

*...a verse by verse study*

# Daniel Chapter 8

- It has been about two years since Daniel's first vision that we looked at in the previous chapter.
- The year is around 550 B.C. and Daniel is about 69 years old.

# Chronological Order

## Chapter

1	Babylonian Captivity	606 B.C.
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	604 B.C.
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	587 B.C.
4	Nebuchadnezzar's Pride	570-563 B.C.
7	The vision of the 4 beasts	552 B.C.
8	Ram and He-goat vision	550 B.C.
5	Babylon falls to Persians	539 B.C.
6	The Lions' Den	539 B.C.
9	Vision of seventy weeks	537 B.C.
10 -12	Closing visions	536 B.C.

# Historical Chapters

## Chapter

1	Babylonian Captivity	606 B.C.
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	604 B.C.
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	587 B.C.
4	Nebuchadnezzar's Pride	570-563 B.C.
7	The vision of the 4 beasts	552 B.C.
8	Ram and He-goat vision	550 B.C.
5	Babylon falls to Persians	539 B.C.
6	The Lions' Den	539 B.C.
9	Vision of seventy weeks	537 B.C.
10 -12	Closing visions	536 B.C.

# Dreams & Visions

## Chapter

1	Babylonian Captivity	606 B.C.
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	604 B.C.
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	587 B.C.
4	Nebuchadnezzar's Pride	570-563 B.C.
7	The vision of the 4 beasts	552 B.C.
8	Ram and He-goat vision	550 B.C.
5	Babylon falls to Persians	539 B.C.
6	The Lions' Den	539 B.C.
9	Vision of seventy weeks	537 B.C.
10 -12	Closing visions	536 B.C.

# Daniel's Enduring Ministry

- Daniel was 14 when taken to Babylon

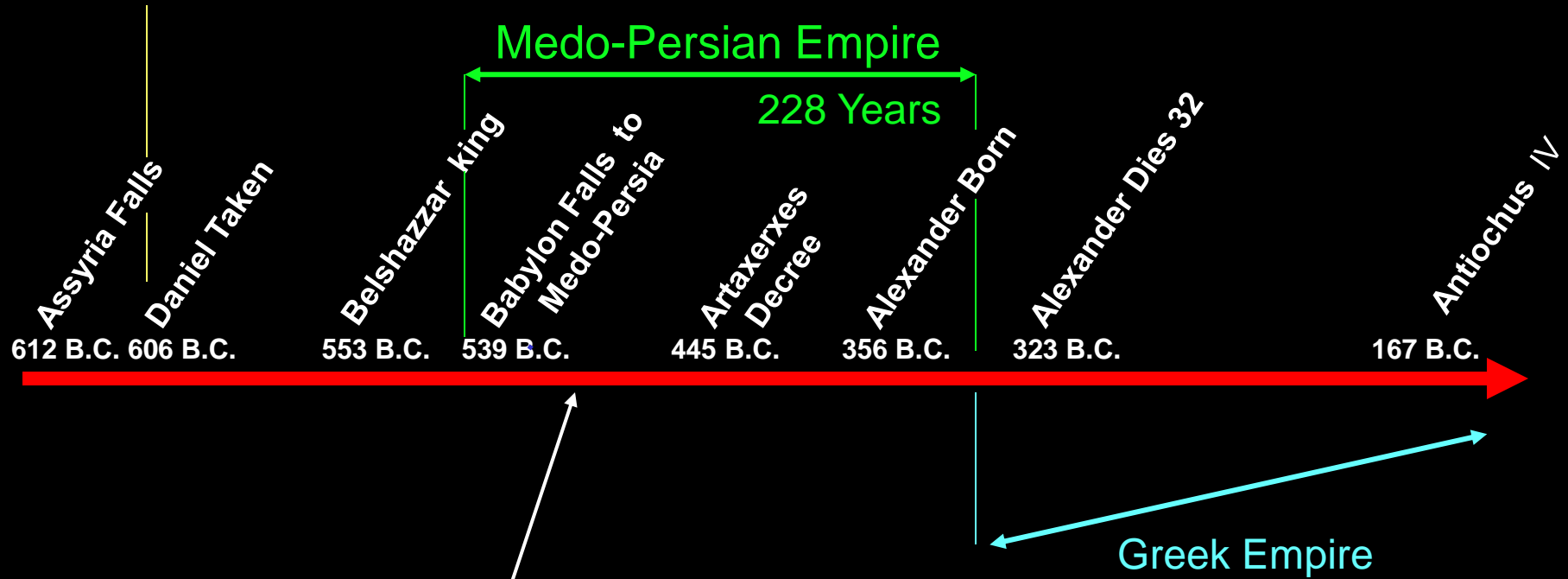
- Chapter 8 occurs when Daniel was c.69 years old

