



SAVED TO SERVE

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DANIEL THE PROPHET - DANIEL 8 THE RAM, HE-GOAT & LITTLE HORN, PART 1

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will identify who the ram, the he-goat, and the little horn represent in Daniel 8.

 2. In what year of Belshazzar's reign did Daniel receive the vision of Daniel 8? Daniel 8:1

 3. Daniel 8:1 says that Daniel received the vision "after that which appeared unto me at the first." What vision appeared to Daniel first? Daniel 7:1-3

 4. **Note:** The prophecy of the beasts found in Daniel 8 are a repetition of Daniel 2 & 7, but Daniel 8 expounds on other points.
 5. Read Daniel 8:3-4. As a recap, what do beasts represent? Daniel 7:17, 23

 6. What do horns represent in scripture?
 - a) Daniel 7:24

 - b) Daniel 8:7; Habakkuk 3:4

 7. What is said about the two horns of the ram in Daniel 8:3?

 8. What kingdom does the ram represent? Daniel 8:19, 20

 9. How is the next beast described? Daniel 8:5

 10. What did the he goat do to the ram? Daniel 8:6, 7

 11. What kingdom does the he goat represent? Daniel 8:21

 - a) Which king does the notable horn represent that ruled Greece?

- "The notable horn between his eyes. This is explained in verse 21 to be the first king of the Macedonian empire. This king was Alexander the Great." {DAR 148.4}**
12. What happened to the great horn of the goat, and what came up afterwards? Daniel 8:8

a) Who do the four notable horns represent? Daniel 8:22

“Alexander fell in the prime of life. (See notes on verse 39 of chapter 2.) After his death there arose much confusion among his followers respecting the succession. It was finally agreed, after a seven days’ contest, that his natural brother, Philip Aridaeus, should be declared king. By him, and Alexander’s infant sons, Alexander AEGus and Hercules, the name and show of the Macedonian empire were for a time sustained; but all these persons were soon murdered; and the family of Alexander being then extinct, the chief commanders of the army, who had gone into different parts of the empire as governors of the provinces, assumed the title of kings. They thereupon fell to leaguings and warring with one another to such a degree that within the space of twenty-two years from Alexander’s death, the number was reduced to - how many? Five? - No. Three? - No. Two? - No. But four - just the number specified in the prophecy; for four notable horns were to come up toward the four winds of heaven in place of the great horn that was broken. **These were (1) Cassander, who had Greece and the neighboring countries; (2) Lysimachus, who had Asia Minor; (3) Seleucus, who had Syria and Babylon, and from whom came the line of kings known as the “Seleucidae,” so famous in history; and (4) Ptolemy, son of Lagus, who had Egypt, and from whom sprang the “Lagidae.”** These held dominion toward the four winds of heaven. Cassander had the western parts; Lysimachus had the northern regions; Seleucus possessed the eastern countries; and Ptolemy had the southern portion of the empire. These four horns may therefore be named Macedonia, Thrace (which then included Asia Minor, and those parts lying on the Hellespont and Bosphorus), Syria, and Egypt.” {DAR1909 171.1}

13. Understanding the prophecies in Daniel 2 & 7 about the succession of world kingdoms will help us to correctly interpret Daniel 8. According to history and Daniel 2:32, 33, 40 & Daniel 7:6-7, which nation arose after Greece?

14. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Read Daniel 8:8-9. After the four kings of Greece, the Bible says that a “little horn” came forth. This little horn points to Rome. However, we saw that the little horn of Daniel 7 was a representation of the Papacy. Is the interpretation of the little horn in Daniel 7 contradicting the interpretation in Daniel 8? No! In Daniel 8, the Bible is showing us **Rome in its two phases - Pagan Rome and Papal Rome.** The little horn as described in Daniel 8, represents BOTH phases. In the following points, we will primarily focus on Pagan Rome, and more closely examine both phases of Rome in the upcoming lesson.

