

The Setup: Can you trust your Bible?

The Structure:

- Chapter 1 – Daniel & Israel in Captivity (written in Hebrew)
- Chapters 2-7 – **Prophecies** concerning the destiny of the _____ Nations (written in Aramaic)
- Chapters 8-12 – **Prophecies** concerning the destiny of _____ (written in Hebrew)

- Why is prophecy in the Bible?
- Why did God give Daniel & the Israelites this information about their **future**?
- Why does God want **us** to understand that **history**?

*** Listen with a _____

The Setting (8:1-2):

(8:1 - NASB) In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent to the one which appeared to me previously.

(2) I looked in the vision, and while I was looking I was in the citadel of Susa, which is in the province of Elam; and I looked in the vision and I myself was beside the Ulai Canal.

- 3rd year of Belshazzar
- citadel of Susa (Ulai Canal)
- Daniel... looked in the vision

The Show (8:3-19):

(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.

(4) I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no *other* beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and magnified *himself*.

(20) The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.

- Cyrus II (the Great) of Persia

- Isaiah 45

<p>(5) While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground; and the goat <i>had</i> a conspicuous horn between his eyes.</p> <p>(6) He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath.</p> <p>(7) I saw him come beside the ram, and he was enraged at him; and he struck the ram and shattered his two horns, and the ram had no strength to withstand him. So he hurled him to the ground and trampled on him, and there was none to rescue the ram from his power.</p>	<p>(21) The shaggy goat <i>represents</i> the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king.</p>
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- Kingdom of Greece
- Alexander the Great - "*conspicuous horn*"

- "*from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground*"

<p>(8) Then the male goat magnified <i>himself</i> exceedingly. But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken; and in its place there came up four conspicuous <i>horns</i> toward the four winds of heaven.</p>	<p>(22) The broken <i>horn</i> and the four <i>horns that</i> arose in its place <i>represent</i> four kingdoms <i>which</i> will arise from <i>his</i> nation, although not with his power.</p>
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- Alexander's exaltation and demise

- Four horns/Four Kingdoms
 - o Cassander - *Greece (West)*
 - o Lysimachus - *Thrace/Asia Minor (North)*
 - o Seleucus - *Syria/Babylon (East)*
 - o Ptolemy - *Egypt/Palestine (South)*
 - o Antigonus

<p>(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 <i>Land</i>.</p>	<p>(23) In the latter period of their rule, When the transgressors have run <i>their course</i>, A king will arise,</p>
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- Antiochus IV (*Seleucid Greek Empire*)
 - o "*beautiful land*"

- "*transgressors have run their course*"

<p>(10) It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down.</p> <p>(11) It even magnified <i>itself</i> to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down.</p> <p>(12) And on account of transgression the host will be given over <i>to the horn</i> along with the regular sacrifice; and it will fling truth to the ground and perform <i>its will</i> and prosper.</p> <p>(13) Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, “How long will the vision <i>about</i> the regular sacrifice apply, while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host to be trampled?”</p>	<p>(23) Insolent and skilled in intrigue.</p> <p>(24) His power will be mighty, but not by his <i>own</i> power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform <i>his will</i>; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.</p> <p>(25) And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify <i>himself</i> in his heart, And he will destroy many while <i>they are</i> at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes,</p>
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- Character of Antiochus
- Magnification & Desecration of Antiochus
- Horrors of Antiochus

<p>(14) He said to me, “For 2,300 evenings <i>and</i> mornings; then the holy place will be properly restored.”</p>	<p>(25) But he will be broken without human agency. (26) The vision of the evenings and mornings Which has been told is true;</p>
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- “2300 evenings and mornings”
 - o Feast of Dedication
- End of Antiochus

<p>(15) When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man.</p> <p>(16) And I heard the voice of a man between <i>the banks of Ulai</i>, and he called out and said, “Gabriel, give this <i>man</i> an understanding of the vision.”</p> <p>(17) So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, “Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end.”</p> <p>(18) Now while he was talking with me, I sank into a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me and made me stand upright.</p> <p>(19) He said, “Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for <i>it</i> pertains to the appointed time of the end.</p>	<p>(26) But keep the vision secret, For <i>it</i> pertains to many days <i>in the future</i>.”</p> <p>(27) Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up <i>again</i> and carried on the king’s business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain <i>it</i>.</p>
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- “Keep the vision secret”
- Historical fulfillment of Daniel 8
- Beyond historical fulfillment – “time of the end,” “final period of indignation,” “appointed time”

