

In the ancient manuscripts, the Book of Daniel here resumes using the Hebrew language. The section from [Dan 2:4](#) to [Dan 7:28](#) was written in Aramaic.

As noted before, this is because the first 7 chapters are more directed at the gentile nations and the last 5 chapters find their focus shifted to the Nation of Israel.

[\(Daniel 8:1 NKJV\)](#) In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared *to me*—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.

It's been 2 years since the last vision of the four beasts.

[\(Daniel 8:2 NKJV\)](#) I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I *was* in Shushan, the citadel, which *is* in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai.

Daniel appears to be awake during this vision. Some think he's in Babylon having a vision where he's in Shushan. Others believe he's in Shushan at a palace on the king's business (v27).

The vision is too important to get hung up on that detail.

[\(Daniel 8:3 NKJV\)](#) Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was **a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.** [\(Daniel 8:4 NKJV\)](#) I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor *was there any* that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great. [\(Daniel 8:5 NKJV\)](#) And as I was considering, **suddenly a male goat** came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without **touching the ground**; and the goat *had* a notable horn between his eyes. [\(Daniel 8:6 NKJV\)](#) Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power. [\(Daniel 8:7 NKJV\)](#) And I saw him confronting the ram; he was **moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns.** There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand. [\(Daniel 8:8 NKJV\)](#) **Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.**

There's enough similarity to some of the other vision to pause here to say that the Ram with 2 horns is Median-Persian empire/kingdom while the goat was the Grecian kingdom. This will be confirmed in the interpretation.

[\(Daniel 8:9 NKJV\)](#) **And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious *Land*.**

Most agree that the Glorious Land is Israel, the land flowing with milk and honey.

I liked what Pastor Guzik wrote about this:

- It is the *nerve center* of civilization since the days of Abraham

- It is the *truth center* from which flowed God's revelation to man
- It is the *storm center* of warring nations since the days of Joshua
- It will be the *peace center* of the earth during the millennial reign of Jesus
- It will be the *home center* for the Jewish people forever more

Once again a little horn appears. Is this the same little horn as in chapter 7?

(Daniel 8:10 NKJV) And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down *some* of the host and *some* of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.

These are symbols used in the Old Testament for angels, kings and leaders, or the people of God at large. Here it is fulfilled in Antiochus Epiphanes and his attacks against rulers and God's people in general.

Genesis 15:5 NKJV Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Exodus 12:41 KJV And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

So, this 'little horn' appears to come against God's people and he seems to be able to come against them and trample them down.

(Daniel 8:11 NKJ) He even exalted *himself* as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily *sacrifices* were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.

Yes, he sounds like the little horn in chapter 7

Daniel 7:8 NKJV I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

Daniel 7:20-21 NKJV and the ten horns that *were* on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance *was* greater than his fellows. **(21)** "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,

(Daniel 8:12 NKJV) Because of transgression, an army was given over *to the horn* to oppose the daily *sacrifices*; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did *all this* and prospered.

Whoever this is, he is allowed by God to stop the daily sacrifices in the Temple and to come against the Truth of the One True God of Israel!

(Daniel 8:13 NKJV) Then I heard a holy one speaking; and *another* holy one said to that certain *one*

who was speaking, "How long *will* the vision *be, concerning* the daily *sacrifices* and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?"

Instead of Daniel asking, another "holy one" asked yet another "holy one" how long will this be?" How long will it take to end the sacrifices, perform a great transgression and ruin the Temple and God's people?

[\(Daniel 8:14 NKJV\)](#) And he said to me, "**For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.**"

Again, God is precise. We will take this on as we see the interpretation.

THE INTERPRETATION

(Daniel 8:15 NKJV) Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. (Daniel 8:16 NKJV) And I heard a man's voice between *the banks of* the Ulai, who called, and said, "**Gabriel, make this *man* understand the vision.**"

Yes, this is the same Gabriel who announced the coming of the Messiah to Zacharias (John's father) and to Mary (Jesus' mother). (Luke 1:19, 26)

Weird way of saying it: could be 'bring this man understanding...'

