

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

LESSON 8: SIN EMPOWERS THE WICKED

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

THE VISION OF DANIEL 8 BUILDS ON THE PREVIOUS, ELABORATING ON THE FATE OF THE LESS SIGNIFICANT WORLD POWERS OF MEDO-PERSIA AND GREECE — DAN. 8:1.

- THE VISION OF DANIEL 7 FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON THE NATURE AND DESTINY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND ONLY BRIEFLY ADDRESSES THE RISE AND FALL OF THE MEDES, PERSIANS, AND GREEKS.

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- THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE SUCCEEDED THE BABYLONIAN, LASTING FROM 539 TO 331 BC, AND FOR THE MOST PART, IS PORTRAYED IN A POSITIVE LIGHT IN SCRIPTURE.

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- THE GRECIAN EMPIRE (334–146 BC) BEGAN WHEN ALEXANDER III RETALIATED AGAINST THE AGGRESSIVE MEDO-PERSIANS. THEY ARE RARELY VIEWED FAVORABLY IN THE OT.

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THE VISION OF DANIEL 8 BUILDS ON THE PREVIOUS, ELABORATING ON THE FATE OF THE LESS SIGNIFICANT WORLD POWERS OF MEDO-PERSIA AND GREECE – DAN. 8:1.

- BECAUSE OF THE ACCURACY OF THEN-FUTURE EVENTS, THE VISION OF DANIEL 8 MUST HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY GOD – SEE 2 PET 1:19–21; ISA 46:9–11.

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THE VISION OF DANIEL 8 AGAIN UTILIZES SYMBOLIC (APOCALYPTIC) LANGUAGE, INTENDING TO PREDICT THE FATE OF ISRAEL IN VIEW OF THEN-FUTURE WORLD POWERS – DAN 8:2–14.

- DANIEL FIRST SEES A RAM WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN SIMILAR TERMS TO THE SECOND BEAST OF DANIEL 7. THIS RAM IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE MEDES AND PERSIANS – 8:2–4; SEE V. 20.

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THE VISION OF DANIEL 8 AGAIN UTILIZES SYMBOLIC (APOCALYPTIC) LANGUAGE, INTENDING TO PREDICT THE FATE OF ISRAEL IN VIEW OF THEN-FUTURE WORLD POWERS – DAN 8:2–14.

- THEN DANIEL SEES A MALE GOAT WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN SIMILAR TERMS TO THE THIRD BEAST OF DANIEL 7. THIS MALE GOAT IS THE GRECIAN EMPIRE – VV. 5–8; SEE V. 21.

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THE VISION OF DANIEL 8 AGAIN UTILIZES SYMBOLIC (APOCALYPTIC) LANGUAGE, INTENDING TO PREDICT THE FATE OF ISRAEL IN VIEW OF THEN-FUTURE WORLD POWERS – DAN 8:2–14.

- JUST AS THE FOURTH BEAST HAD A SMALL HORN THAT GREW UP FROM AMONG ITS TEN HORNS, SO ALSO GREECE HAS A “SMALL HORN” (ANTIOCHUS IV?) – vv. 9–12.

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THE VISION OF DANIEL 8 AGAIN UTILIZES SYMBOLIC (APOCALYPTIC) LANGUAGE, INTENDING TO PREDICT THE FATE OF ISRAEL IN VIEW OF THEN-FUTURE WORLD POWERS — DAN 8:2–14.

- IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE POWER OF THE LITTLE HORN IS PROVIDENTIALY GIVEN BY GOD TO PUNISH HIS PEOPLE FOR THEIR UNFAITHFULNESS — SEE V. 12; ISA 10:5.

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THE VISION OF DANIEL 8 AGAIN UTILIZES SYMBOLIC (APOCALYPTIC) LANGUAGE, INTENDING TO PREDICT THE FATE OF ISRAEL IN VIEW OF THEN-FUTURE WORLD POWERS – DAN 8:2–14.

- WHILE THE LITTLE HORN IS REIGNING, THE PEOPLE OF GOD SUFFER FOR THEIR SINS, BUT AFTER AN APPROPRIATE TIME, THEY ARE RESTORED – DAN 8:13–14.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

IT SEEMS THAT GOD (CHRIST?) HIMSELF CALLS GABRIEL TO REVEAL THE MEANING OF THE VISION TO DANIEL TO RELIEVE AND ENLIGHTEN THE PROPHET — DAN 8:15–27.

- THE INTERPRETATION EVIDENCES THE VISION'S APOCALYPTIC NATURE, SINCE IT IS GIVEN BY A DIVINE MESSENGER AND DESCRIBES “THE TIME OF THE END” — VV. 15–19; SEE MATT 24:14–15.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

IT SEEMS THAT GOD (CHRIST?) HIMSELF CALLS GABRIEL TO REVEAL THE MEANING OF THE VISION TO DANIEL TO RELIEVE AND ENLIGHTEN THE PROPHET — DAN 8:15–27.

- THE PROPHECY CLEARLY RELATES THE HISTORY OF WORLD POWERS BUT FOCUSES ON THE SIN (HELLENIZATION?) AND PUNISHMENT (ANTIOCHUS IV?) OF THE JEWS — DAN 8:20–26.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

IT SEEMS THAT GOD (CHRIST?) HIMSELF CALLS GABRIEL TO REVEAL THE MEANING OF THE VISION TO DANIEL TO RELIEVE AND ENLIGHTEN THE PROPHET — DAN 8:15–27.

- THE REACTION OF DANIEL DEMONSTRATES THE FRIGHTENING AND CONFUSING NATURE OF THE VISION, BUT THAT GOD ALREADY KNEW THE END LIKELY ENCOURAGED THE PROPHET — V. 27.

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THE PURPOSE OF THE VISION WAS NOT EXCLUSIVELY TO ENCOURAGE DANIEL BUT PRIMARILY TO PREPARE FUTURE GENERATIONS FOR THE COMING TRIBULATION AND END — SEE DAN 8:26.

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REGARDLESS OF WHAT WE FACE IN THIS LIFE, GOD KNOWS AND IS IN CONTROL. WE MAY SUFFER WITH THE WICKED, BUT IF WE CONTINUE TO TRUST GOD, HE WILL SAVE US!