

Q – Why do you think God didn't just tell these various kings the future? It would have made Daniel's life a whole lot easier! (*So far, they have had to trust in this servant who claimed His God gave him this gift of miraculous interpretation of dreams and visions. When Daniel was right and they understood, they praised and the God of Daniel as the sovereign Almighty God. It was a great tool and no one could doubt that it was this God who designed. God is teaching the pagan world to trust in those servants that come in His name!*)

*That is a pretty important lesson for us. Everyone who sees us should know that what we say is 100% trustworthy because of the Almighty God we represent.

Background: You will notice as we begin reading that Daniel is digressing, going back to his time under Belshazzar's 3rd year as King, about 551 BC. Again Daniel is telling about the miraculous hand of God in his life, but this dream is a bit more confusing.

Read Daniel 8:1-4

- 1. To who is this strange dream given and when?** (*Remember before God gave the dream to King Nebuchadnezzar. Later God will give a dream to King Darius. But in between those kings, during King Belshazzar's reign God gives the dream with the imagery to Daniel. Strange twist. It will be interesting to see why God did this.*)

This vision was granted Daniel two years after the previous one (mentioned in Daniel 7:1). It somewhat resembles it in subject matter and in manner of presentation. It too portrays successive world empires as fierce beasts; and it also culminates in a tyrant described as a "little horn." Yet there are significant differences in detail between the two chapters, especially regarding the third and fourth kingdoms. Daniel received this new vision either at the Babylonian capital itself or while on a diplomatic mission to Susa, the capital of Elam. The scene Daniel saw in the vision was not Susa proper but rather the Ulai, a wide, artificial canal that flowed near the city. Ulai means "rebellion" or "the armies" an appropriate name for a canal where armies might sneak in and attack. Appropriately enough, this furnished the setting for the rise of the beast representing Persia.

- 2. What did Daniel see when he looked up?** (*A ram with 2 long horns standing beside the canal. Note that since the canal was often a shield for attacking armies, this makes perfect sense. One of the horns was longer than the other, but had not always been. It grew up later.*)
- 3. What did the ram do as Daniel watched?** (*He charged to the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against the ram. He did as he pleased and became great. No one was safe.*)

Q – Who do you see in this world today that is much like the ram in Daniel's vision? (*Isis; Putin and the Russian communist. This chapter can give us some great insight into our future when we get to the interpretation toward the end of the chapter.*)

Read Daniel 8:5-8

4. **What happens next as Daniel is trying to get a grasp on what he is seeing?** (*A goat with a prominent horn between his eyes, a uni-goat came from the west, crosses the whole earth without touching the ground. Okay it is a flying uni-goat!*)
5. **What does the goat do to the ram?** (*Attacked him furiously in a state of rage and shattered his 2 horns. The goat knocks the ram down and tramples him and no one was capable of stopping the goat's attack. He was too powerful.*)
6. **What happens to the goat after his great victory?** (*He became very great but at the height of his power his large horn between his eyes is broken off. In its place 4 prominent horns grew up toward the 4 winds of heaven.*)

Q – Can you think of any great ruler or kingdom that lasted? (*No. Rulers are always killed, die or are over powered by another. God is the only ruler and holds the only everlasting kingdom. That is a truth that we should be excited about, share with others and live a life of celebration when we know that is our true home now and forever!*)

Q – What do you think was the longest? (*Guinness Book of World Records says, “The Roman Empire is considered to have been the most enduring in history. The formal start date of the empire remains the subject of debate, but most historians agree that the clock began ticking in 27 BC, when the Roman politician Octavian overthrew the Roman Republic to become Emperor Augustus. Although Rome later fell to the Germanic “Barbarians” in AD 476, the ensuing “Eastern Empire” based at Constantinople is widely regarded as a continuation of the original Roman one. It wasn’t until the fall of the city in AD 1453 that the curtain finally came down on the empire, ending a period of dominance across Europe and beyond that had lasted for almost 1,500 years”.*)

Read Daniel 8:9-12

7. **When the goat's horn was broken off at the height of his power, four horns grew up in its place and faced toward the 4 winds. Then 1 grows up out of 1 of those. What does this new horn do?** (*It started small but grew in power to the south and the east and toward the Beautiful land. We will talk about this more in a minute, but this would refer to the land of Israel which Jeremiah refers to as the land God gives to His people (Jer. 3:19).*)
8. **Describe the actions of this great horn.** (*It kept growing until it reached the host of the heavens, meaning the godly Jewish believers in the land. It threw some of the starry hosts down to earth and trampled on them, relating to the killing of the Jews. It set itself up as the great Prince of the host, meaning equal to God. It took away the daily sacrifice to God and destroyed God's sanctuary. It grew rich and powerful and truth was thrown to the ground. Later we will see who this evil person is.*)

