

E2E- Part 113a

Daniel 8

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1. Daniel is completely overwhelmed by this vision because God is revealing future world events, but it's a reminder that God still rules over all the affairs of mankind.
2. God gives Daniel a vision of future kingdoms before they even rise to power, proving that world events unfold exactly according to His plan.
3. The ram with two horns represents the Medo-Persian Empire, with Persia becoming the stronger power as they conquer to the west, north, and south.
4. The male goat represents Greece and Alexander the Great, moving with incredible speed and completely crushing the Persian Empire.
5. Alexander became extremely proud and arrogant, but his empire was short-lived after his death at 33, and the kingdom was divided between four generals.
6. Out of one part of the Greek Empire came the "little horn," identified as Antiochus Epiphanes, who grew powerful and turned against Israel and God's people.
7. Antiochus desecrated the temple, set up an idol of Zeus, sacrificed pigs on the altar, and fulfilled the "abomination of desolation" Jesus later referenced in Matthew 24.
8. Antiochus became a picture of the future antichrist because he exalted himself as god, persecuted believers, and tried to destroy the Scriptures.
9. Whenever evil gains power, it always tries to remove God's Word and exalt itself as the source of truth.
10. Gabriel explains that the vision ultimately points to the "time of the end," showing that these events foreshadow a greater future persecution before God brings final judgment.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Chazown (khaw-zone´); a sight (mentally), a dream, revelation, or oracle

ʿAyil (ah´-yil); - strength; specifically a chief (politically); also a ram (from his strength)
:— mighty (man), lintel, oak, ram

Gadol (gaw-dole´); great + exceeding(-ly), + far, (man of) high, long, loud, mighty, more, much, noble, proud thing

Mʿod (meh-ode´); vehemently :—diligently, especially, exceeding(-ly), far, x louder and louder

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Worthy of It All/ I Exalt Thee
Who Else
God of Wonders
Open The Eyes of My Heart

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Daniel received this vision and was left "exhausted and sick for days." What do you think hit him hardest — and what does his reaction tell us about what it means to take God's word seriously, rather than just treating prophecy as an intellectual puzzle to solve?
2. Before diving into the symbols and timelines, Mark grounded everything in a single truth: the God who split the Red Sea, stood in the fire, and shut the lions' mouths is the *same* God who declares how history ends. Why does that reminder matter before studying prophecy? How does it change the way you engage with passages that are dark or unsettling?
3. Every detail in Daniel 8 - the ram, the goat, the four horns, the little horn - came true with remarkable precision, centuries before it happened. And Alexander the Great's conquests, driven by hatred and pride, ended up spreading the Greek language that God would later use as the vehicle for the gospel of Jesus to spread everywhere in a short period of time.. What does that tell you about how God works through history — including through events that seem chaotic, evil, or out of control? Where do you need to apply that to something happening in your life or the world right now?
4. Daniel served faithfully in a pagan empire for *decades* - under pressure, under threat, and far from home. The "little horn" of this chapter burned Scripture and executed anyone found with it. Where do you feel the most pressure to either compromise your faith or give in to fear about what's happening in the world around you? What does Daniel's example actually look like in your context?
5. The core truth of this whole chapter is that God rules and reigns over all the affairs of mankind — nothing catches Him by surprise. Is there an area of your life right now where you're living like that *isn't* true? What would it look like — practically, this week — to move from agreeing with that theologically to actually trusting it?

Close in prayer, bringing those specific areas before God together as a group.