

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study # 13: Ram, He-Goat, & Little Horn
Daniel 8
 Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

The only way we can have a more sure word of Bible prophecy is to personally and carefully study it and apply all its truths in your life.

Repeat and enlarge (show Daniel 2 and 7) rise and falls of kingdoms.

Four Visions in Daniel:

Vision One	Daniel 2	Metallic Statue
Vision Two	Daniel 7	Four Beasts & Little Horn
Vision Third	Daniel 8	Ram, He-Goat, & Little Horn
Vision Fourth	Daniel 10 – 12	King of North, South, Seventh Empire

When and where was Daniel when he had his third vision?

Daniel 8:1, 2

- 1 In the **third year of the reign of king Belshazzar [of Babylon]** a vision appeared unto me, *even unto me Daniel*, after that which appeared unto me at the first.
- 2 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**.

When? Third year of king Belshazzar, king of Babylon.

Where? Daniel was in in Shushan at the time living in the winter palace. (show map)

Scene of vision? By the River Ulai (show map) = meaning, “my leaders (mighties).”

What did Daniel see in the third vision?

Daniel 8:3-12

- 3 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**.
- 4 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.
- 5 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 [striking appearance]** between his 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.
- 7 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**.
- 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.
- 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*.
- 10 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.

- 11 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.
- 12 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.

After the ram and the he-goat what did Daniel hear next in vision?

Daniel 8:13, 14

- 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?
- 14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

Note: For timesakes we will study Daniel 8:13, 14 in more detail next study. Today's study will focus on the meaning of the ram and the he-goat.

While in vision what was Daniel told concerning the vision?

Daniel 8:15-19

- 15 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.**
- 16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, **Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.**
- 17 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.**
- 18 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.
- 19 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.**

Summary of vision (by river Ulai)

- 1) Ram with two horns one higher than the other
- 2) Ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward (coming FROM the east)
- 3) He-Goat coming from the west toward the Ram in the midst of the air with a notable horn
- 4) He-Goat kills the Ram and breaks the Ram's two horns
- 5) He-Goat's "Great Horn" breaks and four other horns grow in its place
- 6) Out of one of the four horns GREW a little horn until it waxed great
Wax exceeding great = twist, large, pride, boastful!
- 7) Little Horn continues to grow: cast down host and stars to ground and stamped on them
- 8) Little Horn magnified self over prince of host, took away daily, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down
- 9) Little Horn cast the truth to the ground!

Daniel chapter 8 is another symbolic vision scene that represent prophetic reality of the rise and fall of kingdoms until the everlasting kingdom. In the Daniel 7 study we learned that beasts and horns represent kingdoms or nations.

Daniel 7:17

- 17 These great **beasts**, which are four, *are* four **kings**, *which* shall arise out of the earth.

Daniel 7:23

- 23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth...

Daniel 7:24

- 24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom *are* ten kings *that* shall arise...

Daniel 8 is a repeat of some of the same kingdoms of Daniel chapters 2 and 7, but with added details.

What kingdom does the Ram with two horns represent?

Daniel 8:20

20 The ram which thou sawest having *two* horns *are* the kings of Media and Persia.

Ram with two horns = Median and Persian Kingdom! Co-kingdoms represent the ram as a whole, one horn represented the Medes and the other the Persians.

Media-Persia represents the chest and two arms of silver in Daniel 2 and the bear with 3 ribs in it's mouth in Daniel 7.

King Darius the Mede was the first lead king of the empire. Later King Cyrus of the Persians was king of the empire that continued to grow. The Persian power of the Medes and Persian kingdom became more prominent than the Medes. That is why one horn is higher than the other. The higher horn represents the Persians and the lower horn represents the Medes.

Remember the three ribs in the mouth of the bear represents the three powers that the Media-Persian kingdom conquered in order to have supremacy as an empire over the region. Those three powers that they conquered were Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt. This also corresponds with the Ram that pushed to the west, north, and south so that NO beast or nation might stand before him. Babylon was west of Media-Persia. Lydia was north of Babylon. Egypt was south of Lydia. Do you see how Daniel 2, 7, and 8 complement each other? Beautifully.

