

THE RAM AND THE GOAT

Daniel 8:1-27

Introduction:

In chapter 8 Daniel reveals what he saw in a vision during the third year of Belshazzar's co-regency with his father, Nabonidus (8:1). In the vision Daniel was transported to Shushan (Susa), the future capital of Medo-Persia (8:2). The vision was of a ram with two horns, one higher than the other, and the highest horn came up last. This is a clear representation of the Medo-Persian Empire. Horns represent power and the power of the Medes was less than the power of the Persians when Cyrus (the higher horn) conquered the Medes and then he joined the two empires. The vision of a male goat with a notable horn between its eyes represents the Grecian Empire and the notable horn represented Alexander the Great who led his armies to conquer Medo-Persia.

In the image dream (Dan 2), the Medo-Persian Empire was represented in the breast and arms of silver (2:32); in the beast vision (Dan 7), it was represented by a bear with one side higher than the other; and in this vision, it was by the ram. The ram had one horn higher than the other, which was similar to the bear with one side higher than the other. This shows that the bear and the ram represent Medo-Persia. (7:5; 8:3). In the image dream, the Grecian Empire was represented in the belly and thighs of brass (2:32) and in the beast vision by a leopard with four wings (7:6). The swift goat that did not touch the ground and the swift leopard with four wings represent the Grecian Empire (7:6; 8:5). By comparing the visions in Daniel 2, 7 and 8, it gives us a positive identification of the Medo-Persian and Grecian Empires in the three visions.

Aim of the Lesson: Learn how God has revealed the future to us by dreams, visions and symbols.
 "A wise man will hear...the words of the wise, and their dark sayings" (Prov 1:5-6).

Some Questions to Answer

1. Draw a line from the symbols to the right empire as revealed in Daniel 7.

SYMBOLS

EMPIRES

Bear (had one side higher than the other + 3 bones in its mouth))

Roman

Lion (had two eagle wings)

Medo-Persian

Leopard (had four heads and four wings)

Babylonian

Indescribable animal (had iron teeth, ten horns + a little horn)

Grecian

2. Tell which of these four empires are symbolized by the ram and the goat in Daniel 8.

Ram -

Goat -

3. What is significant about the horns on the ram?

4. What is significant about the horns on the goat?

5. On which animal did the little horn appear in Daniel 8? Ram or Goat

6. How is the little horn in Daniel 8 different than the little horn in Daniel 7?

7. What do the two little horns have in common?

8. Who is represented by the little horn in Daniel 7?

In Daniel 8?

9. How did God save Israel from the little horn in Daniel 8?

10. How will God save Israel from the little horn in Daniel 7?

11. What do these prophecies tell you about God that make you highly respect Him?

12. Write in the empty boxes of the chart (next page) what God revealed about each empire in Dan 2,7,8.

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