

ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES: TYPE OF ANTICHRIST

(Dan 8:1-14) 04/15/20

Grace Bible Church, Gillette, Wyoming

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I. DANIEL'S TIMELINE (Dan 8:1-2)

A. 2nd Vision During Belshazzar (1) - Daniel's first vision (Ch 7) was in the first year of Belshazzar's reign (553 B.C.). This **vision** came about two years later in Belshazzar's **third year** (551 B.C.). Belshazzar was the king who saw the "writing on the wall" in Chapter five (Dan 5:1, 5, 30).

B. Daniel in Susa (2)

1. Susa - Daniel saw himself in the vision in the **citadel of Susa**. Shushan (called Susa by the Greeks) was the capital of the Medo-Persian Empire located east of Babylon (Modern Iraq) approx. 250 miles and 150 miles north of the Persian Gulf. Susa (Modern Iran) is located in the region of **Elam**.

2. Scripture - Susa became Esther's home (Est 1:2, 5) and the place from which Nehemiah left to go to Jerusalem (Neh 1:1). Susa is located in the region of Elam.

3. Ulai Canal - Daniel was by the Ulai Canal, thought to be an artificial canal which connected the Choastes and Coprates Rivers by Susa.

II. RAM: MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE - CYRUS (Dan 8:3-4)

A. Ram Had Two Horns (3) -

1. Two Horns - Daniel then saw a ram having **two horns**. However, one horn was larger than the other horn. This represents the two-pronged Medo-Persian Empire. It is identified in Dan 8:20.

2. Longer Ram Horn - The **longer** horn was the Persian and more powerful side of the united empire. In addition, the Persian kings carried a ram's head into battle as a guardian spirit.

B. Ram Butted All Beasts (4)

1. Borders - The Medo-Persian Empire pushed ("**butted**") its borders **westward, northward, and southward**. These advances were mostly accomplished by Cyrus (550-530 B.C.) and his son Cambyses (530-522 B.C.).

2. Powerful Cyrus - None of the nations (**beasts**) were able to withstand the Medo-Persian Empire which was depicted as a **powerful** "bear" in Dan 7:5. The king did as he **pleased** and **magnified** himself.

III. GOAT: GREEK EMPIRE - ALEXANDER THE GREAT (Dan 8:5-8)

A. Goat with Horn (5)

1. Alexander the Great - History confirms the identity of the **male goat** as Alexander the Great. Daniel prophesied the coming of this great and powerful king over the Grecian Empire and described him with a **conspicuous single horn**.

2. Philip II - Alexander's father was Philip II of Macedon (359-336 B.C.) who overthrew the city Crenides and renamed it "Philippi." This is the same city mentioned in the New Testament about which Paul received his "Macedonian call" (Act 16:9-12 cf. Php 1:1). That same year Alexander was born (356 B.C.).

3. Tutored by Aristotle - After leaving the Plato's Academy, Aristotle went back to his hometown Macedon. He was hired by Philip II to teach his thirteen-year-old son, Alexander (343 B.C.).

4. Military Genius - Alexander the Great is given the title of the greatest military genius of ancient history because not only was he so young when he conquered most of the civilized world, but he did so in the most rapid pace imaginable, approx. 13 yrs. (336-323 B.C.). Daniel states that this king will take over the **surface of the whole earth** rapidly ("**without touching the ground**"). He was represented as a leopard in Dan 7:6.

5. Greek Culture - Alexander's goal was to Hellenize the entire world with Greek philosophy, culture, and Koine Greek language, which became the language of the New Testament.

6. Death - He continued taking countries until his unexpected death in 323 B.C. Exalted by history, it is said that he died because he had “no more worlds to conquer.” However, some claim that he died at the age of 32 because of his licentious lifestyle (alcohol and immorality).

B. Goat Rushed the Ram (6) - Alexander took control over Jerusalem in 332 B.C. In 331 B.C.

Alexander the Great defeated the Persian Empire. Daniel tells us that he **came from the west** (Macedon) and that he **rushed** the ram with a **mighty wrath**.

C. Goat Shattered Ram’s Horns (7) - Alexander quickly and powerfully **shattered** the **two horns** of the Medo-Persian Empire. The Medo-Persian kingdom was defeated and **trampled** upon and no other nations could come to their aid.

D. Goat Replaced by Four Horns (8)

1. Deathbed - In one sense, Alexander’s death was untimely and unexpected (“**as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken**”). On his deathbed, Alexander answered the question of who would take over his empire. One source stated that his reply was whoever is the strongest.