What happened to the Ram?

The he-goat with the notable horn came from the west airborne without feet touching the ground and killed the ram and broke the rams horns.

What kingdom does the he-goat with the notable horn represent?

Daniel 8:21

21 And the rough goat *is* the king of Grecia: and the great horn that *is* between his eyes *is* the first king.

The goat represents the Greek Empire!

Alexander the Great was the first notable king of the Greek Empire that covered a lot of territory and quickly conquered his enemies. Alexander the Great represents the notable great horn on the head of the he goat.

What happened to the great horn on the he-goat after it conquered the ram?

Daniel 8:22

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.

The great horn broke off the head of the goat.

What happened to Alexander the Great after he conquered the Media-Persia Kingdom? Alexander the Great was known as one of the great military minds in history with an undefeated record. His Greek empire expanded quickly and was one of the largest empires at time.

Alexander planned to make Babylon his headquarters. One day while in Babylon planning his next campaigns, he and some in his army men got drunk. He got sick and died eleven days later around June 11, 323 BC. He was thirty-two years old. Some accounts believe someone put poison in his alcohol. Others say he died from drinking too much alcohol.

[Show slide of Alexander's battle victories]

What the took place of the great horn that was broken off the goats head?

Daniel 8:8 “for it came up four notable ones [horns] toward the four winds of heaven.”

The four winds are north, south, east, and west**Who do these four horns represent that grew north, south, east, and west?**

Alexander’s son was not born yet when he died. He did not have living sons to inherit his kingdom the leading generals of Greece: Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus. Cassander, had Greece and its area (East); Lysimachus, had Asia-minor (West); Ptolemy, had Egypt (South); and Seleucus, had Syria and Babylon (North). Much later the Ptolemy and Seleucus Empires became more prominent.

These four generals represent the four horns in Daniel 8 and also the four heads on the leopard beast in Daniel 7.

[Show map of the division]

Rule of study: Interpretations MUST fit in the order given in Daniel chapter 2

What power conquered the Greek Empire and became the 4th empire since Babylon? Pagan Roman Empire.

Based on our study in Daniel 7, who came out of the Pagan Roman Empire and grew into the 5th empire that reigned for 1260 years? Papal Rome

Daniel 8 goes through the same information of Daniel 7 but in different ways. What Daniel 7 did not mention Daniel 8 does. Remember that Rome reigned in 2 phases. The authority of Rome was utilized by both Pagan and Papal. Daniel 8 reveals how the Papal Phase of Rome got its power.

How is the Pagan Roman Empire represented on the he-goat?**What did Daniel see emerge from out of the territory of the 4 Generals of Greece?****Daniel 8:9**

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 is the first phase of the little horn on the he-goat which represents the Pagan Roman Empire. In other words, out of one of the four nations Pagan Rome’s power rose over time out of the western territory of the Greek Empire.

The rise of the Roman Empire was not overnight it grew into power by invading and conquering over new territory. They waxed exceeding great. Coming from the west, Rome as the Bible says conquered the Grecian territory south and east of them even to the “pleasant land.” The pleasant land is referring to the “glorious” land of Jerusalem.

The Roman Empire eventually totally overthrew the Greek Empire and became the largest empire in the western European world. Rome conquered Egypt (South) in 30 B.C., also Syria (North) in 65 B.C., and also the Pleasant Land (Jerusalem/Palestine) fell to Rome in 63 B.C. Rome was dreadful, terrible, and fierce!

The first phase of the little horn’s growth depicts Greece’s pagan religious influence on Pagan Rome. The Greek Empire was known to worship many false pagan gods. Many of the Greek pagan gods were adopted by Pagan Roman but given different names.

In verse 10 what happens to that little horn (first phase Pagan Rome)?

