

Gabriel  
The Lord's Messenger



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PO Box 116 Mitcham, Victoria 3132 Australia.

# DANIEL

## 10. BATTLE OF THE BEASTS



Two hostile powers lock horns in deadly combat,  
each determined to gain the world. Can either  
take out the prize?

## HIGH POINTS IN CHAPTER 8

- A sheep and a goat at war.
- A brilliant commander who conquered the world but lost it.
- Prophecy's longest reigning empire.
- The "angel of understanding" and the "time of the end".

*Daniel 8 is closely related to Daniel 7. This being so, a review of the symbols of Chapter 7 will help is with this unit.*

### DANIEL 7 SYMBOLS

### MEANING OF SYMBOLS

The Lion	Babylon
The Bear	Medo-Persia
The Leopard	Greece
The Fourth Beast	Imperial Rome
The Ten Horns	Rome Divided
The Little Horn	Papal Rome

*These kingdoms were followed by the judgment and God's eternal kingdom. Notice now, that in Chapter 8 we find almost all these kingdoms and events again, but under different symbols and with additional details.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### A. THE BATTLE OF THE BEASTS

#### QUESTION 1 (Daniel 8:1-8, page 866)

As the vision opened, Daniel saw two animals in deadly combat. What animals were they?

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## NOTES:

**Exhibit 3**

**IDENTIFYING THE EXCEEDINGLY GREAT HORN**

PREDICTION	FULFILMENT
<p><b>1) Daniel 8:1-9</b> The exceedingly great horn kingdom would follow Medo-Persia, Greece, and the four divisions of Greece.</p>	<p>Rome came to power in precisely this sequence; first in its imperial phase, then in its papal phase.</p>
<p><b>2) Daniel 8:9</b> Would begin "little" but grow to become "exceedingly great". The ram (Medo-Persia) would be "great" (verse 4). The goat (Greece) would be "very great" (verse 8). But the little horn would become "exceedingly great" (verse 9).</p>	<p>Rome did begin "little" as an obscure village on the Tiber, but grew to become greater than all the empires of prophecy, ruling longer in both its phases than any other power in history.</p>
<p><b>3) Daniel 8:9,22,23</b> Would come to power "in the latter time" of the four divisions of Greece, growing toward the south, the east, and the glorious land (Palestine). That is, come from the west.</p>	<p>Rome came from the west, and grew exceedingly great between 197BC and 30BC as she absorbed Macedonia, the Seleucid kingdom (Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine) and the Ptolemaic kingdom (Egypt).</p>
<p><b>4) Daniel 8:9,23,24</b> Is the same power as the fourth beast of Daniel 7 and the iron legs of Daniel 2. Daniel 2:40 - "breaks", "shatters", "crushes" Daniel 7:7,19,23 - "breaks in pieces", "tramples", "devours" Daniel 8:9,23,24 - would "trample", "cast down", "destroy".</p>	<p>Rome became master of the Jews (63BC), destroyed the temple and the city of Jerusalem (AD70), was implicated in the crucifixion of Christ (AD31), persecuted the Jews and the Christian church. None could stand before Rome's destructive forces.</p>
<p><b>5) Daniel 8:10,24,25</b> In its later stages the great horn parallels the little horn of Daniel 7. Daniel 7:25 - "speaks pompous words", "persecutes the saints" Daniel 8:24,25 - "exalts himself", "destroys the holy people."</p>	<p>Papal Rome exalted itself as high as heaven, persecuted the saints, ruled in the political as well as the spiritual realms.</p>
<p><b>6) Daniel 8:15-17</b> The great horn would continue to "the time of the end".</p>	<p>Though now in a benign form, Rome continues today. Immense political influence among the world's nations is concentrated in the papal kingdom. Her claim to world rule remains unchanged.</p>

**QUESTION 2** (Daniel 8:16-21, page 866)

The angel Gabriel was sent to Daniel to help him understand the symbols of the vision. What did the two animals represent? (Verses 20 and 21)

THE RAM REPRESENTED \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 20)



THE GOAT REPRESENTED \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 21)

In the image of Daniel 2, Medo-Persia and Greece were represented as the silver and the bronze. In Chapter 7 as a bear and a leopard. Here in Chapter 8 they appear as a ram and a goat. Here the goat traveled "without touching the ground" – a symbol of great speed, the leopard of Daniel 7 has "four wings of a bird", likewise symbolizing the swiftness of Greece's conquests.

