

## Daniel 8 – The Ram, The Goat, and the Little Horn

- Kings and kingdoms rise and fall, but still one KING reigning over all
- Prophetic scriptures - these chapters help us understand how to read about prophecy
- History - when seen from Biblical perspective, is simply God's unfolding plan for the ages
- Daniel, when seen in the context of many other scriptures (2 Thessalonians) is a hope-filled book

**This chapter is a battleground text for those that challenge the authenticity and authority of scripture - their reason? "There is no way it could be that accurate."**

### The Ram

- The ram was the national symbol and on all the coins of the Persian Empire.
- The Medo-Persian Kingdom had two portions, and the Persian part dominated the Median part.
- The Medo-Persian empire conquers first westward, then northward, then southwestward

### The Goat

- Alexander the Great - became king at age twenty, had conquered much of the known world at the time (empire stretching from Greece to Egypt to India) by the time of his death by age 32.
- The only thing more incredible than the extent of his military prowess and the lands that he conquered is how quickly he accomplished it.

**...but the great horn is broken into four**

- From the goat with one horn (Alexander the Great), comes four horns (the four generals that divide up Alexander the Great's kingdom): Ptolemy, Cassander, Antigones, Seleucid.



### **“...out of one of them came a little horn...”**

- The little horn - Antiochus IV, known as Antiochus Epiphanes from the Seleucid kingdom
  - He is a type of the little horn that will come at the end of time already discussed in Daniel 7—the Lawless One (Antichrist).
- *Epiphanes* - “illustrious,” “glorious,” - manifest that is god-like. Known as *Epimanes* (“madman”)
- Antiochus made a decree outlawing Jewish rites and worship, ordering the Jews to worship Zeus rather than Yahweh. He wasn’t just trying to Hellenize the Jews but to totally eliminate all traces of Jewish culture.
- The persecution of the Jewish people was so tremendously oppressive that it represents a type of the lawless one that will come.

### **“...the place of the sanctuary was overthrown...”**

- Antiochus raided the temple in Jerusalem, stealing its treasures, setting up an altar to Zeus, and sacrificing swine on the altar.

### **“...2,300 evenings and mornings...”**

- How long did this desecration last? Two thousand three hundred days; it's recorded in history from September 6, 171 BC, to December 25, 164 BC. Maccabean revolt 167 - 160 BC.
- This prophecy is stunning in its accuracy, precision in detail, and the magnitude of its impact

## **Key themes from this chapter**

1. The types of the lawless one represent a wickedness far greater than the kingdoms of this world.
2. Satan is always opposing God and his people, particularly the worship of God as the one true God
3. Chapters like Daniel 8, especially with the perspective that we have with chapters like 2 Thessalonians, gives us great comfort and assurance – and we know that vengeance is the Lord’s
  - a. To see the level of detail, precision, omniscience, and providence in this chapter - this is a tremendous comfort to us.
4. We see throughout scripture that God will allow (for a time) judgment like this to cleanse, chasten, prove, and purify his people.
5. Faithfulness in the “ordinary” – the book of Daniel is full of examples of day-to-day devotion that may seem unremarkable at the time, but are seen by the Ancient of Days who inhabits eternity.