Daniel 8:10

10 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

That horn continued to grow and wax great.

Waxed great (Hebrew) = gâdal [gaw-dal'] - A primitive root; properly to **twist** (compare H1434), that is, to be (causatively **make**) **large** (in various senses, as in body, mind, estate or honor, also in **pride**): - advance, boast, bring up, **exceed**, **excellent**, be (-come, do, give, make, wax), great (-er, come to . . . estate, + things), **grow (up)**, **increase**, lift up, **magnify** (-ifical), be much set by, nourish (up), pass, promote, **proudly** [spoken], tower.

Waxed great reveals that the little horn not only grew large physically but its pride and pomp grew also.

How large did Rome's pride grow?

Verse 10: "*even* to the host of heaven"

Host (Hebrew) = A mass of persons (or figurative things), especially regularly organized for war (an army).

In other words, in the first phase of Rome, pagan Rome's pride grew so large that it reached and challenged the ARMY of Heaven in which Jesus Christ is the commander in chief of His army of heavenly angels. Pagan Rome and their army thought that they were invincible!

What did Pagan Rome do to some of the host and stars?

Verse 10: "it cast down *some* of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them."

Pagan Rome was the empire over Israel at the time of Jesus Christ. Pagan Rome like the Pharaoh defied the true God of heaven.

Exodus 5:2

2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

Pagan Rome "cast down some of the host of heaven."

Pagan Rome and its kings had the same pomp and prideful attitude of Satan. Pagan Rome rejected and attacked the commander in chief, Jesus, of the host of Heaven. They not only spiritually fought against the host of heaven but they physically fought Jesus of the host of heaven.

When king Herod heard that a king was going to come out of Israel he had all the babies two and under in Bethlehem killed in pursuit of baby Jesus. They unjustly executed Jesus on the cross with the prompting of the Jewish nation.

Pagan Rome also cast down "the stars to the ground, and **stamped upon them.**"

Who are these stars that Pagan Rome cast down to the ground?**Revelation 1:20**

20 ...The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches..

"Angels" in this context in the Greek is referring to human messengers of the church of Jesus Christ.

Pagan Rome cast down the messengers of Jesus Christ through years of persecution and execution! They not only killed Jesus but they persecuted and killed his messengers such as John the Baptist, Paul, and a host of other Christians who were faithful to God's truth. Pagan Rome saw pure and true Christianity as a threat to paganism. Pagan Rome killed thousands of Christians as sport in their coliseums! Many Christians were dipped in tar and burned as street lights in the cities of Rome! Pagan Rome cast them down to the ground and stamped upon them! This is a similar

description of the dreadful beast that also represents Pagan Rome in Daniel 7:7 that “devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it.” But the more Rome persecuted, tortured, and even killed the true Christians the more they grew!

The Little Horn of Rome did not stop growing. It continued to grow to the second phase, the Papal Rome Empire!

The second phase of the little horn in Daniel 8 reveals the direct influence that Pagan Rome had on Papal Rome. Notice again they are both ROMAN in their authority. Daniel 8 gives more detail characteristics of Papal Rome.

When is the second phase of the little horn of Papal Rome revealed?

Daniel 8:11

11 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.

Magnified here is the same word as waxed great. Papal Rome magnified himself thinking himself as GOD!

“The pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man (...) he is as it were **God on earth**, sole sovereign of the faithful of Christ, chief of kings, having plenitude of power.” -*Lucius Ferraris, «Prompta Bibliotheca», 1763, Volume VI, 'Papa II', pp.25-29*

Papal Rome magnified itself even to the prince of the host!

Who is the prince of the host?

Daniel 9:25

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince...

Isaiah 9:6

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 1:41

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

The prince of the host is the Jesus Christ. But what shows the transition here from Papal Rome to Pagan Rome is that Daniel 8:11 says “by him the daily was taken away.”

