

Daniel #3

What We've Learned This Far:

The stories in chapters 1-6 qualify and establish Daniel as an apocalyptic prophet.

There are three major prophecies/visions in Daniel 1-7.

The Statue Prophecy (Ch2)

The Tree Prophecy (Ch3)

The Beast Prophecy (Ch7)

The Statue and the Beast Prophecy mirror each other and concern kingdoms. The difference is The Beast Prophecy goes into to more detail about the 4th Beast (Rome) that will come in the future (Anti-Christ, etc).

The Tree Prophecy (Ch4) isn't like the other two. It only concerns Nebuchadnezzar.

The Statue (Ch2) and Beast (Ch7) Prophecies Combined

Timing	605 B.C.	538 B.C.	331 B.C.	168 B.C.
Daniel 7 (Flooring)	Lion with Eagle's Wings	Bear with Three Ribs	Leopard with Four Wings	Monster with 10 Horns
Daniel 2 (Subflooring)	Head of Gold	Chest of Silver	Thighs of Bronze	Legs of Iron
Kingdoms:	Babylon	Medo-Persia	Grecia	Rome

The Ten Horns of Rome (End of Ch7)

1. Ten Kingdoms from Roman Influence Rise
2. 4 of Those Align and Become Prominent (Possibly a Union of the Ten?)
3. 1 Will Slay the Other 3 By Virtue of the Little Horn (Anti-Christ Figure)
4. God's People Persecuted for "A Time, Times, and Half a Time (7 Years)
5. Ancient of Days and Son of Man Win In the End

Some Important Things to Think About Before Jumping into Daniel 8:

1. Daniel 8 is the one chapter in the Bible that gives the most detailed portrait on an Anti-Christ Figure, or someone who represents that opposite of "the Son of Man." As a result, chapter 8 deserves a Wednesday all unto itself (noticing a trend?)
2. Much of Daniel 8 (but not all), predicts the rise of an Anti-Christ figure who rose in the past from Greece. After Alexander the Great died, his kingdom was split into 4 parts. This figure arose from the Seleucid Region. His name was Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
3. Much of what happens in the future is historically anchored in events that have already happened in the past. It will be greater in scope and scale. So the best way to approach Daniel 8 is to (a) become somewhat familiar with a theological concept called an "archetype" (type of) as well become somewhat familiar with Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

About Archetypes Mentioned in the Bible

1. On a basic level as it pertains to Biblical Studies, an "archetype" is foreshadowing of sorts from the past that gets emulated in the future.
2. The best way to think of an "archetype" is to say the phrase "a type of."
3. For example, Joseph, Daniel, and Melchizedek were "archetypes" of Christ.
4. Similarly, Antiochus IV Epiphanes is an "archetype" of the future Anti-Christ.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes



1. The name "Epiphanes" means "god manifest."
2. After his near conquest of Egypt, he headed for Judea and brutally persecuted the Jews.
3. He made a decree in Judea outlawing Jewish worship, ordering them to worship Zeus instead.
4. To do this, he set up a statue of Zeus in the Jewish temple and sacrificed pigs (an abomination of desolation).
5. His persecutions and desecrations were the impetus for what's known as the Maccabean revolt (where we get Hanukkah).

Daniel 8: The Vision of the Ram and Goat

First Part of the Vision

³ I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. ⁴ I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great. (8:3-4)

How Gabriel Interpreted It

²⁰ As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia (8:20)

Explanation

Media came up first through King Darius. Then came Persia, which was bigger (one horn was higher than the other). At its height, the Persian Empire stretched across the ancient world nearly 2 million miles, all of which was conquered territory (ram charging N.S.E.W.)

Second Part of the Vision

⁵ As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. ⁶ He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. ⁷ I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power. ⁸ Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven. (8:5-8)

How Gabriel Interpreted It

²¹ And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. ²² As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power.

Explanation

Alexander the Great conquered Persia under the rule of Darius III in 336 BC. Soon after this event, Alexander died and his empire was divided among his 4 generals. They all became kingdoms, none of which resembled his power. They were the Ptolemaic (Egypt); the Seleucid (Asia); the Pergamon/Lysimachan (Anatolia/Greece) and the Macedonian/Cassanders. The Seleucid was the largest.

The Third Part of the Vision

⁹ 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 It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some^[a] of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. ¹¹ It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. ¹² And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. ¹³ Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?" ¹⁴ And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state." (8:9-14)

How Gabriel Interpreted It

²³ 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. ²⁴ His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. ²⁵ 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. (8:23-25)

Explanation

Antiochus IV Epiphanes rose from the Seleucids. He was of "bold face," "understood riddles," and "in his own mind" thought he was great. That's why he called himself Epiphanes. He set up the Abomination of Desolation in the Temple. It happened during the Intertestamental Period and lasted for 2,300 evenings and mornings. What's important to note here, however, is that the one who Daniel saw restore the temple to its rightful state was Judas Maccabaeus. In what is known as the Maccabean revolt, he repelled the Greeks (after Antiochus) from the land. The Zealots (i.e., Simon the Zealot) rose from this. It will not go like this in the future. Only Christ can defeat the Antiochus to come.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes as an Archetype

1. Antiochus IV Epiphanes was a real Anti-Christ figure who came as predicted in the past. But he is also an Archetype of the Anti-Christ who will come in the future.
2. Like Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the Anti-Christ will proclaim himself to be God.

³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (1 Thess 2:3-4)

3. Like Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the Anti-Christ will set up abominations that cause desolations in the temple (rebuilt)

¹⁵ “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. (Matt 24:15-18)

4. Like Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the Anti-Christ will practice deceit, bear false witness, persecute the people of God, and kill prophetic witnesses.

⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling,^[a] that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.^[b] And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it (Rev 13:5-8)

But the Anti-Christ of the Future Will Be Greater in Scope and Scale Than Antiochus IV Epiphanes

1. He will have a mortal wound that will be healed.

¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence,^[c] and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. (Rev. 13:12)

2. He will perform “miracles” because he is the offspring of the devil. What Jesus does, Satan will try to emulate (see: The Egyptian Magicians in Exodus)

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (2 Thess. 2:9)

3. He can only be defeated by Jesus, not Judas Maccabeus. And he will be.

¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev 20:10)