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By Dan Maines

Daniel 8

Daniel 8:1-2

In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king, a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent to the one which appeared to me previously. I looked in the vision, and while I was looking I was in the citadel of Susa, which is in the province of Elam, and I looked in the vision and I myself was beside the Ulai Canal.

† This vision came two years after the one in chapter 7, giving more detail about the coming empires.

† Historically, Susa later became the capital of the Persian Empire, showing this prophecy's accuracy.

† Prophetically, God revealed these kingdoms before they rose, proving His sovereign foreknowledge.

† Jerome said Daniel's presence at Susa foreshadowed Persia's rise over Babylon.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, God's plan is always revealed before its completion in Christ.

Daniel 8:3-4

Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns were long, but one was longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last. I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no other beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and magnified himself.

† The ram with two horns represents the Medo-Persian Empire, one horn higher showing Persia's dominance.

† Historically, this empire conquered westward (Babylon), northward (Lydia), and southward (Egypt).

† Prophetically, the ram's pride foreshadows human kingdoms that exalt themselves before God's judgment.

† Josephus confirmed this symbol's fulfillment in Cyrus and Darius' dual rule.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, Christ overthrows all self-exalting powers by humility and truth.

Daniel 8:5-7

While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground, and the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath. I saw him come beside the ram, and he was enraged at him, and he struck the ram and shattered his two

horns, and the ram had no strength to withstand him.

† The male goat represents Greece under Alexander the Great, whose speed of conquest is seen in "not touching the ground."

† Historically, Alexander's fury against Persia fulfilled this prophecy perfectly.

† Prophetically, this shows how temporary human glory is compared to the eternal dominion of Christ.

† Jerome wrote that the goat's charge symbolized swift vengeance ordained by God.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the power of the nations falls before the everlasting kingdom of Christ.

Daniel 8:8

Then the male goat magnified himself exceedingly. But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken, and in its place there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.

† The breaking of the horn represents Alexander's sudden death at the height of his power.

† Historically, his empire split among four generals, Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Ptolemy.

† Prophetically, this division reveals the instability of all kingdoms apart from God's rule.

† Eusebius noted that the "four winds" show the scattering of human power after pride.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, Christ's dominion cannot be divided or overthrown.

Daniel 8:9-12

Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful Land. It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down. It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host, and it removed the

regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down.

† The small horn represents Antiochus IV Epiphanes of the Seleucid Empire.

† Historically, he desecrated the Jerusalem temple and stopped daily sacrifices around 167 BC.

† Prophetically, this foreshadowed the persecution and corruption of the covenant before Christ's kingdom arrived.

† Jerome said Antiochus' arrogance prefigured those who exalt themselves against God's true temple.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, no earthly power can again profane the true spiritual sanctuary of Christ.

Daniel 8:13-14

Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, "How long will the vision about the regular sacrifice apply, while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host to be trampled?" He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings, then the holy place will be properly restored."

† The 2,300 days represent roughly six and a half years of temple defilement and struggle.

† Historically, this was fulfilled from Antiochus' desecration to the Maccabean restoration.

† Prophetically, this foretells the end of temple worship before the coming of the true temple, Christ.

† Hippolytus explained that "evenings and mornings" symbolize continual offerings ended and renewed.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, worship is restored forever in spirit and truth.

Daniel 8:15-17

When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it, and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man. And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai,

and he called out and said, "Gabriel, give this man an understanding of the vision." So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face, but he said to me, "Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end."

† The angel Gabriel is introduced here for the first time, revealing divine interpretation directly.

† Historically, "time of the end" referred to the close of the old covenant age, not the end of the world.

† Prophetically, Gabriel's explanation affirms that God interprets His own mysteries for His people.

† Theodotion identified this encounter as the beginning of the apocalyptic unveiling completed in Christ.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, understanding is given through the Spirit who reveals all truth.

Daniel 8:18-22

Now while he was talking with me, I sank into a deep sleep with my face to the ground, but he touched me and made me stand upright. He said, "Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for it pertains to the appointed time of the end. The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia. The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king. The broken horn and the four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms which will arise from his nation, although not with his power."

† Gabriel confirms the historical identities of the ram and goat, removing all ambiguity.

† Historically, each empire rose and fell exactly as prophesied.

† Prophetically, this prepares the way for the coming of God's eternal dominion in Christ.

† Jerome emphasized that "not with his power" shows how human greatness fades quickly.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the only enduring power is Christ's

eternal reign.

Daniel 8:23-25

"In the latter period of their rule, when the transgressors have run their course, a king will arise, insolent and skilled in intrigue. His power will be mighty, but not by his own power, and he will destroy to an extraordinary degree and prosper and perform his will, he will destroy mighty men and the holy people. And through his shrewdness he will cause deceit to succeed by his influence, and he will magnify himself in his heart, and he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, but he will be broken without human agency."

† This describes Antiochus Epiphanes again, called "insolent" for his pride against God.

† Historically, he died suddenly from disease while planning another attack on Jerusalem.

† Prophetically, "broken without human agency" foreshadows divine judgment beyond human cause.

† Eusebius wrote that this demonstrates God's sovereignty in bringing down the proud.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, all opposition to Christ's reign ends by His divine power.

Daniel 8:26-27

"The vision of the evenings and mornings which has been told is true, but keep the vision secret, for it pertains to many days in the future." Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king's business, but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it.

† Daniel's exhaustion shows the weight of divine revelation and its long-term fulfillment.

† Historically, the events took centuries to unfold precisely as predicted.

† Prophetically, secrecy pointed to a mystery later unveiled in Christ's completed kingdom.

† Clement said Daniel's faithfulness in serving the king even after the vision teaches endurance under revelation.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, we now understand what Daniel saw from afar, the full establishment of God's reign.

How it applies to us today

† Daniel 8 demonstrates God's control over the rise and fall of empires.

† History confirms every detail, proving prophecy's perfect fulfillment.

† The "Prince of princes" has already conquered every earthly power.

† We now live in the kingdom Daniel foresaw, where Christ reigns forever.

† God's sovereignty and faithfulness remain unbroken from age to age.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† The Holy Bible, NASB

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 10

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 9

† Tertullian, Against Marcion, Book 4

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement

† Jerome, Commentary on Daniel

† Theodotion, Greek Version of Daniel

† Hippolytus, Commentary on Daniel

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