Appendix C - Chronology of the Book of Daniel

Approx. D.C. Chapter Ref.	Daniel's Age	Scripture Reference	Approximate Year	Judean King
1st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	2 Kings 24:1-2	605 BC	Jehoiakim 2nd Yr.
2nd Siege of Jerusalem [603]	16	2 Kings 24:18-20	603 BC	Jehoiakim 4th Yr.
3rd Siege of Jerusalem [597]	22	2 Kings 24:18-20	597 BC	Jehoiachin 1st Yr.
3rd Siege of Jerusalem [587]	31	2 Kings 24:18-20	587 BC	Jehoiachin 10th Yr.
4th Siege of Jerusalem [586]	32	2 Kings 24:18-20	586 BC	Jehoiachin 11th Yr.
5th Siege of Jerusalem [585]	33	2 Kings 24:18-20	585 BC	Jehoiachin 12th Yr.
6th Siege of Jerusalem [584]	34	2 Kings 24:18-20	584 BC	Jehoiachin 13th Yr.
7th Siege of Jerusalem [583]	35	2 Kings 24:18-20	583 BC	Jehoiachin 14th Yr.
8th Siege of Jerusalem [582]	36	2 Kings 24:18-20	582 BC	Jehoiachin 15th Yr.
9th Siege of Jerusalem [581]	37	2 Kings 24:18-20	581 BC	Jehoiachin 16th Yr.
10th Siege of Jerusalem [580]	38	2 Kings 24:18-20	580 BC	Jehoiachin 17th Yr.
11th Siege of Jerusalem [579]	39	2 Kings 24:18-20	579 BC	Jehoiachin 18th Yr.
12th Siege of Jerusalem [578]	40	2 Kings 24:18-20	578 BC	Jehoiachin 19th Yr.
13th Siege of Jerusalem [577]	41	2 Kings 24:18-20	577 BC	Jehoiachin 20th Yr.
14th Siege of Jerusalem [576]	42	2 Kings 24:18-20	576 BC	Jehoiachin 21st Yr.
15th Siege of Jerusalem [575]	43	2 Kings 24:18-20	575 BC	Jehoiachin 22nd Yr.
16th Siege of Jerusalem [574]	44	2 Kings 24:18-20	574 BC	Jehoiachin 23rd Yr.
17th Siege of Jerusalem [573]	45	2 Kings 24:18-20	573 BC	Jehoiachin 24th Yr.
18th Siege of Jerusalem [572]	46	2 Kings 24:18-20	572 BC	Jehoiachin 25th Yr.
19th Siege of Jerusalem [571]	47	2 Kings 24:18-20	571 BC	Jehoiachin 26th Yr.
20th Siege of Jerusalem [570]	48	2 Kings 24:18-20	570 BC	Jehoiachin 27th Yr.
21st Siege of Jerusalem [569]	49	2 Kings 24:18-20	569 BC	Jehoiachin 28th Yr.
22nd Siege of Jerusalem [568]	50	2 Kings 24:18-20	568 BC	Jehoiachin 29th Yr.
23rd Siege of Jerusalem [567]	51	2 Kings 24:18-20	567 BC	Jehoiachin 30th Yr.
24th Siege of Jerusalem [566]	52	2 Kings 24:18-20	566 BC	Jehoiachin 31st Yr.
25th Siege of Jerusalem [565]	53	2 Kings 24:18-20	565 BC	Jehoiachin 32nd Yr.
26th Siege of Jerusalem [564]	54	2 Kings 24:18-20	564 BC	Jehoiachin 33rd Yr.
27th Siege of Jerusalem [563]	55	2 Kings 24:18-20	563 BC	Jehoiachin 34th Yr.
28th Siege of Jerusalem [562]	56	2 Kings 24:18-20	562 BC	Jehoiachin 35th Yr.
29th Siege of Jerusalem [561]	57	2 Kings 24:18-20	561 BC	Jehoiachin 36th Yr.
30th Siege of Jerusalem [560]	58	2 Kings 24:18-20	560 BC	Jehoiachin 37th Yr.
31st Siege of Jerusalem [559]	59	2 Kings 24:18-20	559 BC	Jehoiachin 38th Yr.
32nd Siege of Jerusalem [558]	60	2 Kings 24:18-20	558 BC	Jehoiachin 39th Yr.
33rd Siege of Jerusalem [557]	61	2 Kings 24:18-20	557 BC	Jehoiachin 40th Yr.
34th Siege of Jerusalem [556]	62	2 Kings 24:18-20	556 BC	Jehoiachin 41st Yr.
35th Siege of Jerusalem [555]	63	2 Kings 24:18-20	555 BC	Jehoiachin 42nd Yr.
36th Siege of Jerusalem [554]	64	2 Kings 24:18-20	554 BC	Jehoiachin 43rd Yr.
37th Siege of Jerusalem [553]	65	2 Kings 24:18-20	553 BC	Jehoiachin 44th Yr.
38th Siege of Jerusalem [552]	66	2 Kings 24:18-20	552 BC	Jehoiachin 45th Yr.
39th Siege of Jerusalem [551]	67	2 Kings 24:18-20	551 BC	Jehoiachin 46th Yr.
40th Siege of Jerusalem [550]	68	2 Kings 24:18-20	550 BC	Jehoiachin 47th Yr.
41st Siege of Jerusalem [549]	69	2 Kings 24:18-20	549 BC	Jehoiachin 48th Yr.
42nd Siege of Jerusalem [548]	70	2 Kings 24:18-20	548 BC	Jehoiachin 49th Yr.
43rd Siege of Jerusalem [547]	71	2 Kings 24:18-20	547 BC	Jehoiachin 50th Yr.
44th Siege of Jerusalem [546]	72	2 Kings 24:18-20	546 BC	Jehoiachin 51st Yr.
45th Siege of Jerusalem [545]	73	2 Kings 24:18-20	545 BC	Jehoiachin 52nd Yr.
46th Siege of Jerusalem [544]	74	2 Kings 24:18-20	544 BC	Jehoiachin 53rd Yr.
47th Siege of Jerusalem [543]	75	2 Kings 24:18-20	543 BC	Jehoiachin 54th Yr.
48th Siege of Jerusalem [542]	76	2 Kings 24:18-20	542 BC	Jehoiachin 55th Yr.
49th Siege of Jerusalem [541]	77	2 Kings 24:18-20	541 BC	Jehoiachin 56th Yr.
50th Siege of Jerusalem [540]	78	2 Kings 24:18-20	540 BC	Jehoiachin 57th Yr.
51st Siege of Jerusalem [539]	79	2 Kings 24:18-20	539 BC	Jehoiachin 58th Yr.
52nd Siege of Jerusalem [538]	80	2 Kings 24:18-20	538 BC	Jehoiachin 59th Yr.
53rd Siege of Jerusalem [537]	81	2 Kings 24:18-20	537 BC	Jehoiachin 60th Yr.
54th Siege of Jerusalem [536]	82	2 Kings 24:18-20	536 BC	Jehoiachin 61st Yr.
55th Siege of Jerusalem [535]	83	2 Kings 24:18-20	535 BC	Jehoiachin 62nd Yr.
56th Siege of Jerusalem [534]	84	2 Kings 24:18-20	534 BC	Jehoiachin 63rd Yr.
57th Siege of Jerusalem [533]	85	2 Kings 24:18-20	533 BC	Jehoiachin 64th Yr.
58th Siege of Jerusalem [532]	86	2 Kings 24:18-20	532 BC	Jehoiachin 65th Yr.
59th Siege of Jerusalem [531]	87	2 Kings 24:18-20	531 BC	Jehoiachin 66th Yr.
60th Siege of Jerusalem [530]	88	2 Kings 24:18-20	530 BC	Jehoiachin 67th Yr.
61st Siege of Jerusalem [529]	89	2 Kings 24:18-20	529 BC	Jehoiachin 68th Yr.
62nd Siege of Jerusalem [528]	90	2 Kings 24:18-20	528 BC	Jehoiachin 69th Yr.
63rd Siege of Jerusalem [527]	91	2 Kings 24:18-20	527 BC	Jehoiachin 70th Yr.
64th Siege of Jerusalem [526]	92	2 Kings 24:18-20	526 BC	Jehoiachin 71st Yr.
65th Siege of Jerusalem [525]	93	2 Kings 24:18-20	525 BC	Jehoiachin 72nd Yr.
66th Siege of Jerusalem [524]	94	2 Kings 24:18-20	524 BC	Jehoiachin 73rd Yr.
67th Siege of Jerusalem [523]	95	2 Kings 24:18-20	523 BC	Jehoiachin 74th Yr.
68th Siege of Jerusalem [522]	96	2 Kings 24:18-20	522 BC	Jehoiachin 75th Yr.
69th Siege of Jerusalem [521]	97	2 Kings 24:18-20	521 BC	Jehoiachin 76th Yr.
70th Siege of Jerusalem [520]	98	2 Kings 24:18-20	520 BC	Jehoiachin 77th Yr.
71st Siege of Jerusalem [519]	99	2 Kings 24:18-20	519 BC	Jehoiachin 78th Yr.
72nd Siege of Jerusalem [518]	100	2 Kings 24:18-20	518 BC	Jehoiachin 79th Yr.