Q – Why do you suppose God doesn't just say the word and this maniac would be lifeless? (*God does everything in His time, for His glory and He will correct every crooked path and every deceitful tongue. God will not allow the oppressed to stay in the miry clay of oppression!*)

Read Daniel 8:13-14

9. **Daniel now hears 2 angels speaking. What is the question 1 angel asks?** (*How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation and the host to be trampled underfoot?*)

Q – How is that like the questions we Christians still ask God and one another today?

10. What answer does the 2nd angel give? (*It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconstructed. There were 2 daily sacrifices for the continual burnt offerings (Ex. 29:38-42), representing the atonement required of Israel as a whole. The 2,300 morning and evening sacrifices would be offered then on 1,150 days. That is the interval between the desecration of the Lord's altar and its reconstruction by Judas Maccabeus in 165 BC.*)

Now Daniel hears a man's voice, probably an angel who almost always appeared as a man, telling Gabriel the great angel of God to explain to Daniel the future events he has seen.

Read Daniel 8:15-19

11. What does Daniel do and why? (*He falls on his face because he was terrified at Gabriel's presence.*)

12. What does Gabriel say about the events Daniel has seen? (*The vision concerns the time of the end. All of the visions concerned the rise and fall of great empires. God always brought them down but this information was scene in history was going to be very specific. Daniel falls into somewhat of a trance until Gabriel touches him and stands him in his feet. Note that this particular event concerns a time of wrath and the appointed end of time.*)

13. How do we know that God has set a definite end of time? (*That is the story of the book of Revelation. Great evil and kingdoms rise and fall, there are famines, wars, diseases, plagues, oppression, and yet the mightiest of the mighty all combined cannot defeat God's Anointed One. The Messiah has already won and every arrogant little dictator or terrorist will stand before the Lord and be judged. God has set that time. He is only patient because He knows a few more who will turn to Him.*)

Q – Knowing that what should it do to our hunger to share the news of the All-Powerful God?

Read Daniel 8:20-25

14. Now God has Gabriel get very specific about the vision God sent Daniel. Who is the 2-horned ram and what happens to it? (*Media and Persia are the 2 horns on the ram. They are overthrown by the shaggy goat which is Greece. The large horn between the goat's eyes is the first king, Alexander the Great. He is removed and replaced by 4 horns that represent four kingdoms but they will be less powerful than the kingdom the first king of Greece held. With the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC the kingdom of Greece was divided between his 4 generals which can never be a good idea.*)

15. Describe the arrival of the final King that has come out of one of the 4 horns, starts out small and become powerful. (*He comes when rebels become incredibly wicked. He is a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue who becomes very strong, but by his own power. He was not the successor to the throne but he took it. He destroys mighty men and holy people, meaning the Jews. He stands against God and God destroys him, not man. The description is of the king Antiochus IV or Antiochus Epiphanes. He died in 164 BC by an illness or accident. God destroyed him. He was one of the most evil kings of Greece, the Seleucid Empire.*)

Q – It seemed no one can bring down this evil man who is destroying God's people, desecrating God's temple. But God does just as He said He would. Do you think that is still true today?

When these happenings were reported to the king, he thought that Judea was in revolt. 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.

-2 Maccabees 6:1-11

Read Daniel 8:26-27

- 16. Why was Daniel told to keep the vision private?** (*This had to do with events that would not take place for about 470 years. People would likely be paranoid not trust God.*)
- 17. What happens to Daniel?** (*He becomes ill for days. He was appalled by the vision because it was beyond what he was able to comprehend. Imagine, these kings have not been born yet.*)

What can we learn from this chapter that we can apply to our lives?

VISION OF DANIEL 8 WORKSHEET

RAM WITH 2 HORMS

- **HIS ACTIONS:**
- **THE RESULTS:**

GOAT WITH 1 HORN BETWEEN HIS EYES

- **HIS ACTIONS:**
- **THE RESULTS:**

SMALL HORN THAT GREW OUT OF THE FOUR HORNS OF THE GOAT

- **HIS ACTIONS:**
- **THE RESULTS:**

THE HOLY ONE

- **HIS ACTIONS:**
- **THE RESULTS:**