

“Clash of the Ram and the Goat”
Daniel 8: 1-14

October 13, 2019

Verse 1 - 2

The historical background

The setting:

- Belshazzar's third year of reign
- Daniel is 69 years old
- Daniel was taken captive at age 15
- Never do you see Daniel resenting God, mad at God or disappointed in God

DANIEL IS FAITHFUL through it all,
adolescence to old age

Daniel lived strong and finished strong

Life Lesson:

There is no retirement from God's service; your role may change, but service to God does not change - John 9: 4

Daniel shouts out loud and clear - God is orchestrating human events! *The Bible is true!!*

Verse 3 - 4

**The first main player:
The Ram = Medo Persia**

Two Horns - one higher than the other

The Medes started strong, but were surpassed by Persia

***THE BIBLE IS ACCURATE
AND TRUSTWORTHY!!***

How can the Bible possibly be so accurate?

It's *SUPERNATURAL!!*

2 Peter 1: 19-20

Why was Persia great?

GOD!!

God removes kings and God raises up kings - **Daniel 2: 21**

When you wonder what in the world is going on, recall Nebuchadnezzar - **Daniel 4: 35**

God truly has the whole world in His hands!!

Verse 5 - 7

**The second main player:
A male goat - Greece**

Alexander's conquest was fast

Greece, at the time of Daniel's visions, was a bunch of warring tribes, not thought of as a world power

Again . . . ***THE BIBLE IS TRUE
AND TRUSTWORTHY!!***

Why was Greece great?

GOD!!

Verse 8

**Alexander's death and
distribution of his empire**

Alexander the Great dies in his 30's

Centuries prior to the birth of Alexander, Daniel predicted his death and distribution of his empire to four notable ones

Alexander's kingdom was distributed to four generals, *not three, not two, but four!*

Just like the Bible predicted!!

Verse 9 - 12

**The little horn -
Antiochus the IV**

**Out of the Seleucus empire comes
a little horn who started small and
gained power**

**Antiochus IV, eighth king of the
Seleucid empire, presently Syria**

**Antiochus IV is a picture, *a type of
the antichrist!***

Verse 10 is a difficult verse to interpret

Hosts and stars usually pertain to angels, but the *context* does not fit this interpretation

Stars are angels in Scripture with one exception:

Stars in Genesis 37: 9 refers to the sons of Israel - **12 tribes**

The Jewish people are cast down and trampled by Antiochus

The killer hates Jewish people, *just like the antichrist!*

What is the transgression of the Jews?

Jewish people, who side with Antiochus, *traitors to God!*

The same thing happens in the Tribulation period, *many Jews will follow antichrist!*

Verse 13 - 14

**Antiochus Epiphanes' days are
numbered, *just like the
antichrist***

**Holy ones tell us how long the
desolation will last:**

2300 days

**Sin prospers for a time - *there is
always a day of reckoning!***

**Be sure, your sin will find you out -
Numbers 32: 23**

God raised up a man, *Judas Maccabeus*, who fought against the Seleucids and won -

- Cleansed the Temple of its desolations
- The feast of lights, *Hanukkah*, is celebrated in Israel each year to remember the event

**CONCLUSION: *The Clash of the
Ram and the Goat***

**We have just gone through an
amazing section of Scripture
proving the accuracy of Bible
Prophecy**

Who is in charge?

GOD!!

**With Alexander's death, four
generals divided his empire**

**For 150 years, Seleucus and
Ptolemy fought for dominance,
with Israel in the middle**

**From Seleucus comes Antiochus IV
- *a type of antichrist:***

- 1) Many Jews sided with
Antiochus - *many will side
with antichrist***

- 2) Antiochus desecrates the Temple - *antichrist desecrates the Temple*
- 3) Antiochus hates and kills Jews - *antichrist hates and kills the Jews*
- 4) *Both* reigns are numbered

**Our world is progressing on
schedule - *kingdoms rise and fall
by God's decree***

All marching toward a climatic end

THE KING IS COMING!!

***“Lift up your heads, because
your redemption draws near”***

Luke 21: 28

The King is Indeed Coming!

YOU CAN ALMOST HEAR

THE FOOTSTEPS OF

THE MESSIAH!