

# Daniel

## "Beasts, Angels and the End Times"

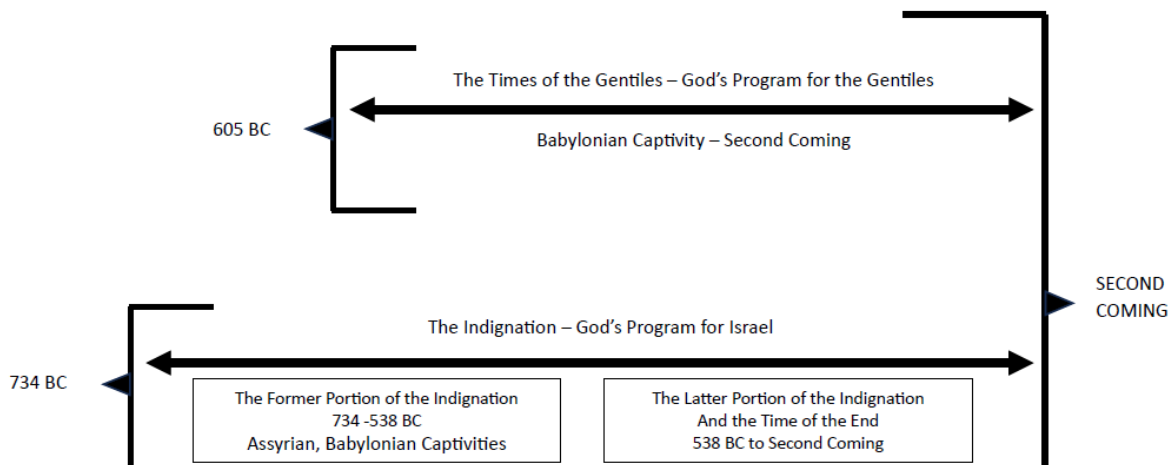
(Daniel 8:1-27)

**The Setting/Overview:** In light of the vision of Chapter 7, which shook Daniel up some, Daniel was probably asking himself, "If three more Gentile kingdoms are to dominate the world after Babylon, what would happen to Israel during this extensive period of time? In response, God gave Daniel three additional visions concerning the future of Israel. The vision of Chapter 8 was given two-three years after the vision of Chapter 7 (550 BC) and still eleven years before the events of Chapter 5 (Belshazzar's feast and its handwriting on the wall). Nebuchadnezzar had been dead for 12 years and Daniel was 69 years old.

<b>The Outline:</b>	A. Daniel's Second Vision Introduced (8:1) B. The Content of the Vision (8:2-14) C. The Interpretation of the Vision (8:15-26) D. Daniel's Reaction to the Vision (8:27)
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### Daniel's Dream – The Scenes

Daniel was in Susa at the Ulai Canal (2)	Four horns emerged from the one (8)
A Ram with two horns emerging (3)	Out of one horn came a Little Horn (9)
The Ram was strong and powerful (4)	The Little Horn gained strength (9)
A Goat with one horn ran from the west (5)	The Little Horn attacked Israel (10)
The Goat charged and struck the Ram (6-7)	The Little Horn attacked God (11)
The Ram was killed (7)	God gave the Little Horn success (11-12)
The Goat became strong (8)	Angels discuss the situation (13)
Soon after the single horn broke (8)	The Little Horn continues for 2300 days (14)



The indignation refers to the period of history during which God is indignant or angry with Israel because of their rebellion against him. It is the time when God chastens Israel, normally at the hands of the Gentiles. The indignation included Israel's conquest and cruel treatment by Assyria (Isaiah 10:5, 25), and Judah's conquest and captivity by Babylon (Lamentations 2:6, Zechariah 1:12) and will continue until the second coming of Christ. It is basically parallel to the Times of the Gentiles, God's program for the Gentiles, during the same basic period of history. Gabriel said that Daniel's vision pertained to the latter portion of the Indignation, even though Daniel received the vision in the former portion of the Indignation. Through this vision, God revealed to Daniel that the Indignation would continue for many years future.