Parallels between Antiochus & Antichrist (*New American Commentary*)

1. Antiochus (8:9) and Antichrist (7:8) are symbolized by horns that were “little” or “small” at the beginning. Representing both kings as little horns supports the idea that one king prefigures the other.
2. Antiochus was “a stern-faced king” (8:23), and Antichrist will have an “imposing” look (7:20). Both of these descriptions imply cruelty and harshness.
3. Antiochus was “a master of intrigue” (8:23), and the brilliance of the Antichrist is suggested by the “eyes” of the horn (7:8, 20). The ability to offer seemingly correct solutions to the world’s perplexing problems may be one factor that will catapult Antichrist to power.
4. Antiochus had great power (8:24); Antichrist will have greater power (cf. 11:39; 2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:7–8). Yet 8:24 says that it was not Antiochus’s “own power.” His power was that of Satan, who controlled him, and this satanic inspiration was the reason he attempted to destroy God’s people, the Jews. Antichrist also will be energized by Satan (cf. 2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:2), and this is one reason he will attack God’s people as well.
5. Antiochus destroyed thousands (8:24); Antichrist will destroy more (Rev 13:15; 16:13–16).
6. Antiochus prospered for a short while (8:24), and Antichrist will prosper for a brief time (11:36; Rev 17:12).
7. Antiochus persecuted the saints (8:24); Antichrist also will oppress believers (7:21, 25; Rev 13:7).
8. Antiochus was a deceiver (8:25); Antichrist will be the master deceiver (2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:4, 14; 19:20).
9. Antiochus was proud (8:25). He called himself Epiphanes (“the illustrious one” or “God manifest”), although the Jews called him Epimanes (“madman”). Antichrist, however, will be one of the most arrogant individuals the world has ever known (7:8, 11, 20, 25; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:5).
10. Antiochus blasphemed God (8:25); Antichrist will blaspheme God (7:25; 11:36; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:5–6).
11. Antiochus was not killed by human hand (8:25), nor will be the Antichrist (2 Thess 2:8; Rev 19:19–20).

The So-what:

Why did God give Daniel & the Israelites this information about their **future**?

Why does God want **us** to understand that **history**?

Daniel 8 – Big Idea = God is sovereign over all things and His Word can be trusted

10 Things God Can Be Trusted With:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Discussion Questions

1. Which elements of this story/vision interest you enough to do more research on your own and why? (Suggestion: if you have never read 1&2 Maccabees, you should. It will help you understand some of the history “between” the Old and New Testaments.)

2. Read Isaiah 45:1-6 and explain how that passage relates to Daniel 8. Think not only of the details that may be parallels to each other, but also the principles that are the same.

3. How does the message of Daniel 8 help you in trusting God’s Word? How can you demonstrate that you trust it?

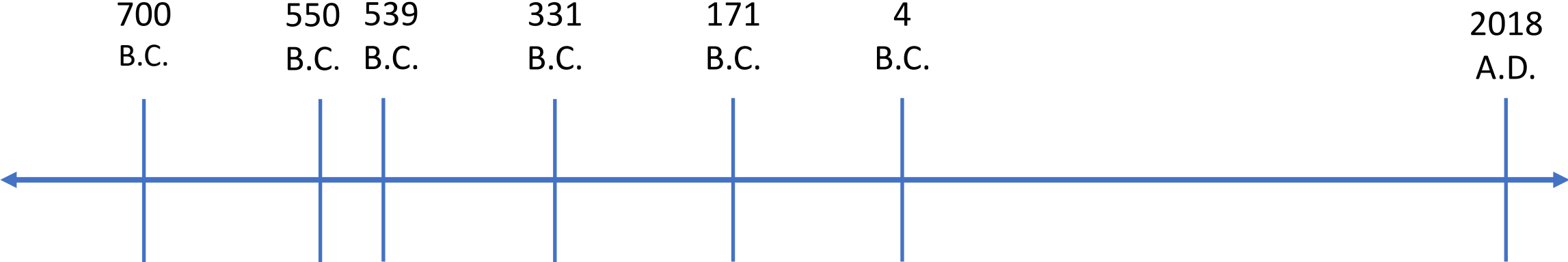
4. Gabriel told Daniel that the vision had to do with the “time of the end” and the “final indignation.” Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12. List the elements of the description of the “man of lawlessness” that seem to directly correlate to the vision here in Daniel 8. (Extra credit: Read Revelation 12-13 and make the same list. Hint: this may take a while, but it’s worth it. Come talk to me if you have questions. 😊)

5. How should this prophecy have affected the Jews who were captives in Babylon in Daniel’s lifetime? How does that apply to us today?