Who is “him”? The prince of the host, Jesus

In general, Pagan Rome was not a worshiper of Jesus Christ. Papal Rome claimed to be a worshiper of Jesus Christ. They claimed to be Christian. They came in the name of Jesus, but was an apostate who moved away from the true worship of God’s Word. They used the name of Jesus as a cover to cover their deceptions and were hungry for power and wealth.

So we clearly see a shift here from Pagan Rome to Papal Rome. Pagan Rome was a secular power in which paganism was their official religion. Pagan Rome did not made official claims to Christianity. They did not use the name of Jesus deceptively to get power. They used their military might. Papal Rome was a false “Christian” church power that misused the name of Jesus deceptively to grow into a political power.

How did Pagan Rome falsely use Jesus name, the prince of the host?

Verse 11: “by him (falsely using the name of Jesus) the daily sacrifice was taken away.

First notice the word “sacrifice” in italic, it was added by the translators. “Sacrifice” does not fit the context of “daily” in this passage of scripture.

“Daily” in the Hebrew is from its root means “to stretch, properly continuance, constant, continual.” - Strong’s. What is continual? Psalms 45:6 says, “Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.”

“Throne” in Hebrew means, “1a) seat (of honour), throne 1b) royal dignity, authority, power (figuratively).” - BDB Hebrew Dictionary.

The daily stretches in both directions into the past and future. God’s sovereignty and daily rule stretches from eternity past, the present, and the future. His daily rule reveals his power, seat, and great authority. As confirmation that the daily represents power, seat, and authority, Revelation 13:2 says of Papal Rome, represented as the beast, “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion; and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

The daily = governmental power, seat, and authority.

Papal Rome used deceit in the name of Jesus and “moral authority” to take away THE DAILY from Pagan Rome.

As the Empire of Pagan Rome was coming apart, Papal Rome who had exerted its ecclesiastical power over many of the other christian churches throughout the empire made a league with Pagan Rome with a promise to help keep the empire together with its influence over the christian churches. In reality Papal Rome wanted to usurp the power of Pagan Rome and become sole ruler!

Pagan to Papal Rome Highlights:

- 1) In 313 AD Roman Emperor Constantine made Christianity an official religion of the Roman Empire, led by the papacy. The papacy was also given the right to receive gifts from the citizens of Rome in which Constantine personally donated large sums of money and land that greatly enriched the papacy.
- 2) Constantine also officially enforced a Sunday law that brought pagans and apostate Christians (Papal Rome) together.
- 3) Constantine move HQ to the eastern part of the Pagan Roman Empire to Constantinople. This left a political power vacancy for Papal Rome in Rome on the western part of the empire. Papal Rome worked for political power from this position for over 200 years!
- 4) In 508 AD King Clovis of the Kingdom of the Franks, later known as France on the western part of the Roman Empire that was mainly Europe, made Roman Catholicism the official religion. Pagan Rome at this time was basically collapsing in the west. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/508>).
- 5) Six kings in Europe followed King Clovis example, but 3 resisted and refused to submit to the rising Papal authority. As a result, as prophecy foretold in Daniel 7, three of the 10 horns were plucked up Heruli in 493 AD, the Vandals in 534 AD, and the Ostrogoths in 538 AD.
- 6) In 533 AD the Roman Emperor Justinian (in eastern Rome) declared the Bishop of Rome Supreme bishop of all the churches.
- 7) In 538 AD marks Papal Rome’s Empire establishment with the defeat of the Ostrogoths (1260 year reign: 538 – 1798)

Go back to Daniel 8:11 not only did Papal Rome use false christianity to take away the power, seat, and authority from Pagan Rome it says

Daniel 8:11... “the place of his sanctuary was cast down.”

What is the sanctuary?

What does David say about God’s sanctuary?

Psalms 77:13

13 Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?

Who is the way?

John 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

1 Timothy 2:5

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

These are the truths that are through the sanctuary message of Jesus Christ.

How does Papal Rome cast down the sanctuary message of Jesus Christ?