This prophecy of Daniel 8 is another example of the Bible's self-interpretation. Daniel was not left to guess the meaning of the animal symbols. God's angel, Gabriel, provided the basic answers.

**QUESTION 3** (Daniel 8:21)

What did Gabriel say the notable horn of the Grecian goat represented?



"The large horn that is between his eyes is the first \_\_\_\_\_."  
 (Verse 21)

Alexander the Great was the first king of the Greek universal empire. This would be why the angel called him "the first king".

**QUESTION 4** (Daniel 8:6,7, page 866)

How did Daniel describe the conflict between Medo-Persia and Greece?

The goat ran at the ram "with \_\_\_\_\_ power" (verse 6); "broke his two \_\_\_\_\_ and trampled upon him." (Verse 7)



Alexander conquered the world with lightning speed

The fulfillment of this prediction of the defeat of Medo-Persia by Greece took place in 331 BC, more than two centuries after the prophecy was given.

**ALEXANDER'S REMARKABLE CAREER**

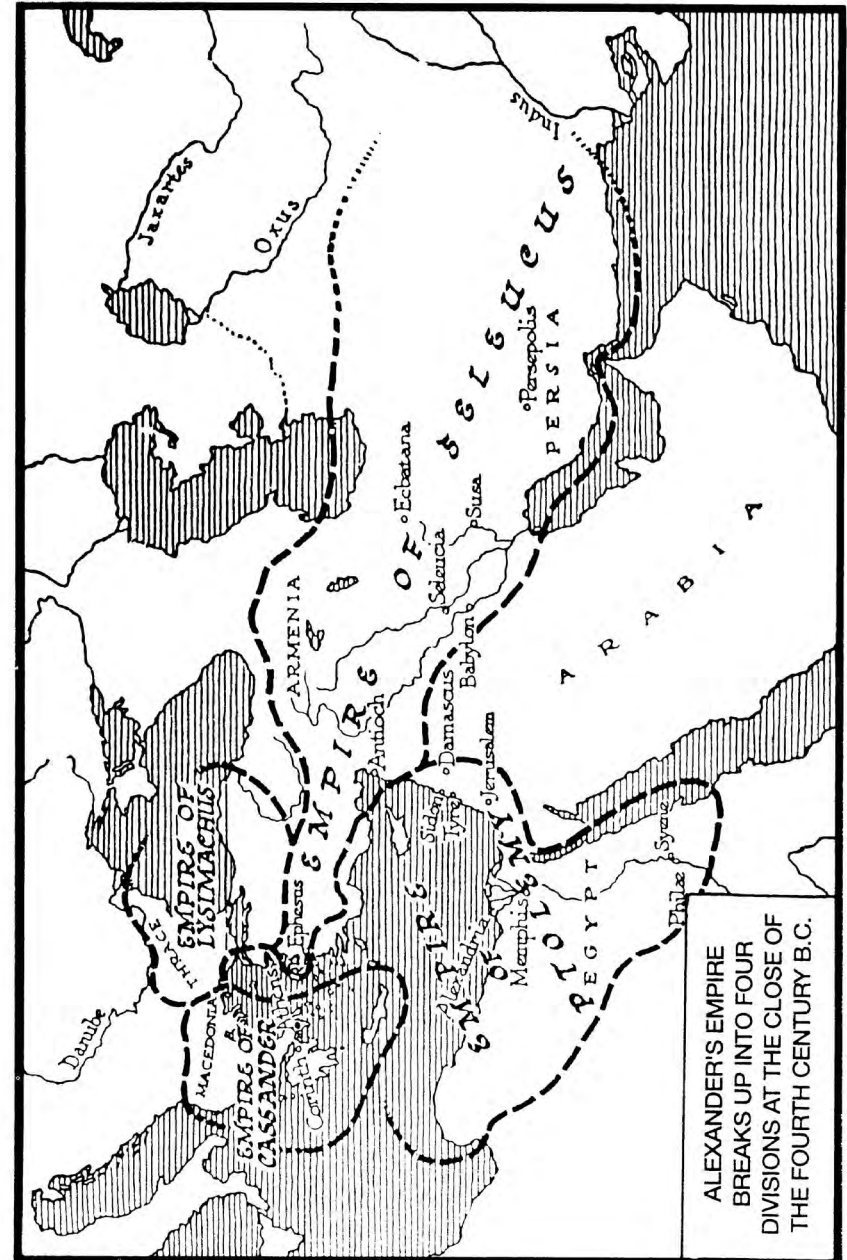
The symbol of the "flying" goat illustrates the swift conquests of Alexander. In four years he crushed Persia, and after eight more years became master of the Mediterranean world and countries as far East as northern India. This young commander was not simply a power-hungry despot; he was convinced that Greek philosophy would save the world.