15. How did Pagan Rome emerge from one of the horns of the he goat? Daniel 8:8-9 See quotation.

“The little horn comes forth from one of the horns of the goat. How, it may be asked, can this be true of Rome? It is unnecessary to remind the reader that earthly governments are not introduced into prophecy till they become in some way connected with the people of God. Rome became connected with the Jews, the people of God at that time, by the famous Jewish League, B.C.161. **But seven years before this, that is, in B.C.168, Rome had conquered Macedonia, and made that country a part of its empire. Rome is therefore introduced into prophecy just as, from the conquered Macedonian horn of the goat, it is going forth to new conquests in other directions. It therefore appeared to the prophet, or may be properly spoken of in this prophecy, as coming forth from one of the horns of the goat.**” {DAR1909 175.4}

16. What nations did Rome conquer toward the south and east? See quotation.

“The little horn waxed great toward the south. This was true of Rome. Egypt was made a province of the Roman empire B.C.30, and continued such for some centuries.” {DAR1909 176.1}

“The little horn waxed great toward the east. This also was true of Rome. Rome conquered Syria B.C.65, and made it a province.” {DAR1909 176.2}

17. In scripture, what region is called the “pleasant land?” **Answer: Judea, the land promised to the Israelites. See Psalm 106:23, 24; Jeremiah 3:19; Zechariah 7:14. See also the quotation below.**

“The little horn waxed great toward the pleasant land. So did Rome. Judea is called the pleasant land in many scriptures. The Romans made it a province of their empire, B.C.63, and eventually destroyed the city and the temple, and scattered the Jews over the face of the whole earth.” {DAR1909 176.3}

18. Read Daniel 8:10. Does this mean that Rome cast down literal stars and heavenly beings from heaven?

a) Who do the hosts of heaven and the stars represent in this sense? Daniel 8:24

19. **Note:** Rome fits this description because in both their Pagan and Papal phases, they persecuted God's people. If the hosts of heaven point to God's people, the stars would specifically point to the leaders of God's people. Notice the following scriptures showing that the sons of Jacob were represented as the stars, and they, along with the twelve apostles, are represented as the foundational leaders of God's true church. See Genesis 37:9-10; Luke 6:13; Revelation 12:1. See also the quotation.

"The little horn waxed great even to the host of heaven. Rome did this also. The host of heaven, when used in a symbolic sense in reference to events transpiring upon the earth, must denote persons of illustrious character or exalted position. The great red dragon (Revelation 12:4) is said to have cast down a third part of the stars of heaven to the ground. The dragon is there interpreted to symbolize pagan Rome, and the stars it cast to the ground were Jewish rulers. Evidently it is the same power and the same work that is here brought to view, which again makes it necessary to apply this growing horn to Rome." {DAR1909 176.4}

20. Read Daniel 8:11. Who is the prince of the host? Daniel 8:25; Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 1:5

21. How did Pagan Rome magnify itself against Jesus, the prince of the host? Mark 15:14-15, 27; John 19:6

"The little horn magnified himself even to the Prince of the host. Rome alone did this. In the interpretation (verse 25) this is called standing up against the Prince of princes. How clear an allusion to the crucifixion of our Lord under the jurisdiction of the Romans." {DAR1909 176.5}

22. **Note:** As we close, let us meditate on Daniel 8:7, specifically the last phrase.

23. The Bible says that there was none who could deliver the ram out of the goat's hand. Just as the he goat and the ram warred against each other, Romans 7 is also speaking about a war. What two powers are warring in Romans 7? Romans 7:22, 23

24. How does this war practically reveal itself in our lives? Romans 7:19

"The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness." {SC 43.3}

25. What question does Paul ask in Romans 7:24?

26. When we go through temptations to sin, whose hand is over us to make us feel that we cannot be delivered? Job 2:1-6 (answer is in verse 6)

27. When we surrender our desires, who will deliver us out of Satan's hand? Romans 7:25

28. What promise is left for us as we follow Christ daily? John 10:27-28
