



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. Most of the people in this room have more troubling news than happy news to share.
2. Jesus is coming within my lifetime
3. If he hasn't come by then, I would love for God to give me a vision of what the world will be like 400 years after I die.
4. Satan can give leaders special powers.
5. God wants us to know the precise time of his Second Coming.

DIG DEEPER

➤ READ Daniel 8:1-14 (NIV)

» Daniel's Second Vision

- (vs 1) **The 3rd year of Belshazzar's reign** - (also known as his last!) This is just before chapter 5's handwriting on the wall incident. Around 552 BC.
- (vs 2) **Susa** - This is the place where the next kingdom, the Persians, will set up their capital in 531 BC.
- (vs 2) **The Ulai Canal** - At the time of this vision, this canal was three football fields wide (900 feet), and a major shipping lane that the Persians used.
- (vs 3) **Ram with uneven horns** - Medo-Persia
- (vs 5) **Unicorn goat** - Greece
- (vs 8) **The prominent horn broken off and 4 grow in its place** - 1 king down (Alexander the Great), 4 kings replace him (4 kings, not so great [Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Ptolemy]).
- (vs 9) **Another horn** - 8:15-26 spends most of its time interpreting this symbol. Relax. We'll get there!
- (vs 13,14) **How long will this vision take?** I'm glad you asked that question: 2300 mornings and evenings...then the Sanctuary will be reconsecrated.

« What have you been told that this vision is about, and what do YOU think it's all about?

« Why do you think that God would go through the trouble of giving this vision to Daniel?

➤ READ Daniel 8:15-27 (NIV)

» Please Talk To the Human!

- (vs 15) **One who looked like a man** - literally, one in human shape.
- (vs 16) **Tell this man** - literally, tell the human.
- (vs 17) **The vision concerns the time of the end** - The end of what? According to vs. 19, this is about when the "time of wrath" will end, and when the time of the shaggy goat will end.



DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

LET'S CHART THIS THING OUT:

DAN. 2	GOLD	SILVER	BRASS	IRON	IRON & CLAY	SUPER ROCK
DAN. 7	LION	BEAR	LEOPARD	MONSTER	HORNS	ANCIENT OF DAYS
DAN. 8	----	RAM	GOAT	----	----	----
ERAS:	BABYLON	MEDO-PERSIA	GREECE	ROME	MIXED	GOD'S

• (vs 23) **Rebels become wicked** - One of the signs would be that even the Jews rebel against God and stop worshipping Him.

• (vs 23-25) **This new sprouted horn king** - Antiochus IV Epiphanies (175 BC)

- He took authority of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem.
- Acted arrogantly by proclaiming himself a deity, naming himself "Epiphanies" which means "god manifest."
- His enemies changed a few letters and called him Epimanes, "utterly mad"
- He turned the temple into a shrine for Hellenistic-Canaanite worship artifacts and practices.
- Torah scrolls were confiscated and destroyed by tearing them to pieces and burning them. The king condemned to death anyone found to possess the book of the covenant or to be adhering to the law (1 Macc. 1:56-57).
- Antiochus insisted that the Jews refrain from following the Jewish religious laws (diet, circumcision, Sabbaths, and feasts)
- In 167 B.C. Antiochus issued the order that the regular ceremonial observances to Yahweh were forbidden, and thus sacrifices ceased (cf. 1 Macc 1:44-45).

• (vs 10) **it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them** - In 170 B.C. Onias III (a former high priest) was murdered at the urging of the wicked high priest Menelaus, whom Antiochus had appointed to that position for a bribe.

• (vs 13) **The rebellion that causes desolation** - Officials authorized by Antiochus IV Epiphanies set up an altar to Zeus in the Jerusalem temple in (Nov.-Dec.) 167 B.C. and offered swine on it (cf. 1 Macc 1:37, 39, 44-47, 54, 59; 1 Macc. 1:54; 2 Macc 6:2-5).

• (vs 14) **When will 2300 days end, and the temple be reconsecrated?** - Judas Maccabeus cleansed and rededicated the temple on December 14, 164 B.C. (cf. 1 Macc 4:52). Today the Jews celebrate the Feast of Hanukkah ("dedication") to commemorate this momentous event.

« So just looking at the meaning of the vision for Daniel, and the Jews nearly 400 years later, why do you think God wanted to communicate all of this to them?

- ° What did this vision mean to Daniel?
- ° What did it mean to the Jews during the reign of Antiochus IV Epiphanies?
- ° Does it mean anything to us today?

« In His own time, and in his own way, God acts. Why do you think He acts at times by giving visions instead of giving miraculous relief?

« What does this vision reveal about God's character?

MY PRAYER...

1. How much do I really want to know about the future?
2. How can God use me to share words of hope in a world that's suffering?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