In the course of his 100 battles, Alexander marched his soldiers more than 8,000 kilometres and built seventy cities, many named after himself. Alexander rose and fell like a meteor, dying in Babylon from fever at only 32 years of age. He conquered the world, but lost it all.

The lightning career of Alexander reshaped history and shifted the balance of power from Asia to Europe where it was to remain with Greece for two and a half centuries, and after that, pass to Greece's mighty successor, Rome.

**Exhibit 2**

**FOUR DIVISIONS OF GREECE**



ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE BREAKS UP INTO FOUR DIVISIONS AT THE CLOSE OF THE FOURTH CENTURY B.C.

Exhibit 1

ALEXANDER'S CAMPAIGNS



SEE EXHIBIT 1: Page 12

MAP OF ALEXANDER'S MAIN MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 8:8, page 866)

How did the prophecy indicate that Alexander would die suddenly and his kingdoms become divided into four?

*"But when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it \_\_\_\_\_ notable ones came up toward the \_\_\_\_\_ winds (directions) of heaven." (Verse 8)*

*History confirms the complete accuracy of these predictions. Within a short time after Alexander's death in 323BC, his empire had become divided among four of his leading generals:*

- *Cassander took Macedonia and Greece*
- *Seleucus took Babylon and Assyria*
- *Lysimachus took Thrace and Asia Minor*
- *Ptolemy took Egypt*

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 8:22)

What did the angel say the four notable horns represented?

*"Four \_\_\_\_\_ shall arise out of that nation." (Verse 22)*

Note that while Daniel 8 symbolises the four divisions as four horns, Chapter 7 represents them by the four heads of the leopard. (See Daniel 7: 6, page 864)



When Alexander died the kingdom broke up into four kingdoms

SEE EXHIBIT 2: Page 13

THE FOUR DIVISIONS OF ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE



## B. RISE OF THE GREATEST

### QUESTION 7 (Daniel 8:9, page 866)

Toward the end of the lifetime of these four horns what strange event did Daniel see happening?

*"Out of one of them came a little horn which grew \_\_\_\_\_ great." (Verse 9)*

The four horns are said to come up toward the four winds (directions), and the little horn to come "out of one of them". The original grammar indicates that out of one of the winds or directions is more likely to be the meaning here. The direction taken by each nation is specifically mentioned in the vision. The ram pushed westward, northward, and southward, indicating an empire emerging out of the east, as did Medo-Persia. The goat came from the west, as did Greece. The four horns of Greece rose toward the four winds (directions). Then out of one of these directions came the little horn, which grew exceedingly great. This horn pushed toward the south and east and the "pleasant land" (Palestine), indicating a new empire from the west, greater than all others before it. Besides the many other identifying features, the directions give help in pin pointing each power – Medo-Persia (east), Greece (west), Rome (west).