# History of the Times

Times of the Gentiles Luke 21:24



## History



Ezra / Nehemiah / Esther

## Prophetic



Haggai / Zechariah / Malachi

# The "Times of the Gentiles"

Daniel 2

**Gold**

**Silver**

**Brass**

**Iron**

**Iron + Clay**



**Babylon**

606 BC – 539 BC

**Persia**

539 BC – 332 BC

**Greece**

332 BC – 68 BC

**Rome I**

68 BC – ?

**"Rome II"**

Daniel 7

**Winged Lion**

**Bear on side**

**Leopard**

**Terrible  
Beast**

**10 Heads...**





# Kings of Persian Empire

Darius (Gubaru) (539-?) ← Cyrus (559-530)

Ruled Babylon

Cambyses II  
(530-522)

Smerdis  
(8 months 522-521)

Darius The Great (Ezra 4:24)  
(520-486)

Xerxes (Esther)  
(486-465)

Artaxerxes (Dan 9 / Neh 2)  
Longimanus  
(465-424)

A golden-hued, textured background image depicting a scene from the Book of Daniel. On the left, a large, bearded statue of a king stands with arms crossed. In the center and right, a city with various buildings and structures is visible, including a prominent multi-tiered temple-like building on the right. The scene is set against a hazy, golden sky.