6. One of the main themes of Daniel 8 is that we should trust in God and His Word, not in ourselves or other men (even if they seem to be invincible). In what specific ways can this passage assist you in trusting God?

7. Who do you know that needs to hear the truth of Daniel 8? How can you share it with them?

Timeline Perspective





Legend: ■ Babylonian kingdom

THRACE

Byzantium

Asia Minor (Turkey)

Pergamum

Gordion

Sardis

Miletus

Colossae

Halys River

Lake Tuz

Kayseri

Malatya

CIMMERIA

Cyrus River
Araxes River

CASPIAN SEA

Lake Van

Lake Urmia

IZALLA

KUE

Tarsus

Carchemish

Harran

Nisibis

T. Brak

Nineveh

Hasanlu

Calah (Nimrud)

Arbela

Assur

Arrapha

Hamath

Terqa

Tadmor

Tekrit

Ecbatana

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Sidon

Damascus

Israel

Babylon (Iraq)

Sippar

Der

Babylon

Susa

Susa (Iran)

SUMER

ELAM

CHALDEA

LIBYA

Memphis

Egypt

Serabit el-Khadim

Ezion-geber

Rabbah (Amman)

Jerusalem

Gaza

Arabian Desert

Tema

Sahara Desert

Nile River

Thebes

RED SEA

PERSIAN GULF



Prophecy by Isaiah 135-150 years before Cyrus

Isaiah 45:1 This is what the Lord says to Cyrus, his *anointed one*, whose right hand he will empower. Before him, mighty kings will be paralyzed with fear. Their fortress gates will be opened, never to shut again.

2 This is what the Lord says: “I will go before you, Cyrus, and level the mountains. I will smash down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.

3 And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness— secret riches.

I will do this so you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, the one who calls you by name.

4 “And why have I called you for this work? *Why did I call you by name when you did not know me?* It is for the sake of Jacob my servant, Israel my chosen one.

5 I am the Lord; there is no other God.

I have equipped you for battle, though you don't even know me,

6 so all the world from east to west will know there is no other God.

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

Alexander the Great



- Alexander route from Pella
- Alexander route from Memphis
- Alexander route from Babylon
- Alexander route to Babylon
- Battle
- Antigonid kingdom



Battle of Granicus River

Alexander decisively defeats Darius III (331 B.C.)

Alexander wins major victory over Darius III (333 B.C.)

Sahara Desert

Arabian Desert

ARABIAN SEA

Proverbs 16:18-20

18 *Pride goes* before **destruction**,

And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

19 It is **better to be humble in spirit** with the lowly

Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

20 He who gives **attention to the word** will *find good*,

And **blessed is he who trusts in the Lord**.

Division of Alexander's Kingdom



Antiochus IV (“Epiphanes”)



Horrors of Antiochus

In an act of brazen disrespect, Antiochus raided the temple in Jerusalem, stealing its treasures, setting up an altar to Zeus, and sacrificing swine on the altar. When the Jews expressed their outrage over the profaning of the temple, Antiochus responded by slaughtering a great number of the Jews and selling others into slavery. He issued even more draconian decrees: performing the rite of circumcision was punishable by death, and Jews everywhere were ordered to sacrifice to pagan gods and eat pig flesh.”
(GotQuestions.org)

2 Maccabees 5:11-14

Raging like a wild animal, he set out from Egypt and took Jerusalem by storm. He ordered his soldiers to cut down without mercy those whom they met and to slay those who took refuge in their houses. There was a massacre of young and old, a killing of women and children, a slaughter of virgins and infants. In the space of three days, eighty thousand were lost, forty thousand meeting a violent death, and the same number being sold into slavery.

10 Things to Trust God With

1. Trust Him with our government leaders, even when it seems they're going crazy
2. Trust Him with our personal circumstances, even suffering and persecution
3. Trust Him to bring justice on the wicked
4. Trust Him when we are being chastised for our sin
5. Trust Him with the future (learn what He says about the future beyond Daniel)
6. Trust Him when we take His message to others
7. Trust Him that His Word can and will change your life
8. Trust Him to save your soul and give you the hope of eternal life
9. Trust Him even when we don't understand God's word
10. Trust Him that His kingdom will ultimately prevail

