

There are 3 views for interpreting Daniel 8:

1. *Historical* – already fulfilled by *Antiochus only* (held by amillennial & liberals)
2. *Futuristic* – not yet fulfilled (refers to *Antichrist only*) – not a popular view.
3. *Dual fulfillment* – prophecy of *both* Antiochus & Antichrist. Both are in view in Daniel 8.

### 8:20-22 – The Interpretation of the Ram and the Shaggy Goat

The ram that you saw with the 2 horns: these are the kings of Media & Persia. <sup>21</sup> The goat is the king of Greece. The great horn between his eyes is the 1st king. <sup>22</sup> As for the broken horn, in place of which 4 others arose: 4 kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power.

The ram represents Media / Persia. The goat represents Greece; the large horn is its 1st king. 4 horns replaced this large horn; 4 lesser kingdoms arose from Alexander's kingdom.

These verses 8:20-22 were fulfilled completely in the history of Medo-Persia and Greece.

### 8:23-26 – The Latter Time of the Kingdom

**Dan.8:23-26** And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. <sup>24</sup> His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction. He shall succeed in what he does and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. <sup>25</sup> By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. <sup>26</sup> The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”

These verses introduce a king with the following characteristics. He will:

- *Emerge in the latter part* of the 4 kingdoms of 8:22 when rebels are *completely wicked*.
- Be *strong & intelligent* to interpret riddles, deriving his great *power from another*.
- *Destroy Israel*, as part of his successful and astounding devastation.
- *Hatch plots and deceive* with increasing wickedness. 1 Macc.1:16-51
- *Exalt himself*, using *false peace* to create a false sense of security, *then destroy* many.
- *Oppose* (stand against) the *Prince of princes* & be *destroyed without human intervention*.

Antiochus appeared in the last half of the Greek Empire and tried to destroy Israel.

But the Dan.8:25 king opposes the Prince of princes; Christ had not been born in 170 BC.

If Dan.8:23-25 is the interpretation of Dan.8:9-12, it must be the same person in both passages.

### *The Time of the End and the Final World Ruler*

Antiochus died 100 years before the end of the Greek Empire, not in the latter part.

The latter times of these kingdoms may refer to the end of the times of the Gentiles.

The appointed time of the end is mentioned in Dan.9:26; 11:27, 35, 40; 12:4, 9, 13.

The king arises at a time “when rebels have become completely wicked”. 8:23 Jews returned to sinfulness after Babylon. God permitted the time of persecution under Antiochus.

This foreshadows the worst persecution, the “time of Jacob’s trouble” – Tribulation.

The Bible mentions complete wickedness 3 times: the flood, Sodom, & Tribulation.

See Gen.6:5, 18:32; 2 Tim.3:1-5; 2 Thes.2:1-12; Luke 17:26-30

The Dan.8:23 king comes when corruption is rampant because all restraints have been lifted. The king walks into this desperate situation offering attractive, sweet-sounding solutions. Before the world sees Christ return, many will embrace the counterfeit Antichrist. All Bible prophecies of Alexander and Antiochus certainly came true over 2100 years ago. All Bible prophecies of Antichrist will certainly come true in the future.

Apparently, Antiochus fulfilled the vision in part, foreshadowing the Antichrist. The Antichrist will persecute Israel and desecrate the temple even more than Antiochus did. The Antichrist, seemingly indestructible, will be destroyed at the 2nd Coming of Christ.

| <b>Antiochus: Preview of Antichrist</b>                              | <b>Antiochus</b>                  | <b>Antichrist</b>                              |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Boastful, blaspheming God  | Dan.8:25                          | Rev.13:5                                       |
| King was given great power   | Dan.8:24                          | Rev.13:2, 7                                    |
| Destroys many by false peace   | Dan.8:25, 9:27                    | Rev.6:2-3                                      |
| Opposes Christ, claims to be God                                     | Dan.8:25                          | 2 Thes.2:4                                     |
| Desecrating temple with an image, Abomination that causes desolation | Dan.8:11;<br>1 Maccabees 1:21, 54 | 2 Thes.2:4; Rev.13:14;<br>Dan.9:27; Matt.24:15 |
| Worship the image or die   | Dan.8:12-13, 24-25                | Rev.13:15                                      |
| Killed by a direct judgment of God                                   | 8:25; 2 Maccabees 9:5             | Rev.19:20; 2 Thes.2:8                          |

“Seal up the vision” in Dan.8:26 means to preserve it so that it could be communicated later. The purpose of the vision was to record the prophecy for future generations. Because of Daniel’s obedience to God, all generations of Christians can read this prophecy. It will be perhaps most meaningful to those who come to Christ during the Tribulation.

## **8:27 – The Vision’s Effect on Daniel – and Us**

**Dan.8:27** And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it.

The vision made Daniel feel sick for days – physically and psychologically devastated. Daniel must have seen in his vision the horrible atrocities of Antiochus.

God has given us the *whole plan* for the future – we now have the complete Bible.

We have the testimony of eyewitnesses who lived with Christ and saw Him risen.

Each believer has the indwelling Holy Spirit, giving strength, comfort and discernment.

How should we respond, knowing that Christ could come for us at any moment?

The unsaved fall into Satan’s trap 1 at a time, while Christian neighbors often ignore them.

Those saved before rapture will escape the wrath of Tribulation. 1 Thes.1:10, 5:9; Rev.3:10

People around us need to know that many prophecies recorded by Daniel have been fulfilled.

David Jeremiah: “If we really believed what Daniel has to tell us, it would change our lives.”

Out of 1000 Bible prophecies, about 500 have already proven 100% accurate.

The other 500 all relate to the future: the Rapture, the 2nd Coming and later events.

All Scripture (25% of which is prophecy) is intended to grow us and equip us to do God's will.

We have knowledge of Daniel’s vision, and we know the subsequent confirmation in history.

2 Tim.3:16-17; Phil.3:20-4:1, 4:4-9; Titus 2:11-13; 2 Peter 3:10-14

As ambassadors for Christ, studying Daniel should affect our conduct in every relationship.