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE BOOK OF

DANIEL

*...a verse by verse study*

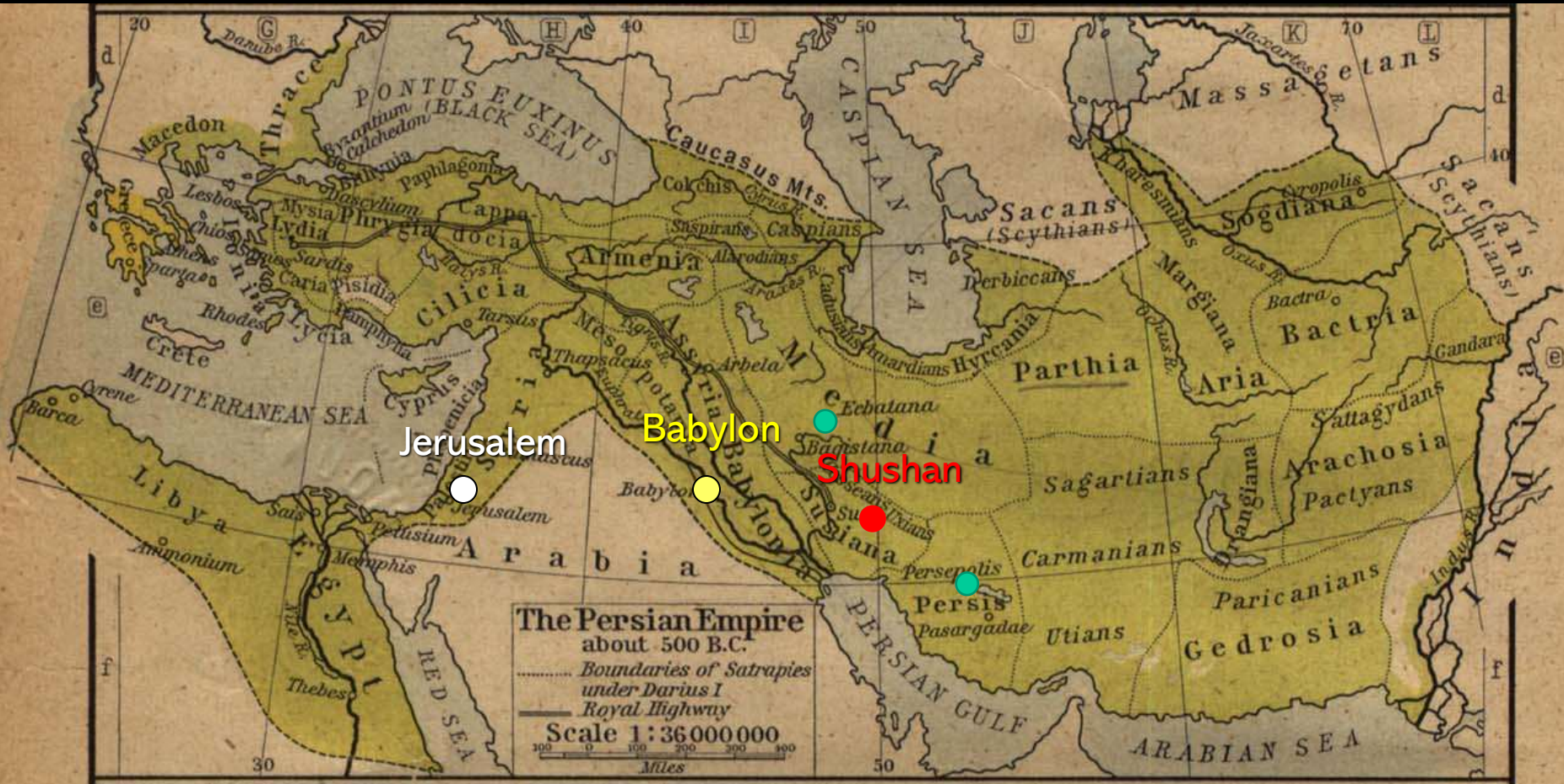
<sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first.

**Daniel 8:1**

<sup>2</sup> And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai.

**Daniel 8:2**

# Shushan



# Shushan (aka Susa)

- Located 230 miles east of Babylon
  - 150 miles north of the tip of the Persian Gulf
  - Midway between Ecbatana and Persepolis
- Formally the capital of the Elamites (Eldest son of Shem)
- Later it became the main residence of the Persian kings as the center of their Empire
  - It had a famous palace built by Darius I
  - later enlarged by Xerxes
- It became the home of Esther Esther 1:2,5, 2:3,5
- It was the city Nehemiah served in Nehemiah 1:1
- The Code of Hammurabi found there in 1901

# The Code of Hammurabi

- ...is a Babylonian legal text composed c. 1755–1750 BC. - **During Jacob's lifetime**
- It is the longest, best-organised, and best-preserved legal text from the ancient Near East.
- Written by Hammurabi, sixth king of the First Dynasty of Babylon.
- *“The stele was discovered in 1901, at the site of Susa in present-day Iran, where it had been taken as plunder six hundred years after its creation. The text itself was copied and studied by Mesopotamian scribes for over a millennium. The stele now resides in the Louvre Museum.”*



# Shushan

Palace of Darius I





# Shushan (Susa)



Part of the remains of Susa. The Susa inscription from King Darius states *"This palace which I built at Susa"* - Louvre Museum

# Shushan (Susa)



# Shushan (Susa)



# Shushan (Susa)

## Glazed brick guardsman

This was part of a frieze depicting rows of guards. The vivid colours show how the carved stone sculptures would have looked when they were painted. The guards are thought to be members of the 1000 special royal guards. They were said to have formed part of the royal army known as the 'Immortals' because their strength was always apparently maintained at this level.

*521–500 BC*

*East gate of palace, Susa, Iran*

132525 Permanent loan from the Musée du Louvre, Sb 4001



# The 'Tomb of Daniel'

At Shushan (Susa)



- A tomb presumed to be that of Daniel is located in the area, known as Shush-Daniel.

<sup>3</sup> Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.

**Daniel 8:3**

- In verse 20 we will be told that this ram with two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.
- The fact that one horn is higher than the other speaks of the fact that Persia was stronger than Media, and Persia started its rise to power after Media.

# The Ram

- We saw a similar idiom in the previous chapter with the bear being raised up on one side (Dan 7:5).
- Interestingly enough, the ram had long been associated with the Persian kingdom, both in mythology and practice.
- The Persian kings would take off their royal crown and wear a ram's head when they went into battle.
- In ancient cultures, Persia was associated with Aries in the Zodiac, the Ram.

<sup>4</sup> I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great

**Daniel 8:4**

- As Daniel looks on, he sees this ram pushing in three directions, west, north and south.
- History confirms that these were the directions the Medo-Persian army went in.
- East of Persia was India, which remained untouched by the Persian kings.