(Daniel 8:17 NKJV) So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision *refers* to the time of the end." "time of the end" does not necessarily mean the "End of Days". It depends on the context in which it is said.

Daniel faints dead-away! I've never seen an angel but I suspect that I too would faint at the sight of one so great!

(Daniel 8:18 NKJV) Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright.

Awakened from his "faint", Daniel is raised up onto his feet again. He is still in the vision!

(Daniel 8:19 NKJV) And he said, "Look, I am making known to you **what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end *shall be*.**

We know that the vision concerns the time of the Medo-Persian Empire and then the Greek empire. So, how can it be considered the "latter time" or the appointed time of the "end"?

This has given some heart-burn because we have already seen (and will have confirmed) that the prophecy of was fulfilled in the days of the Medo-Persian and Greek Empires. The terms **time of the end** and **latter time of the indignation** commonly refer to what we think of as the *end times*, not events fulfilled more than a 100 years before the birth of Jesus.

The answer is that though this prophecy is fulfilled in the Greek timeframe and it also has a **later fulfillment** in the End of End days as we will see.

(Daniel 8:20 NKJV) The ram which you saw, having the two horns—*they are* the kings of **Media and Persia**.

This aligns with the bear of Daniel 7:5. The bear had a lopsided shape which was interpreted as a smaller Median kingdom being consumed by the larger Persian Kingdom.

(Daniel 8:21 NKJV) And the male goat **is the kingdom of Greece**. The large horn that *is* between its eyes *is* the first king.

Greece was Alexander the Great's kingdom. This is the fast leopard in Dan 7:6; It had four wings and four heads.

God used this man to spread Greek culture across this part of the world. One side-effect was that it helped to prepare the known world to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ because of Greek became the common language of the civilized world - and the language of the New Testament.

(Daniel 8:22 NKJV) As for the broken *horn* and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

Alexander died before stating his wishes for the continuance of the empire. He had 4 generals who divided the kingdom under their respective power and territories:

- Cassander, ruling over Greece and its region
- Lysimachus, ruling over Asia Minor
- Ptolemy, ruling over Egypt
- **Seleucus, ruling over Syria and Israel's land**

(Daniel 8:23 NKJV) "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.

(Daniel 8:24 NKJV) His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and *also* the holy people. **(Daniel 8:25**

NKJV) "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt *himself* in his heart. He shall destroy many in *their* prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without *human* means.

Daniel 8:9-12 NKJV And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious *Land*. **(10)** And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down *some* of the host and *some* of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. **(11)** He even exalted *himself* as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily *sacrifices* were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. **(12)** Because of transgression, an army was given over *to the horn* to oppose the daily *sacrifices*; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did *all this* and prospered.

This little horn is identified as the historical figure of Antiochus IV Epiphanes who ruled over Syria and Israel's land under the Seleucid dynasty.

As generals will do, 2 of them fought. And, of course, the fight was over Israel. It was fought over between the dynasties of Seleucid and Ptolemy, but the Seleucids gained control over the region in the days of Antiochus III (198 B.C.).

And, as leaders/kings do, they will do anything to stay in power and those who are close to the throne will do anything to get the throne. So, Antiochus IV gained the throne by murdering his brother. Antiochus IV legitimized his rule mainly through flattery and bribery.

Once in power, Antiochus IV created the title "*Epiphanes*" meaning, "the manifest god". The Jews turned it into "*Epimanes*" meaning, "madman."

This is the little horn of the once great Greek empire.

Antiochus Epiphanes is sometimes called the “antichrist of the Old Testament.” He prefigures the Antichrist of the end times.

Some see this Antiochus and Antichrist connection, and some do not. Martin Luther wrote, “This chapter in Daniel refers both to Antiochus and Antichrist.” John Calvin wrote, “Hence Luther, indulging his thoughts too freely, refers this passage to the masks of Antichrist.” (Guzik)

Going back to v12, we can see the fulfillment in this madman.