Papal Rome substitutes Jesus’ sanctuary message of salvation with deception. They declare they have the power to forgive sins. They believe salvation is through the Roman Catholic church instead of Jesus Christ.

“And **God himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of his priest** and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse to give **absolution**, provided the penitent is capable of it.” -*Liguori, «Duties and Dignities of the Priest», p.27*

As a result of Papal Rome’s deception what did it gain?

Daniel 8:12

12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression (rebellion against God), and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.

Notice again: Papal Rome used deception and the kings gave him power. They totally rebelled against the God of heaven. In order to deceive the masses and kings Papal Rome “cast the truth to the ground.”

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Papal Rome tried to get rid of God’s Word in various forms. As a result they were able to practise and prosper – meaning advance forth in gaining church and state power over the people.

“The decree set forth in the year 1229 A.D. by the Council of Valencia... **places the Bible on The Index of Forbidden Books. The doctrine withhold** "it is forbidden for laymen (common man) to read the Old and New Testaments. - **We forbid them most severely to have the above books in the popular vernacular.**" "The lords of the districts shall carefully seek out the heretics in dwellings, hovels, and forests, and even their underground retreats shall be entirely wiped out." *Council Tolosanum, Pope Gregory IX, Anno. Chr. 1229*

In the interpretation of Daniel 8, what confirms the little horn’s transition from Pagan to Papal Rome? What are some clues given in Daniel 8:23 – 24?

Daniel 8:23-24

23 And in the **latter time of their kingdom**, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance (pope), and understanding dark sentences (using deceit and tricks), shall stand up.

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.

The depiction of the little horn growth in Daniel 8 shows that Papal Rome was just as ruthless as pagan Rome but worse. Papal Rome was using the name of Jesus Christ. They like Pagan Rome persecuted true Christians who would not submit to them but more than Pagan Rome. Papal Rome killed millions of Christians.

The depiction of the little horn's growth shows that the political dominance of Rome that Pagan Rome had over the people was transferred to Papal Rome. Also it shows that Papal Rome's religion is a mixture of the Pagan Roman religion and false Christianity. The Papacy is technically Pagan Rome under the false guise of Christianity!

At the height of the Roman Empire's power, the emperors were revered as "Pontifex Maximus" which means "Chief bridge builder" or "constructor of ways." They assumed this title "Pontifex Maximus" because they had power as an absolute monarch and as the head of the pagan religion of Rome. When Papal Rome grew into power the popes assumed the same title of "Pontifex Maximus" as absolute ruler over **civil and religious affairs**.

What will happen to this little, exceeding great horn?

Daniel 8:25

25 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**.

This again reveals that the papacy will not only be the fifth empire that has already past but also the last earthly empire that will be broken by God himself!

What affect did this vision have on Daniel and did he fully understand?

Daniel 8:26-27

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.

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.

Next study on the Investigative judgment going back to Daniel 8:13 and 14.

Powerful Quote as an appeal:

"We must resist and conquer inclination, and obey the voice of conscience without parleying or compromise, lest its promptings cease and will and impulse control. The word of the Lord comes to us all who have not resisted His Spirit by determining not to hear and obey. This voice is heard in warnings, in counsels, in reproof. It is the Lord's message of light to His people. If we wait for louder calls or better opportunities, the light may be withdrawn, and we left in darkness.

By once neglecting to comply with the call of God's Spirit and His word, when obedience involves a cross, many have lost much--how much they will never know till the books are opened at the final day. The pleadings of the Spirit, neglected today because pleasure or inclination leads in an opposite direction, may be powerless to

convince, or even impress, tomorrow. To improve the opportunities of the present, with prompt and willing hearts, is the only way to grow in grace and the knowledge of the truth.” Ellen White, Testimonies To The Church, Volume 5, p. 69

Psalms 95:7-11

7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. **To day if ye will hear his voice,**

8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.

10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:

11 Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.