# Xerxes

- Xerxes was the last great ruler of the Persian Empire
- At the height of the Persian empire, Xerxes fielded two and a half million men in his army and 'none could deliver out of his hand'.
- Xerxes made an ill-fated attempt to move against Greece

# Xerxes

- By early 480 BC, the preparations were complete, and Xerxes' army marched towards Europe
- The Athenian-led Greeks had also been preparing for war
  - under the guidance of the Athenian politician Themistocles
- Themistocles spread the rumour that the Greeks were disbanding and lured the Persians into narrow water between Salamis & the mainland
- History records 378 Greek ships vs 1207 Persian
  - Conservative scholars suggest 600-800 Persian
- Greece was outnumbered at least 2:1
- Yet wins a decisive victory

# History of the Times



# History of the Times



## THE BATTLE OF SALAMIS,

480 B.C.

SCALE OF MILES

0 1 2 3



University of Exeter

SARONIC  
GULF

# History of the Times

- A significant number of historians have stated that Salamis is one of the most significant battles in human history as it paved the way for the rise of Greece
  - Which in turn led to a universal language
  - Suitable for the spread of the gospel!
- Xerxes is ultimately forced to return to Persia Humiliated and despondent

<sup>5</sup> And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

**Daniel 8:5**

- As Daniel was watching and thinking this through
  - (remember the Meads and Persians were subservient to the king of Babylon at this time, and had been all of Daniel's life; it must have been hard to grasp that Babylon would loose its dominance)
- suddenly, a male goat comes flying from the west and has an impressive horn between its eyes.

6 And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.

**Daniel 8:6**

<sup>7</sup> And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.

**Daniel 8:7**

- Verse 21 will tell us that this male goat is representative of the kingdom of Greece and verse 22 confirms that the 'notable horn' is the 'first king', who from history we know was Alexander the Great.



# The Accent of Greece

- This corresponds with the ‘belly and thighs of brass’ of the dream in chapter two and the leopard of the vision in chapter 7.
- There had long been rivalry between Medo-Persia and Macedonia (the area just to the north of Greece).
- Philip of Macedon, Alexander’s father, was murdered by a conspiracy, said to have been masterminded by Darius of Persia.
  - Thus when Alexander came to the throne as a young 19/20 year old, he needed little encouragement in going after Darius and the Persians; whom he duly defeated after a few decisive battles.

# Alexander The Great

- Alexander's kingdom surpassed anything that had existed up to this time, and in just 6 years it stretched all the way from Greece to India.
- If Persia was associated with a ram, then Greece was certainly associated with a goat.
- Various stories in Greek folklore were centered around a goat
  - Alexander's son was named 'Alexander Aegus', the 'son of the goat'.
- In addition, some of Alexander's successors are represented on their coins with goat horns.
- Daniel is here being told what will happen 200 years later!

8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.

**Daniel 8:8**

- Greece got stronger and stronger under Alexander and he even succeeded in uniting the Macedonians and the Persians, enlisting many foreigners into his army.
- However, at just 32 years old, Alexander died.
- It is famously reported that on his deathbed he was asked: 'to whom shall the empire be given', he answered: 'give it to the strong'.

# The Division of Greece

- It is famously reported that on his deathbed he was asked: 'to whom shall the empire be given', he answered: 'give it to the strong'.
- Daniel 7:6 foretold that the powerful Greek Empire would be divided in to 4
- Within a year of Alexander's death, the empire was divided up between his four generals,
- #1 Antigonus took Babylon
  - later to be conquered by Seleucus
- #2 Ptolemy took Egypt,
- #3 Cassandra took Macedonia
- #4 Lysimachus took Asia Minor.

# The Empire Divided

Daniel 11



Cassandra

Lysimachus

Seleucus

Ptolemy

400 "Silent Years"?  
(Detailed in advance in Daniel 11)

9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn,  
which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and  
toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.

**Daniel 8:9**

- We are now introduced to a little horn, but it should not be confused with the little horn of the previous chapter.
- In chapter 7 the little horn was seen to come from among the 10 horns
  - which were identified as being the 10 kings of the revived Roman Empire that are yet to come.
- Here the little horn comes out of one of the 4 horns
  - that arose after the death of Alexander the Great.
- So this horn is to come out of the remains of the Greek Empire; and we are told that he ‘waxed exceeding great’ toward the south, east and the pleasant land – Israel.

<sup>10</sup> And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.

**Daniel 8:10**



# Flash ~~Back~~ Forward

- Note: Revelation may have already recognised this verse as being remarkably similar to Revelation 12:3-4: *“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth”* (Rev 12:3-4).
- In Revelation we noted that at the mid-point of the Tribulation (just prior to the commencement of the Great Tribulation) Satan will be thrown out of Heaven once and for all, but in so doing, he will ‘drag’ one third of the ‘stars’ (angels in this context) with him.

# The Law of Double Reference

- This is not uncommon in prophetic scripture and is given the label 'The Law of Double Reference':
- This law observes the fact that often a passage or a block of Scripture is speaking of two different persons or two different events that are separated by a long period of time.
- Thus we have in 'near view' this 'little horn'
  - we will discover this was Antiochus IV Epiphanies
- Yet this 'little horn' also has a distant 'future' fulfilment
  - We will find that Antiochus IV Epiphanies is a model or type of Antichrist.

# The Host?

- Finis Jennings Dake, in his reference Bible comments that the word 'host' is translated from the Hebrew word 'tsaba' which means *'a mass of persons or things, especially organised for war'*.
- Dake adds:
  - *"The words host and hosts are used 475 times of various armies of earth and heaven, as well as the mass of stars."*  
*"The term host of heaven is used of the sun, moon, and stars; and here [i.e. in this verse] of the high priest, the priests and Levites. It is a technical term for the ministers of the temple. The host may also include the worshippers. They are pictured under the figure of stars of heaven. The fact that the host will be trodden under the foot of men proves it refers to the Jewish people on earth, and not literal stars of heaven"*.

# The Host?

- Therefore, if this is the case, this verse is prophesying that this little horn will stand up against the priests of the temple and attack the Levites and worshippers
- This must have been astonishing for Daniel
- Yet we now know from history that this is something that did actually take place
- Josephus / 1 Maccabees record this event which actually happened.