2. Four Horns - So, at his death, and followed by subsequent battles, Alexander’s Empire was divided into four parts ruled by four of his generals (“**four horns**” cf. Dan 7:6). They were Cassander (Macedonia and Greece), Lysimachus (Asia Minor and Thrace), Seleucus (Syria, Upper Asia, Babylon, and the East), and Ptolemy (Egypt, Palestine, and Arabia).

IV. SMALL HORN: GREEK EMPIRE - ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES (Dan 8:9-14)

A. Small Horn Grew Great (9)

1. Small Horn - The “**small horn**” mentioned in Dan 8:9 was not the same as the “little horn” identified previously as the Antichrist (Dan 7:8). The “little horn” would come out of the revived Roman Empire. This “small horn” was one of the last Greek rulers.

2. Type of Antichrist - History will identify this ruthless persecutor of the Jews as Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Daniel will further identify him in Dan 11:21-35. The Antichrist will be depicted in Dan 11:36-45. It becomes obvious then that Daniel’s vision shows Antiochus as a type of Antichrist.

3. Jerusalem - Antiochus will move toward and eventually take over Jerusalem, called by Daniel, as the “**Beautiful Land**” (cf. Jer 3:19). The “Beautiful Land” is also mentioned with respect to Antiochus in Dan 11:16 and of the Antichrist in Dan 11:41.

B. Small Horn Trampled Stars (10)

1. Grew Up - Just like the Antichrist, Antiochus will begin as an insignificant “small horn” but **grew** in power.

2. Host and Stars - In this language of prophecy and imagery it is quite possible that both “**host**” and “**stars**” represent Israel. Dan 8:12 appears to identify the **transgressing host** as transgressing Jews rather than transgressing angels.

3. Fall and Trampled Down - I believe the phrase “**trampled down**” refers to Antiochus’ persecution and domination over the Jewish people. John Whitcomb stated, “*He is . . . one of the greatest persecutors Israel has ever known.*”

C. Small Horn Removed Sacrifices (11)

1. Equal with the Commander - Antiochus deifies himself attempting to be equal with the “**Commander of the host**,” that is, God. If the “host” are the Jews, then their Commander is Yahweh. Antiochus named himself and had his title placed on coins. It read “*Theou Epiphanous Nikêphorou Basileōs Antiochou*” (King Antiochus, God manifest, bearer of victory).

2. Removed Regular Sacrifices - In similar fashion to the Antichrist, Antiochus did not allow the Jews to sacrifice to Yahweh. Instead, he set up an altar to Zeus and demanded he be worshipped under penalty of death.

3. 1 Maccabees 1 - 1 Maccabees is part of the Apocrypha, which is a section of writings in the Bible that Protestants do not accept as Canon. However, sometimes these writings can be helpful by filling in historical detail. Such is the account of Antiochus Epiphanes (1Mac 1:10). It details his greed, ruthlessness, and his desecration of the Temple (1Mac 1:20-24; 41-50 cf. Antiquities of the Jews 12:253).

4. Sanctuary Thrown Down - The reference to Antiochus' sacrificing swine on the altar is historically referred to as the Abomination of Desolation (Dan 11:31). It will be repeated in a more horrific manner by the Antichrist in the future (Dan 9:27; 12:11; Mat 24:15).
- D. Small Horn's Rule over Host (12) - Because of the compromise and sin of many Jews ("the host"), the Lord will use Antiochus as an instrument of discipline to His people. Antiochus will burn the Scriptures flinging **truth to the ground** (1Mac 1:56).
- E. Small Horn's Timeline (13-14)
 1. Holy Ones - Here, the "**holy ones**" are probably angels who are part of Daniel's revelation. They were wondering about the timeline of Antiochus and the Jewish discipline.
 2. 2,300 days - This is an unbelievably accurate prophecy in its minutest details. The prophecy was precise in identifying the length (6 ½ yrs.) of Antiochus' persecution (Sept, 170 B.C.) until his death (November-December 164 B.C.).

CHRONOLOGY OF DANIEL

Babylonian Reign - Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 B.C.).











- Chapter 1: Daniel raised to power (604 B.C.).
- Chapter 2: The image dream (602 B.C.).
- Chapter 3: The fiery furnace episode (600 B.C.?).
- Chapter 4: The tree dream (570 B.C.?).

Babylonian Reign - Nabonidus/Belshazzar (556-539 B.C.).