The little horn came out of one of the four winds of heaven

### QUESTION 8

What other details in the description of this exceedingly great horn help us understand which kingdom it represented?

**FOR ANSWERS TURN TO EXHIBIT 3: Page 15**

IDENTIFYING THE GREAT HORN OF DANIEL 8

## OPTIONAL QUESTIONS

- 1) Who is the real interpreter of the vision of Chapter 8? Is it Daniel or is it Gabriel?
- 2) What does this teach us about a true prophet's dependence upon help from God, and humanities inability to foresee the future?
- 3) What does it teach us about angels? Have they sometimes served as "prophets" too? (Look up Revelation 1:1, 2, page 1174; 17:1, page 1185; 19:10, page 1187; 22:6,8,9, page 1190)

## REVIEW QUIZ (T/F)

- 1) The ram in the vision represented Medo-Persia, and the goat, Greece
- 2) According to Daniel, Rome started off as a very great kingdom
- 3) The 2300 days of this prophecy reach to the "time of the end".
- 4) The angel Gabriel who explained to Daniel the vision he had seen, was the one who announced the birth of Christ centuries later.
- 5) Christ indicated that Old Testament prophecies were of little value
- 6) Daniel's prophecies said nothing concerning Christ and the message of salvation

**QUESTION 14** (Luke 24:25, page 1024)

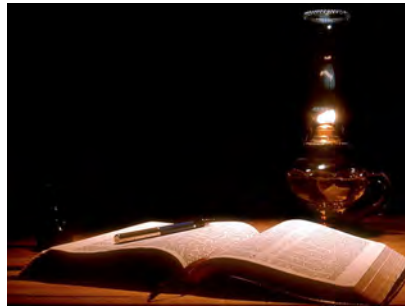
How important was it to Christ that all the prophecies of Scripture concerning Himself be correctly understood and believed?

*"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in \_\_\_\_ that the prophets have spoken." (Verse 25)*

**QUESTION 15** (Luke 24:27, page 1024)

According to Christ, how many of the Bible prophets revealed Him?

*"And beginning at Moses and \_\_\_\_ the prophets, he expounded to them in all the \_\_\_\_\_ the things concerning Himself." (Verse 27)*



Christ is revealed in all prophecy in the Bible. It helps us understand Him better

**QUESTION 16**

Christ is revealed to us in Daniel and in all prophecy. We learn there who He is, how He saves us, and where we are in the stream of time. Is it your desire and purpose to accept the promises and warnings that have come to us through these prophecies?

YOU WILL BE THRILLED AS YOU STUDY GABRIEL'S INSTRUCTION TO DANIEL IN THE NEXT THREE UNITS.

UNIT 11, still in Daniel 8, reveals the course taken by the great horn on earth and what Christ is doing now in heaven.

UNIT 12 explains the meaning of the cleansing of the Sanctuary to take place at the close of the 2,300 days.

UNIT 13 brings to view Gabriel's remarkable predictions regarding the times of the Messiah, and the beginning and the ending points of the 2,300 days.

After considering the identifying marks would you agree that the exceedingly great horn is symbolic of the Roman power?

