

Series: The Book of Daniel

Sermon: Rams, Goats, Horns & Us?

**Passage: Daniel 8 (ESV)**

Illustration:

Need: God's people can expect many challenges at the hands of the rulers of Gentile kingdoms until Christ returns.

### I. The setting of Daniel's second vision (8:1-2)

- 551 BC; 12 years prior to the fall of Babylon (Belshazzar's 3rd year).
- Daniel was in Babylon but his vision takes place in Susa 200 miles east, 150 miles north of Babylon.
- Susa = former capital of the Elamite kingdom and future winter capital of the Persian empire.
- citadel = royal palace; Ulai canal = man made canal connecting two major rivers, Kerkha & Abdizful.

### II. The contents of Daniel's second vision (8:3-27)

- Ram with two horns (large & small) = The kingdom of the Medes & Persians (Bear of chapter 7)
- Goat with one horn that defeats the Ram = The kingdom of Greece (Leopard of chapter 7)
- Great horn of the Goat = Alexander the Great
- Four horns that come after the first = divided kingdom of Greece after Alexander's death.
- Little horn that comes from one of the four horns (not clearly identified by the angelic interpreters).

### III. The uncertainties of Daniel's second vision

- Who is the "little horn" and is he different that the "little horn" of chapter 7? I think Yes & No.
  - Near fulfillment (8:9-12): Antiochus Epiphanes, 175-164 BC (8th Seleucid King)
  - Far fulfillment (8:13-14; 23-25): Antichrist (Matt 24; 2 Thes 2; 1 John 2,4; Revelation 13,17,19)
- What is the "transgression that makes desolate?"
  - Near fulfillment: desecration of the Jerusalem temple by Antiochus in cir. 167 BC.
  - Far fulfillment: Antichrist predicted by Jesus in Matt. 24:15.
- What is the 2300 mornings and evenings? No one is sure (literal days, years, sacrifices, symbolic, etc)

### IV. Our Responses

- It's okay to be confused about things in scripture that are intentionally shrouded in mystery.
- Christians serve the One who knows what it all means & through Him all earthly authorities rise and fall.
- It's okay to be troubled by what we see around us and what still remains until in the time of the end.
- Christians have a right now responsibility to be about our King's business without fear.