

LIFE GROUP notes

27 October

Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Daniel – week 8



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what the meaning of the ram and male goat is in Daniel chapter 8?
2. What did Daniel see in v.3? (**A ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other.**).
3. What does v. 20 tell us about the ram? (**As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia.**).
4. What did Daniel see in v.5? (**A male goat came from the west across the whole earth. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes.**).



Let's go deeper

5. What does v.21 tell us about the goat? (**And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king.**).
6. Who does vv.9 – 12 and vv.24 – 25 refer to? (**The antichrist.**).
7. What does 2 Thessalonians 2:4 tell us about the antichrist? (**He opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.**).
8. What does Matthew 24:30b tell us? (**We will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**).



Let's apply this

9. **Daniel 8:20 – 21**; As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of **Media and Persia**. And the goat is the king of **Greece**. And the great horn between his eyes is **the first king**.

God knows and rules the future, He used the Babylonian, Medio-Persia, Greek, and Roman empires to prepare His people for the coming of Jesus Christ.

- God wants us to trust Him with our future.
- God wants us to trust Him with our daily choices, and decisions.
- God wants us to trust Him that in the end Jesus Christ is victorious.

SUMMARY:

Daniel: Week 8 – Daniel's vision of a ram and a goat **Read:** Daniel 8:1 – 27

vv.1 – 4; Vision of a ram with two horns, one horn is higher than the other.

A horn represents a king or kingdom. Two horns represent two kings and two kingdoms, the Medo-Persian kingdom with the Persian kingdom being bigger and stronger. The Medo-Persian empire will attack and conquer the Babylonian empire.

vv.15 – 20; Interpretation of the vision. Babylon is going to be conquered by the Medo-Persian empire, and will be dominated and ruled by the Persians.

Why does God care about the Persian empire? Because Jesus Christ is the centrepiece of human history, and the Bible is focused on Him. Daniel and the children of God are slaves in Babylon far away from home. The Persian empire would release them to return home to Jerusalem to worship in the temple, read God's Word, witness, and prepare God's people for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. If the temple remains closed, Jesus cannot come to earth, but now God use the Persians to release the Israelites to open the temple so that Jesus can come.

vv.5 – 8; Vision of the male goat (Greek empire) with a horn between the eyes.

vv.21 – 22; Interpretation of the vision. Alexander the great is prophesied here as the horn (Greek king), who will conquer the Persian empire. The historian Josephus tells us that Alexander the great walked into the temple and saw the high priest dressed in purple (confirming a dream that Alexander had of meeting a man dressed in purple), the high priest showed Alexander the great the prophecy of Daniel 8, and Alexander realize that he is the Greek king who will conquer the Persian army. Alexander the great went on to conquer the Persian empire.

Why does God care about the Greek empire? The Greek empire brought education, literacy, and one common language. God wanted one language, so that when Jesus came to the temple, died, and rose again, news about Him could go out, and people could understand who Jesus is, because they have one common shared language. Under the Roman empire the temple was open, the language was Greek, Jesus was born, died, and rose again, news about Him spread in one language on the Roman road system that was built to expand the Roman empire, and that God used to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ – Daniel 8 prophecy fulfilled.

vv.9 – 14, 23 – 27; The coming of the antichrist. God creates, and satan counterfeits. The beasts and antichrist come from the earth, and Jesus and the Kingdom of God comes down from heaven.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 – 4, 8 – 10 and **Matthew 24:15 – 16, 27 – 31** tells us that the temple will be restored, and then the antichrist will take his seat in the temple of God, and then Jesus will return a second time.