

Vision of the Ram, Goat, and Little Horn

Daniel 8

I. Introductory Issues:

Date of Daniel 8 — In the “third year of King Belshazzar’s reign” (i.e., 551 B.C.)

II. Daniel’s Vision of the Ram and Goat (8:1-14)

A. The Setting for the Vision (8:1-2)

B. The Vision of the Ram (8:3-4)

C. The Vision of the male Goat (8:5-14)

1. Greece & Alexander the Great (8:5)

2. Large horn broken—Alexander’s death and four horns—Alexander’s four generals who took control of his empire over the following 22 years (8:8).

(1) Cassander—Macedonia (Greece); (2) Lysimachus—Thrace & Asia Minor;

(3) Seleucus—Syria; (4) Ptolemy—Egypt

3. Small horn—Antiochus Epiphanes (175–Dec. 25, 165 B.C.)

III. The Interpretation of Daniel’s Vision (8:15-27)

A. Gabriel’s Intervention (8:15-18)

1. The Man = Jesus Christ (vv. 15-16)

2. The Angel = Gabriel means “Hero of God” (vv. 16-18)

B. Gabriel’s Interpretation (8:19-26)

1. The two-horned Ram represents the Kings of Media and Persia (8:20)

2. The Shaggy Goat represents the kingdom of Greece (8:21)

a. Large horn, the first king, Alexander the Great

b. Broken horn, Alexander’s death

c. Four horns that arose in his place, Alexander’s four generals (cf. 8:8)

C. Daniel’s Illness & Response (8:27)