<sup>11</sup> Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

**Daniel 8:11**

<sup>12</sup> And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered

**Daniel 8:12**

- Jesus points to these verses as the key to understanding End-Time prophecy!
- We are told 'He who hears, let him understand!'

# Ptolemies vs. Seleucids

“Kings of the South”

“Kings of the North”

Daniel Chapter 11

5	Ptolemy I Soter (323-285 BC)	5	Seleucus I Nicator (312-281)
			Antiochus I Soter (281-262)
6	Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246)	6	Antiochus II Theos (262-246)
7-8	Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221)	7-9	Seleucus II Callinicus (246-227)
		10	Seleucus III Soter (227-223)
11-12	Ptolemy IV Philopater (221-204)	10-19	Antiochus III the Great (223-187)
17	Ptolemy V Epiphanes (204-181)	20	Seleucus IV Philopater (187-176)
25	Ptolemy VI Philometer (181-145)	21-35	Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-163)

# Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- Antiochus was a part of the Seleucid Empire that had come to power following the death of Alexander the Great.
- According to the Apocryphal book of 1 Maccabees, and other historical records, Antiochus IV was the 8th king of the Syrian dynasty, reigning from 175 – 164 B.C.
- He ascended to the throne after the death of his father and imprisonment (by Rome) of his elder brother, Seleucus Philopator.
- Yet Antiochus was not the rightful heir, for Seleucus had a son.



# Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- However, by flattery and bribery Antiochus succeeded in becoming king.
- He invaded Egypt and defeated Ptolemy VI, but on his way back he stopped of at Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem was situated right in between the Seleucid and Ptolemaic empires, and acted as a 'buffer zone' in between the two rival kingdoms.
- As you can imagine, the Jews were not very enamored by this and tried to resist.

# Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- “Epiphanes” is an abbreviation of Greek: *theos epiphanes*, a designation he gave himself: "*the god who appears or reveals himself*" or "*the Illustrious One*"
- The Jews – out of contempt – call him Epimanes “the madman”!

# Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- Antiochus undertook the total eradication of the Jewish religion and the establishment of Greek polytheism in its stead.
- The observance of all Jewish laws, especially those relating to the Sabbath and to circumcision, were forbidden under pain of death.
- All Jewish practices were set aside, and in all cities of Judea, sacrifices must be brought to the pagan deities.

# Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- Representatives of the crown everywhere enforced the edict.
- Once a month a search was instituted, and whoever had secreted a copy of the Law or had observed the rite of circumcision was condemned to death.

# Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- In Jerusalem on the 15th of Chislev in December 168 BC
  - “Broke the league that he had made”
  - a pagan altar was built on the Great Altar of Burnt Sacrifices
- Stripped the Temple of its treasures
- Pillaged the city of Jerusalem
  - 10,000 captives
- Compelled them to forsake worship
- Forbid circumcision; crucified violators
- Torah forbidden & destroyed

Josephus, *Antiquities*, XII v 4

# Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- On the 25th of Chisleu, (His birthday) sacrifice was brought on this altar for the first time

1 Maccabees 1:54,59

- Offered a swine in every village

Josephus, *Antiquities*, XII v 4

- Erected an idol to Zeus in the Holy of Holies

- “a desolating sacrilege”

1 Maccabees 1:54

- “Temple of Jupiter Olympius”

2 Maccabees 6:1-7

*“And the king sent letters by messengers to Jerusalem and the cities of Judah: he directed them:*

- to follow customs strange to the land,*
- to forbid burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings in the sanctuary,*
- to profane Sabbaths and feasts,*
- to defile the sanctuary and the priests,*
- to build alters in sacred precincts and shrines for idols,*
- to sacrifice swine and unclean animals, and*
- to leave their sons uncircumcised,*

*They were to make themselves abominable by everything unclean and profane, so that they [the Jews] should forget the law and change the ordinances. And whoever does not obey the command of the king shall die”*

**1 Maccabees**

# Maccabean Revolt

- A spontaneous revolt was to turn into a full-scale war:
  - The arrival of officers to carry out Antiochus' decrees at the village of Modein, where an aged priest named Mattathias lived with his five sons
- Mattathias killed both
  1. the first Jew who approached the pagan altar to offer sacrifice and
  2. the royal official who presided,

*As a result he and his sons fled to the hills...*



# Maccabean Revolt

- Mattathias and his 5 sons became the nucleus of a growing band of rebels against Antiochus:
  - John           ‘Gaddi,’
  - Simon         ‘Thassi,’
  - Judas         ‘Maccabeus,’ (“Hammer”)
  - Eleazar       ‘Avaran,’
  - Jonathan      ‘Apphus’

# Maccabean Revolt

- Mattathias died soon after, leaving
- Leadership of this revolt fell to Judas, whose surname 'Maccabeus'
  - His name became the source of the popular name given to the family and its followers.
- Under Judas's brilliant leadership, what had begun as a guerrilla war turned into full-scale military engagements in which smaller Jewish forces managed to defeat much more powerful Syrian armies.

# Maccabean Revolt

- Judas's most notable achievements:
  - the recapture of Jerusalem  
(except for the Akra fortress, where the Syrian garrison continued to hold out)
  - the rededication of the Temple, after the defiled altar had been demolished and rebuilt.
  - The rededication, on 25 Kislev of 164 BC, still celebrated as Hanukkah John 10:22
  - Antiochus' death also took place in 164
- Judas continued successfully to press what was now a war for independence.
  - His last great victory was over the forces of Nicanor at Beth-horon, in March of 161 BC

13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

**Daniel 8:13**

<sup>14</sup> And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

**Daniel 8:14**

# The 2300 Days?

- It is reasonable to assume that the answer given in verse 14 would be the response to the question asked in verse 13!
- It is amazing therefore, as one browses the various commentaries on this verse, that not only do we have various 'interpretations' of what the 'two thousand and three hundred days' actually mean, but also what they are referring to!