- Chapter 7: Vision of four beasts (c. 553 B.C.).
- Chapter 8: Vision of the ram and goat (c. 551 B.C.).
- Chapter 5: Handwriting on the wall (539 B.C.).

Persian Reign - Cyrus/Darius (539-530 B.C.).

- Chapter 9: Vision of seventy heptads (538 B.C.).
- Chapter 6: The lions' den (537 B.C.).
- Chapters 10-12: The final vision (536 B.C.).

		Dan 2:37-45	7:1-8	8:3-8
	GOLD	BABYLONIAN (605-539 B.C.) (Dan 2:32, 37-38; <u>7:4</u>) (<u>King Nebuchadnezzar</u>)		
	SILVER	MEDO-PERSIAN (539-331 B.C.) (Dan 2:32, 39a; 5:31; 6:28; <u>7:5</u>) (<u>Cyrus the Great</u>)		
	BRONZE	GREEK (331 - 63 B.C.) (Dan 2:32, 39b; <u>7:6</u>) (<u>Alexander the Great</u>)		
	IRON	ROMAN (63 B.C. - A.D. 476) (Dan 2:33, 40; 7:7a) (<u>Caesars</u>)		
	IRON /CLAY	REVIVED EMPIRE OF 10 KINGS (Dan 2:33, 41-43; 7:7b-8, 11, 19-21, 23-25; 9:26; Rev 12:3; 13:1) (<u>Little Horn - Antichrist</u>)		
	STONE	CHRIST'S MILLENN. KINGDOM (Dan 2:34-35, 44-45; <u>7:13-14, 18, 22, 26-27</u> ; Rev 20:4) (<u>The Lord Jesus Christ</u>)		

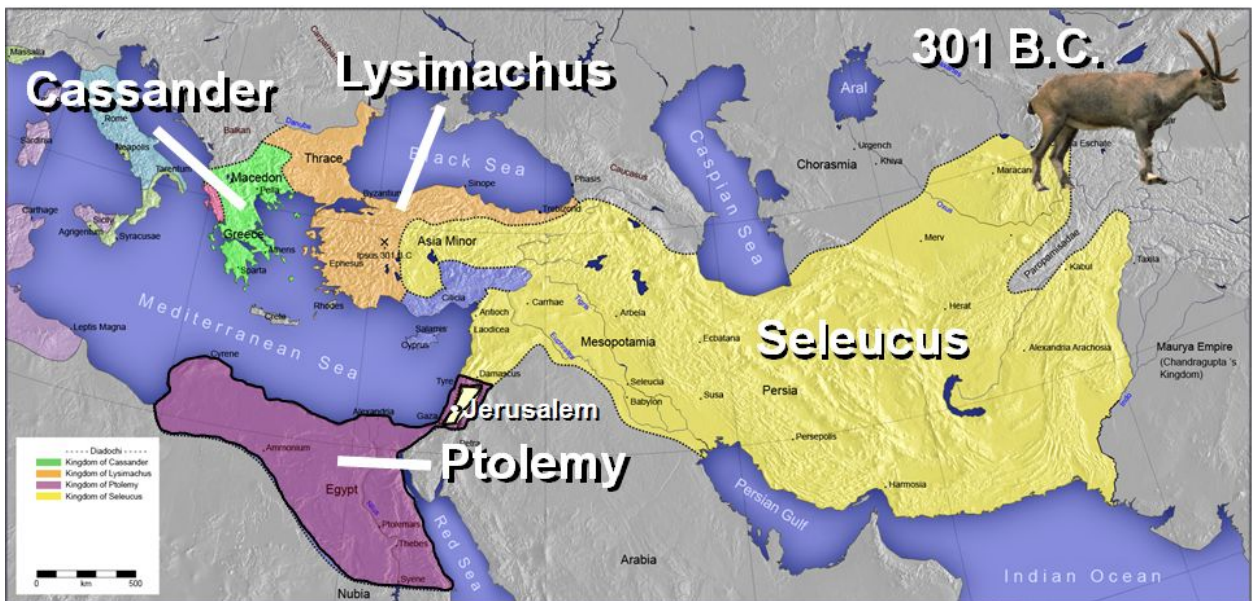
THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE 4-6TH CENTURY B.C.

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Dan 2:32, 39b; 5:31; 6:28

Dan 7:5

Dan 8:3-4, 6-7





Coin depicting Antiochus IV, Greek inscription reads
ΘΕΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ
ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ (King Antiochus, God manifest, bearer
of victory)

