

# REVELATION

Fulfilled Vision and  
Prophecy

(Daniel 8:1-27)

Fulfilled prophecy gives us insight into how to interpret prophecy, but also reminds us of the limits of our understanding.

We see God fulfilling His Word.

We can trust the God who fulfills His Word and His promises.

# 1. Daniel's vision

A. Daniel had this vision while the Babylonians were still in power.

- ❖ Daniel 8:1-2: In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal.
- ❖ Susa is capital of Persia (much of Esther takes place in Susa).

# 1. Daniel's vision

B. In Daniel's vision, he saw a powerful ram.

❖ Daniel 8:3-4: I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, 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, and the higher one came up last. I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.

# 1. Daniel's vision

C. Daniel saw a goat come and attack the ram.

❖ Daniel 8:5-8: As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath.

I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power. Then the goat became exceedingly great, but **when he was strong, the great horn was broken,** and **instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.**

# 1. Daniel's vision

D. Daniel saw a powerful new horn come up from among the four horns.

❖ Daniel 8:9: Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land.



Daniel 8:11-14: It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. *And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper.* Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?" And he said to me, *"For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."*



## 2. God gave Daniel a clear explanation of this vision of the ram and the goat.

A. The ram with two uneven horns represents the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians.

❖ Daniel 8:20: As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia.

❖ North to Caspian Sea, west past Babylon and to Africa, south to Egypt and Ethiopia



## 2. God gave Daniel a clear explanation of this vision of the ram and the goat.

B. The goat represents the kingdom of Greece.

❖ Daniel 8:21-22: And the goat is the king of Greece. And **the great horn between his eyes is the first king**. As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, **four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power**.

2. God gave Daniel a clear explanation of this vision of the ram and the goat.

B. The goat represents the kingdom of Greece.



## 2. God gave Daniel a clear explanation of this vision of the ram and the goat.

C. As Alexander's empire grew, he desired to spread Greek culture and Greek religion.

- ❖ The Jews were exiled for unfaithfulness, and Hellenization tempted them to turn to the Greek religion.
- ❖ Sadducees eventually came from those who followed Hellenism. Pharisees came from the conservatives who maintained Judaism.
- ❖ Acts 6: Origin of deacons

### 3. During the time of Hellenization, the little horn of Daniel 8 destroyed much.

- ❖ Daniel 8:23-25: And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and **he shall cause fearful destruction** and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. By his cunning **he shall make deceit prosper under his hand**, and in his own mind he shall become great. **Without warning he shall destroy many**. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand.

### 3. During the time of Hellenization, the little horn of Daniel 8 destroyed much.

A. This king was Antiochus IV of the Seleucid kingdom.

- ❖ His nephew was in line to be king, but Antiochus became king through bribery and deceit.
- ❖ In the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C., he tried to defeat the Ptolemaic kingdom in Egypt, but the Romans forbid him from ruling Egypt.



### 3. During the time of Hellenization, the little horn of Daniel 8 destroyed much.

B. The oppression of Antiochus IV led to the Maccabean revolt.

- ❖ The temple was cleansed in December, 164 B.C., and sacrifices were reinstated.
- ❖ John 10:22-23: At that time the **Feast of Dedication** took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon.



### 3. During the time of Hellenization, the little horn of Daniel 8 destroyed much.

B. The oppression of Antiochus IV led to the Maccabean revolt.

❖ John 10:30-33: “I and the Father are one.”  
The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”





### 3. During the time of Hellenization, the little horn of Daniel 8 destroyed much.

C. The prophecy of Daniel 8 is similar to some of the prophecies about the Antichrist.

- ❖ God preserved Israel through the difficult days of Antiochus IV.
- ❖ Daniel 9:27: And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.

### 3. During the time of Hellenization, the little horn of Daniel 8 destroyed much.

D. How do these things help our interpretation of Revelation 13?

- ❖ We can make tentative conclusions and applications from the text, but must remember our understanding is limited.
- ❖ Daniel 8:27: And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king's business, but I was appalled by the vision and **did not understand it.**

*1 Peter 1:10-12: Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.*

# **Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?**

- There is value in us studying prophecy, just like the Old Testament prophets.
  - We can see a coming Antichrist who cuts off sacrifices, demands worship, and is much like Antiochus.
  - We do not know when he will come, his name, or exactly what his mark is.

# Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- We *do* know God is in control, and He will be victorious.
- We don't trust in our perfect understanding of future events, but in God.
- Difficult times come in our lives, and we cannot always see the end, but we can still trust God.
- We can trust God who fulfills His Word and His promises.

NEXT TIME:

REVELATION 13:1-10

- The Beast from the Sea