**Meaning of the Ram and the Goat (20-22): What does history teach us?** The Greek army was led by Alexander the Great. He had a unique military intelligence. He took over command of the army when he was 22 years old and crushed the Medo-Persians in 334-331 BC. He died in 323 BC. His four generals took his place: (1) Ptolemy (South), (2) Seleucus (North), (3) Lysimachus (Western Asia Minor) and (4) Cassander (Macedonia).

**The Little Horn of Chapter 8 (22-26): What does history teach us?** Antiochus Epiphanes was the 8<sup>th</sup> Ruler of Seleucid Dynasty. Antiochus had a small beginning and was not the rightful heir to the throne but obtained it using craftiness and intrigue. He reigned from 175-164 BC and the four divisions of the pagan Greek empire fell to Rome from 168-30 BC. Consequently, he was in power in the latter years of the Greek empire. At the time Antiochus became king, Jewish religious life was in decline. Both Greeks and Jews began to carry Greek culture to Jerusalem and Israel. The Jews gave themselves over to pleasure and questioned moral absolutes. Young rich Jews, who were irritated by the restraints of the Law, gave themselves to this influence. They mocked the priests of God and Jews who worshipped Jehovah. History tells us that Antiochus Epiphanes enjoyed a considerable amount of success militarily and in his persecution of the Jews. To the righteous Jews it must have appeared that he was free to do as he pleased and was capable of prospering in evil indefinitely. However, the only reason that Antiochus was able to achieve success was that God had sovereignly turned the Jews over to him as part of the Indignation (v12, 19). Antiochus was a tyrant. He commanded the Jews to substitute pagan worship of idols for worship of God. He told the Jews to forget the Law, he profaned their sabbaths and feast days and made them stop circumcising infants. He offered pigs & other unclean animals for sacrifices on their altar. He burned copies of the Law. He killed Jews who practiced Judaism and he had circumcised babies killed. He believed himself to be God. Antiochus' reign over the Jews came to an end in 165 BC when he was defeated by Jewish leader Judas Maccabeus and the Jews restored the temple to full service on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 165 BC. History suggests various methods in which Antiochus Epiphanes died (Grief over military losses, madness, disease) none of which were by human hands. Most evangelical biblical scholars believe that Antiochus Epiphanes was the Little Horn of Chapter 8.

**What about the 2300 evenings and mornings (13-14, 26)?** Between the desecration of the temple and the cleansing and restoration would be 2300 evenings and mornings. Two schools of thought exist: (1) 2300 days (An evening and morning is one day) – A little more than six years [Antiochus deposed the High Priest until Judas Maccabeus defeated the enemy]. (2) 1150 days (1150 days will pass when 2300 evenings and mornings are done) – a little more than three years [Establishment of the Pagan Altar until Judas Maccabeus defeated the enemy]. Either way the timetable works.

**Little Horn of Chapter 7**

- Would come from the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast (Rome)
- Would be an eleventh horn rooting up three of ten horns on the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast
- Would persecute God's people for Time, Times and a half a Time.

**Little Horn of Chapter 8**

- Would come from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Beast (Greece)
- Would be a fifth horn coming from out of one of the four subsequent horns of the Goat
- Would persecute God's people for a little more than 3 or 6 years.

While the Little Horn of Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 are two distinct persons, it is clear that the Little Horn of Chapter 8 (Antiochus Epiphanes) prefigures or pictures the Little Horn of Chapter 7 (Antichrist). In other words, it is a double prophetic fulfillment. The key to understanding this is found in Daniel 8:19 when Gabriel says, "I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end." Antiochus lived in the latter half of the Indignation and pictured Antichrist who would come to prominence at the appointed time of the end.

**Next Week: "The Prophetic Calendar – Part 1 (Daniel 9:1-27)"**