# William Miller

- Miller, an American Baptist preacher and active Freemason, proposed that the days actually meant years...
- ...and that the sanctuary actually referred to the earth.
- Therefore, he concluded, after 2300 years the earth would be cleansed and Jesus would return.
- Miller became convinced that the 2,300 day/year period started in 457 B.C. with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem by Artaxerxes I of Persia;
  - his first mistake was that the decree to rebuild Jerusalem was not given until the 20th year of Artaxerxes (445 B.C.)

# William Miller

- According to his calculations, the period would end, and hence **Christ would return**, in 1843.
- Miller records, *"I was thus brought... to the solemn conclusion, that in about twenty-five years from that time (1818) all the affairs of our present state would be wound up."*

(Apology and Defence, William Miller, 11-12).

- As most people are aware, this did not happen!
- Yet from this 'foundation' came the Seventh Day Adventist movement.
  - It is also worth noting that the JW's also leaned on Miller's 'understanding' of Bible prophecy.



# William Miller

- If Miller had checked his theory against the 'whole council of God', rather than take one verse out of context, it is unlikely he would have made this error in the first place.

# The 2300 Days

- So how are we to understand this verse?
- Clearly the reference is to how long **the sanctuary in the Temple** in Jerusalem was to lay desolate until it would finally be cleansed.
- As we know when it was cleansed, we can work backward to try to understand...
- The period of time was up when the temple was cleansed, which we know was in the winter of 164 B.C. (the first Hanukkah)

# The 2300 Days

- If we take the days as literal 24-hour days, then we have a period just short of 7 years,
- This could correspond to the time between Antiochus' first incursion into Jerusalem in 170 B.C. until the cleansing of the Temple by Judas Maccabeus in 164 B.C.
- However, we are told in verse 13 that the period of time in question is concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, which didn't occur until 167 B.C.
- The literal 24-hour day interpretation does not therefore satisfy the requirements.

# The 2300 Days

- At first glance we now seem to be presented with a problem, that is until we realise that we are reading a translation.
- As good as the translators were, on some occasions they have translated words into English to the best of their understanding but inadvertently confuse the issue. Such is the case here.

# The 2300 Days

- The Hebrew in this verse doesn't use the word 'day' (Hebrew 'Yom'), but rather 'erev boker', which would be literally translated as 'evening-mornings'.
- It is easy to see why the translators thought evening-morning = day, however for the Jews who would think in terms of their sacrifices, 2300 evening-morning sacrifices would only equal 1150 days.

# The 2300 Days

- Thus, this verse would seem to be saying that from the time the sacrifices were to be taken away (by Antiochus), there would be 1150 days,
- This is just 110 days short of three and a half years.
  - 3 years, 2 months & 10 days
- This fits with what we know from history and is consistent with what the text actually says.

<sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.

**Daniel 8:15**

<sup>16</sup> And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.

**Daniel 8:16**



<sup>17</sup> So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.

**Daniel 8:17**

- Here Daniel is told that the vision refers to the time of the end...
- ...yet as we have noted, all of these things have been fulfilled in history.

# Future Fulfilment

- Whilst having an historical fulfilment, this prophecy has a yet future fulfilment
- There will arise another 'little horn' who will desecrate the temple and place his image inside
- The Jews (just like Judas Maccabeus and his family) will initially be forced to flee to the wilderness (cf Matt 24:15-21)...

# Future Fulfilment

- In the same way the 2300 'evenings and mornings' were 110 days short of the three and a half years...
- Jesus said to the Jews: *“And except those days should be **shortened**, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake[i.e. the Jews] those days shall be shortened.”* Matt 24:22

<sup>18</sup> Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.

<sup>19</sup> And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.

**Daniel 8:18-19**

<sup>20</sup> The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

<sup>21</sup> And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

**Daniel 8:20-21**

22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.

**Daniel 8:22**

<sup>23</sup> And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

**Daniel 8:23**

24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.

**Daniel 8:24**



# Antiochus vs. Antichrist

- What Antiochus was, so will Antichrist be...
  - yet ten times more!
- Historically, Antiochus destroyed ‘impressively’ and fought against the holy people – the Jews.
- Prophetically, Antichrist will be unlike anyone before him and will be allowed to prosper, i.e. do what he likes and launch such an attack on the Jews that the Nazi Holocaust will seem tame in comparison (cf Zech 13:8-9 / Jer 30:6-7).

# Antiochus vs. Antichristv

- It is interesting to note that both for Antiochus and Antichrist they do not function by their own power, but will be supernaturally empowered by the ‘god of this world’

2 Cor 4:4

- Of Antichrist (the beast) we read: *“And they worshipped the dragon **which gave power unto the beast**: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”* (Rev 13:4) (cf Eph 6:12).

<sup>25</sup> And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

**Daniel 8:25**

- Gradually the emphasis over the last few verses has shifted from Antiochus being the main focus, with Antichrist in the background...
- ...to now in this verse, Antichrist being the focus.