V12: Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices: This was fulfilled in the terrors of Antiochus Epiphanes. The Jews were not innocent victims. There was much immorality and apostasy going on during this time. Many were taking up idolatry again with the Greek gods. There was even corruption in the Priesthood.

Let me read some of what was recorded in the 1st book of the Maccabees chapter 1:

**21 And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof,
22 And the table of the shewbread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials. and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crown, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off.
23 He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels: also he took the hidden treasures which he found.
24 And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre, and spoken very proudly.**

**43 Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath.
44 For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Juda that they should follow the strange laws of the land,
45 And forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days:
46 And pollute the sanctuary and holy people:
47 Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts:
48 That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation:
49 To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances.
50 And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die.**

**54 Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side;
55 And burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets.
56 And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire.
57 And whosoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any**

committed to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death.

58 Thus did they by their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities.

59 Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God.

This OT Antichrist has many parallels to the NT Antichrist:

Antiochus (8:9) and the antichrist (7:8) are both symbolized by little horns that grew into great horns

Antiochus looked fierce (8:23) and the antichrist will have an imposing look (7:20)

Antiochus was a master of intrigue (8:23); the brilliance of the antichrist is suggested by the "eyes" of the little horn (7:8,20)

Antiochus had great power (8:24); the antichrist will have even greater power (11:39, 2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:7-8)

Antiochus was "energized" by Satan (8:24) just as antichrist will be empowered by Satan (2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:2);

Antiochus destroyed thousands (8:25); antichrist will destroy more (Rev 13:15; 16-13-16);

Antiochus prospered for a short time (8:25) and so will the antichrist (Dan 11:36; Rev 13:7);

Antiochus persecuted the Jews (8:24) as will the antichrist (Dan 7:21, 25; Rev 12:13);

Antiochus was a deceiver (8:25); antichrist will be a master deceiver (2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:4,14, 19:11);

Antiochus was proud (8:25); antichrist will be a megalomaniac (7:8, 11, 20, 25; Rev 13:5)

Antiochus blasphemed God (8:25) and so will the antichrist (7:25, 11:36)

Antiochus was not killed with human hands (8:25); and neither will the antichrist (2 Thess 2:8; Rev 19:19-20)

Antiochus died about 100 years before the end of his kingdom; then, this kingdom was followed by the 4th beast – Rome.

While there is disagreement with how he died, here's one account:

The Lord the God of Israel ... struck him with an incurable and an invisible plague ... a dreadful pain in his bowels came upon him, and bitter torments of the inner parts. ... Worms swarmed out of the body of this man, and whilst he lived in sorrow and pain, his flesh fell off, and the filthiness of his smell was noisome ... no man could endure to carry [him], for the intolerable stench. Being admonished by the scourge of God, his pains increasing every moment. He himself could not now abide his own stench. ... Then this wicked man prayed to the Lord ... to obtain mercy. ... Yea also, that he would become a Jew himself, and would go through every place of the earth, and declare the power of God. But his pains not ceasing (for the just judgment of God was come upon him) Thus the murderer and blasphemer, being grievously struck ... died a miserable death. [2 Machabees 9:5-28](#)

[\(Daniel 8:26 NKJV\)](#) "And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore **seal up the vision**, For *it refers* to many days *in the future*."

Daniel must do this because in his day the vision referred to a period far distant in its ultimate fulfillment. But for us:

[Revelation 1:3 NKJV](#) Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

And in light of [Revelation 22:10 NKJV](#) And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

[\(Daniel 8:27 NKJV\)](#) And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.

Daniel probably couldn't understand why God would allow such a mighty persecutor of His people to rise up. After all, weren't they already living in captivity?

Daniel didn't let either spiritual mysteries or physical weakness keep him from doing his duty.