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

The single horn symbol shows that the two phases of Rome – Imperial and Papal – were in reality, one ongoing power, Constantine and succeeding emperors and popes brought this about through the Popes taking the place of the Caesars, and the fusion of church and state. (See Exhibit 1, Unit 8)

**QUESTION 9** (Daniel 8:25, page 867)

What would finally happen to this the greatest of all Daniel's four kingdoms? (circle a, b, or c for your answer)

It would:

- (a) be defeated by a people power uprising
- (b) rule the world for centuries to come without any end in view
- (c) continue to the time of the end and be broken without human hand

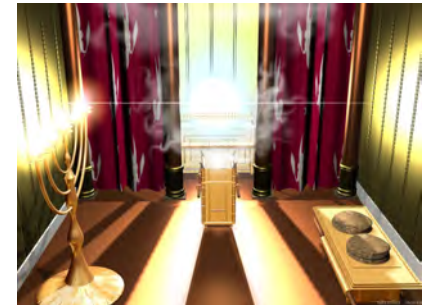
**C. GOD LIMITS TIME****QUESTION 10** (Daniel 8:13,14)

This prophecy shows that God has placed time limits upon the kingdoms of this world. What question did one angel ask of another regarding time?

*"How long will the \_\_\_\_\_ be?" (Verse 13)*

What was the other angel's reply?

*"For two \_\_\_\_\_ three \_\_\_\_\_, then the sanctuary shall be cleansed." (Verse 14)*



The Sanctuary was to be cleansed at the end of the 2300 days

The end of this 2300 days time period would bring in the day of reckon-

ing and “cleansing of the sanctuary,” which we shall study later.

## D. GABRIEL - ANGEL OF UNDERSTANDING - MESSENGER OF CHRIST

Daniel did not understand the vision. As he was seeking the meaning of the two fighting animals, the great horn, and the 2,300 days, he saw the appearance of a man between the banks of the river and heard a man’s voice calling.

### QUESTION 11 (Daniel 8:15,16, page 866)

What command did the voice give?

*"Gabriel, make this man \_\_\_\_\_ the vision." (Verse 16)*

### QUESTION 12 (Daniel 8:17,19)

In response to the command, what information about the vision did

Gabriel’s visits to Daniel regarding his prophecies, and his visits to Zacharias, Mary, and Joseph, regarding the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, tie the book of Daniel closely with Christ and the good news of salvation in the New Testament. They also herald the coming world order.

Gabriel give to Daniel first?

*"The vision refers to the time of the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_." (Verse 17)*

*"What shall happen in the \_\_\_\_\_ time.?" (Verse 19)*

NOTE: the 2,300 days must be symbolic of a very long period because this whole vision, covering 2,300 days, started with Medo-Persia and reached to “the time of the end” – the last segment of time before the coming of God’s kingdom.



Gabriel is sent to Daniel to help him understand the vision

*Gabriel explained the ram as Medo-Persia and the goat as Greece. He interpreted the notable horn, the four horns, and what the great horn would do, but gave no further explanation of the 2,300 days until later, as we shall see in Chapter 9.*

*Gabriel became Daniel’s special guide and interpreter from this chapter onward. Before proceeding further with the prophecy of the great horn, we must learn more about Gabriel and his part in revealing the future.*

## WHO IS GABRIEL?

Apart from Michael the Archangel, Gabriel is the only angel named in the Bible. He is mentioned twice in Daniel – here in 8:16, and later in 9: 21.



Five hundred years after this meeting with Daniel, Gabriel appeared suddenly to startled priest Zacharias, the coming of the birth of John the Baptist. “I am Gabriel who stands in the presence of God,” he said.

Gabriel appeared to Mary, telling her that she would be the earthly mother of Jesus

Later, he was “sent of God” to Nazareth where he announced to Mary the coming birth of her son, whose name, Gabriel said, would be “Jesus”. This child would become the “everlasting ruler” (Luke 1: 8-38; Mathew 1: 18-21)

### QUESTION 13 (Matthew 24:15, page 960)

What did Christ Himself say about the book of Daniel?

*"Whoever reads, let him \_\_\_\_\_ " (verse 15)*

*Understanding the book of Daniel is vitally important. The words “understand”, “understanding”, and “understood” are used more than 20 times in this book with regard to its prophecies. In the last chapter, the angel says: “and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.” (Daniel 12: 10) Gabriel is called the angel of understanding.*