# Antichrist

- Antichrist will indeed magnify himself in his heart and bring about a false peace...
  - (cf. the white horse in Rev 6 with a bow – the sign of a covenant).
- Antichrist will stand up against the Prince of princes, the Lord Jesus Christ, but will be broken without hand:

26 And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.

**Daniel 8:26**

27 And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

**Daniel 8:27**

# A Type of the Antichrist

1. “He shall cause craft to prosper in his hand.”
  - No man will be able to buy or sell except the one who has the mark of the beast Rev 13:17
2. “He shall magnify himself in his heart.”
  - He is given a mouth speaking blasphemies, with power to continue 42 months Rev 13:5
3. “By peace shall destroy many.”
  - The rider on the white horse; then comes the red horse of *war*—thus, a false peace Rev 6
4. “He shall stand up against the Prince of princes.”
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> beast of Rev 13 is against Christ: Rev 13

# Summary

- He will achieve great power by subduing others v.24
- He will rise to power by promising false security v.25
- He will be intelligent and persuasive v.23
- He will be controlled by another, Satan v.24
- He will be an adversary of Israel and subjugate Israel to his authority vv.24-25
- He will rise up in opposition to the Prince of princes, the Lord Jesus Christ v.25
- His rule will be terminated by divine judgment v.25



# Old Testament Allusions

Adversary	Ps 74:8-10; Isa 59:19; Lam 4:11,12; Amos 3:11	Man of the Earth	Ps 10:18
Assyrian	Isa 10:5, 12; Micah 5:5, 6	Merchant, with balances of deceit	Hos 12:7
Belial	Nahum 1:15	Mighty Man	Ps 52:1
Bloody and Deceitful Man	Ps 5:6	Nail	Isa 22:25
Branch of the Terrible Ones	Isa 25:5	Prince that shall come	Dan 9:26
Chief Prince	Ex 38:2	Prince of Tyre	Ezek 28:2-10
Crooked Serpent	Job 26:13; Isa 27:1	Profane Wicked Prince of Israel	Ezek 21:25-27
Cruel One	Jer 30:14,23	Proud Man	Hab 2:5
Destroyer of the Gentiles	Jer 4:7	Rod of God's anger	Isa 10:5
Enemy	Ps 55:3; Jer 30:14, 23	Seed of the Serpent	Gen 3:15
Evil Man	Ps 140:1	Son of the Morning	Isa 14:12
Head over many countries	Ps 110:6	Spoiler, Destroyer	Isa 16:4,5
Head of Northern Army	Joel 2:20	Vile Person	Dan 11:21
Idol Shepherd	Zech 11:16, 17	Violent Man	Ps 140:1f
King of Princes	Hos 8:10	Wicked One	Ps 9:17; 10:2,4; Isa 11:4; Jer 30:14, 23
King of Babylon	Isa 14:11-20	Wilful King	Dan 11:36
Little Horn	Dan 7:8f; 8:9f		

# Old Testament Allusions

Adversary	Ps 74:8-10; Isa 59:19; Lam 4:11,12; Amos 3:11	Man of the Earth	Ps 10:18
Assyrian	Isa 10:5, 12; Micah 5:5, 6	Merchant, with balances of deceit	Hos 12:7
Belial	Nahum 1:15	Mighty Man	Ps 52:1
Bloody and Deceitful Man	Ps 5:6	Nail	Isa 22:25
Branch of the Terrible Ones	Isa 25:5	Prince that shall come	Dan 9:26
Chief Prince	Ex 38:2	Prince of Tyre	Ezek 28:2-10
Crooked Serpent	Job 26:13; Isa 27:1	Profane Wicked Prince of Israel	Ezek 21:25-27
Cruel One	Jer 30:14,23	Proud Man	Hab 2:5
Destroyer of the Gentiles	Jer 4:7	Rod of God's anger	Isa 10:5
Enemy	Ps 55:3; Jer 30:14, 23	Seed of the Serpent	Gen 3:15
Evil Man	Ps 140:1	Son of the Morning	Isa 14:12
Head over many countries	Ps 110:6	Spoiler, Destroyer	Isa 16:4,5
Head of Northern Army	Joel 2:20	Vile Person	Dan 11:21
Idol Shepherd	Zech 11:16, 17	Violent Man	Ps 140:1f
King of Princes	Hos 8:10	Wicked One	Ps 9:17; 10:2,4; Isa 11:4; Jer 30:14, 23
King of Babylon	Isa 14:11-20	Wilful King	Dan 11:36
Little Horn	Dan 7:8f; 8:9f		

# New Testament Allusions

- Angel of the Bottomless Pit      Rev 9:11
- Antichrist, Pseudo-Christ      1 Jn 2:22
- Beast      Rev 11:7; 13
- False Prophet      Rev 13
- Father of the lie      Jn 8:44; 2 Thess 2:11
- Lawless One      2 Thess 2:8
- Man of Sin      2 Thess 2:3
- One come in his own name      Jn 5:43
- Prince of Darkness      1 Thess 5
- Son of Perdition      2 Thess 2:3
- Star      Rev 8:10; 9:1
- Unclean Spirit      Mt 12:43
- Vine of the earth      Rev 14:18

# New Testament Allusions

- Angel of the Bottomless Pit      Rev 9:11
- Antichrist, Pseudo-Christ      1 Jn 2:22
- Beast      Rev 11:7; 13
- False Prophet      Rev 13
- Father of the lie      Jn 8:44; 2 Thess 2:11
- Lawless One      2 Thess 2:8
- Man of Sin      2 Thess 2:3
- One come in his own name      Jn 5:43
- Prince of Darkness      1 Thess 5
- Son of Perdition      2 Thess 2:3
- Star      Rev 8:10; 9:1
- Unclean Spirit      Mt 12:43
- Vine of the earth      Rev 14:18



To be continued...

The background of the central section is a golden-hued illustration of the city of Babylon. On the left, a large, dark statue of a bearded man with a crown stands with his arms crossed. In the background, the city's architecture is visible, including a prominent multi-tiered structure on the right. The overall scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

THE BOOK OF  
**DANIEL**

*...a verse by verse study*

