abel, Noah, the Ark, Joseph, Moses, Melchizedek, Joshua, David, Solomon, Rebekah and Ruth, the Red Sea and Jordan, Egypt and Canaan. All alike were two in one pictures setting forth actual historical persons, places and events but also prophetic and typical of Christ and salvation from sin and the world.

The historical character in the eighth chapter of Daniel was also intended by the pen of inspiration to typify another madman, the coming Antichrist. It is one more two in one picture. Cain, Nimrod, Antiochus and Herod were each two in one pictures intended by the inspired penman to give a glimpse of the oncoming superman, the supreme blood rejecter, (Cain) city and civilization builder, (Nimrod) hater of God and enemy of God's people, (Antiochus) and would be destroyer of Christ, (Herod).

A king of fierce countenance

The heart writes its contents on the countenance. Antiochus Epiphanes was to be an impudent, insolent, and vicious king. Fearing neither God nor man he was to be Satan's masterpiece of iniquity before the coming of the Antichrist of whom he was a striking shadow.

Understanding dark sentences

Master of the arts of deceit and diplomacy, versed in dark practices, wise to do evil and inspired by Satan, insincere and subtle he shall make dreadful havoc of both Jews and Gentiles who dare to cross his will and ways. Diplomacy is a high sounding word for deceit as so-called Patriotism is often an excuse for plunder and wholesale murder. With serpentine subtlety, this fierce countenanced enemy of Christ and Israel was to openly defy God and man, until his cup of wickedness overflows. Then he was to be broken without a hand of man being raised against him, for like Herod he was to be destroyed by God.

He . . . shall destroy the holy people (8:23-25)

Because of their transgression God's ancient people were given into the hands of Pharaoh who oppressed them for 400 years. Despite the great deliverances wrought for them in Egypt and at the Red Sea they nevertheless forgot the Lord their God with the result that they were given into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia who oppressed them eight years. Delivered again and again from their enemies by such warriors as Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Barak, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson and David they nevertheless refused to profit by the sad experiences of the past.

Their cup of iniquity filled, the indignation began by Nebuchadnezzar, was continued with increased force and fury by the Syrian madman Antiochus. A king of fierce countenance, Satan inspired and directed, by cruelty and craftiness he devastated the holy land and ruthlessly murdered the holy people who dared to disobey him.

The Holy People

The Jews were God's chosen, separated, elect people in Old Testament times. The God of the Bible is a holy God and it is impossible to conceive of a holy God being content with less than holiness in His people.

"Holiness" is the key word of the book of Leviticus. God's people are commanded to be holy. By precept and promise God has urged holiness upon His followers. Holy men, moved by the Holy Ghost, penned the Holy Word of God which we call the Bible and we are assured that without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

See Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:8; Matthew 5:48; Psalm 24:3-4; I Thessalonians 4:3; I Thessalonians 5:23-24; I Peter 1:15-16.

Not by his own power

The perfidy of the priests, the treachery of the Jews, and the subtle power of Satan enabled Antiochus Epiphanes to prosper and practice and mightily destroy the people of God.

Filled with the devil the Syrian madman was to practice his cruelty and sacrilege in the Holy land, against God's holy sanctuary and chosen people. Peace and prosperity were to be two of his deceitful pass-words and slogans thus foreshadowing the future Antichrist of the last days and end times. All cries of peace, peace when there is no peace and while the prince of peace is absent, are deceitful and damnable. Apart from Christ there is no peace for individuals or nations. The coming and power of Antiochus Epiphanes like the future coming of the Antichrist was after the working of Satan with all power and lying wonders and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness (II Thessalonians 2:9-10). The dragon gave him his power (Revelation 13:2).

The prince of princes

These words look beyond the Jewish High Priest to the High Priest who is now on High and who is earth's rightful Prince, King, and Lord. Christ is the Prince of princes, King of kings and Lord of lords.

He shall be broken without hand

Antiochus Epiphanes conquered the south (Egypt) and then marched toward the pleasant land (Palestine). After humiliating the Jews he exalted himself even over the prince of the host (High Priest) took away the continual burnt offering (stopped Jewish worship) and profaned the temple. He set up heathen altars, sacrificed swine's flesh daily, and greatly oppressed God's people. His was broken without hand. The Hand of God was against him as it will be against the coming Antichrist.

I Daniel fainted and was sick

Here is proof positive if such were needed that sickness is not always the result of sin. Sickness may come from Satan as in the case of Job or as a judgment because of sin as in Exodus 15:26 or because of unworthy approach to the Lord's table as in I Corinthians 11:30 or it may actually be produced as a superabundance of divine revelation and sympathy with the sorrow stricken saints of God. In Daniel we see a saint in such personal sympathy with the approaching sorrows of his own people because of their sins that he actually fainted and was sick certain days. He wept with those about to weep.

~ end of chapter 8 ~

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