Daniel always honored the kings he was subject to. If Daniel could do that for a Gentile king, how much more should we be about our King's business, one who was made just like us and yet is the perfect GOD:MAN, Christ Jesus?

Many of us struggle with how to apply these things to our lives. Much of this prophecy was fulfilled in

the past, with much of it to be fulfilled in the future, and according to our view, after we are taken Home to be with our Bridegroom. Here are a couple of thoughts:

1. This must have a huge impact on our faith. What God said He would do, He will most certainly do. God will move heaven and earth to have His perfect plans and His good pleasure manifested throughout His entire creation. Those plans, and His good pleasure involve His most treasured possession: His Children. No believer can look at the Cross of Christ and not see His love for us!
2. The times that are prophesized may not involve us directly (this is how I see it). However, it may involve many we know and love in this life. Let us reach out to any and all that have ears to hear. We can only sow seeds and then trust the LORD for the rest. If you cannot get out to do so, then invite them into our fellowship where the Word of God is heard and where God the Word is glorified. MANY have never heard the “true” Truth. They either remember old stories from Sunday schools decades earlier or have heard some facsimile that just scratches “itching ears”. Or, they have been hurt and angered by some so-called Christians who are hypocrites wearing a false mask of righteousness and judge and condemn anyone who does not meet their contrived standards of behavior or their religion. Or they have heard a watered-down gospel of lies and half-truths. These people need an honest, transparent fellowship of loving, caring and kind people...like us!

Extra Notes for the 2300 day timetable (provided by Guzik in his commentary on Daniel).

For two thousand three hundred days: Literally, Daniel heard a holy one say “**two thousand three hundred mornings and evenings.**” Bible students debate if this means 2,300 days or 1,150 days. 2,300 days is almost seven years.

i. Either understanding is possible, but it is more likely that this means 2,300 days. The date when the temple was cleansed is well established as December 25, 165 B.C. If we count back 2,300 days from then, we come to the year when Antiochus Epiphanes began his persecution in earnest (171 B.C.).

ii. However, if we take it to mean 1,150 days it can refer to the time the temple was actually desecrated. Philip Newell makes this case: “For a duration of time during which 2300 daily sacrifices would ordinarily have been offered, one at evening and one in the morning, as specified in [Exo 29:38-43](#). Since there are two of these daily, the actual time period involved is 1150 days, or slightly over three years. This, in fact, was the time of the Maccabean tribulation, 168-165 B.C., at the end of which the sanctuary was ‘cleansed’ by Judas Maccabeus in his restoration of the evening and morning sacrifices ([2Ma 10:1-5](#)).”

iii. This passage has been a favorite springboard for elaborate and fanciful prophetic interpretations. A popular and tragic interpretation of this passage took one year for every day, and William Miller used 2,300 “year-days” to calculate that Jesus would return in 1844 (2,300 years after Cyrus issued the decree to rebuild the temple). His movement ended up giving birth to the Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and several other movements.

iv. We can know that Miller and other “year-day” theories are wrong because this passage was fulfilled before the time of Jesus. Jesus recognized that the temple was properly **cleansed** and rededicated when He attended the Feast of Lights, commemorating the cleansing and rededication of the temple after the desecration brought by Antiochus Epiphanes ([Joh 10:22](#)).

v. Adam Clarke comments show what a hold the year-date approach had to many of his time: “Though literally it be *two thousand three hundred evenings and mornings*, yet I think the *prophetic day* should be understood here, as in other parts of this prophet, and must signify so many *years*. If we date these years from the vision of the he-goat, (Alexander’s invading Asia), this was A.M. 3670, B.C. 334; and *two thousand three hundred years* from that time will reach to A.D. 1966, or *one hundred and forty-one years* from the present A.D. 1825.” There is no foundation for Clarke’s approach, and it has led many off into serious error.

d. This amazingly specific prophecy was written some 350 years before the time of Antiochus Epiphanes. Great prophetic fulfillment like this demonstrates that God not only *knows* the future, He also *guides* the future.