

## Daniel's Vision of a Ram and a Goat - [Daniel 8:1-27](#)

### Open It

1. Of all the current, violent world affairs, which one troubles you most?
2. What recurring dream have you had?
3. \*If you had the ability to see into the future, what would you not want to know about?

### Explore It

4. When and where did Daniel's vision occur? ([8:1-2](#))
5. What was the description of the ram in Daniel's dream? ([8:3-4](#))
6. \*What did the goat do to the ram? ([8:5-7](#))
7. What happened to the goat at the height of his power? ([8:8](#))
8. How did the little horn grow in importance? ([8:9-12](#))
9. What did the angel—the "holy one"—reveal? ([8:13-14](#))
10. What was Gabriel sent to do? ([8:16](#))
11. How did Daniel respond to the heavenly messenger? ([8:17](#))
12. \*When would the events of the vision take place? ([8:17-19](#))
13. Who was represented in the fight between the two-horned ram and the goat? ([8:20-22](#))
14. \*How did Gabriel describe the role of the little horn? ([8:23-25](#))
15. What was Daniel told to do? ([8:26](#))
16. How was Daniel affected by the interpretation of the vision? ([8:27](#))

### **Get It**

17. What atrocities are part of our culture's history?
18. In what ways does our society disregard God?
19. \*Why do you think God sometimes allows ruthless national leaders to prosper?
20. \*How have power and arrogance crept into the Christian church?
21. When God clearly reveals His truth to you, how do you feel?
22. When has God seemed inscrutable to you?
23. God enabled Daniel to prophesy. What special gift has God given you so you can serve Him?
24. When has spiritual truth been hard for you to bear?

### **Apply It**

25. When you next feel powerless or inadequate, how can you entrust yourself to the Lord?
26. \*In your prayers today, what specific national sins do you want to ask God to correct?

## LESSON 9: World Powers in Conflict

### [Daniel 8](#)

God gave Daniel the unique opportunity of looking at the future. But in [Daniel 8](#) that future gets very personal. The first seven chapters stressed the destinies of the gentile world powers. In [Daniel 8-12](#), the emphasis is on the destiny of Israel.

1. If God offered to show you glimpses of our nation's future over the next two hundred years, would you want to see them? Explain.

2. Read [Daniel 8](#). Daniel is first given a rather strange vision involving a ram and a goat ([Daniel 8:1-14](#)). No interpretation is given until after the scene has passed. Why do you think God chose to communicate future events to Daniel in this way? Why not simply tell him the historical facts?

3. In [Daniel 8:20](#) Daniel is told that the ram represents the kings of the Medo-Persian empire. From the events portrayed in [Daniel 8:3-4](#), how would you expect this kingdom to come on the world scene?

4. The goat with one large horn is a symbol of the Greek empire and their notable first king, Alexander the Great ([Daniel 8:21](#)). From the scene in [Daniel 8:5-8](#), how would you describe the clash of these two empires?

5. From your experience and knowledge gained thus far in the "interpretation of visions" with Daniel as a guide, how would you interpret the symbolism of [Daniel 8:9-12](#)?

6. Compare and contrast the king from Greece ([Daniel 8:9-12, 23-25](#)) with the king from Rome ([Daniel 7:8-12, 24-26](#)).

7. The "stem-faced king" ([Daniel 8:23](#)) whom Gabriel describes is probably Antiochus Epiphanes, who ruled Syria and Palestine from 175 to 164 B.C. He hated the Jews and their God. His most infamous act was desecrating the Temple in Jerusalem in 168 B.C. For just over three years ("2300 evenings and mornings," [Daniel 8:14](#)), no sacrifices to God were permitted. Finally, the Jews were able to drive Antiochus out of Israel and to reclaim the Temple. If you had been a Jew living under the tyranny of Antiochus, how would it have made you feel to read Daniel's prophetic prediction of the very events you were experiencing?

8. Daniel's predictions were fulfilled precisely and literally. Should we expect biblical predictions about our future to be fulfilled in the same way? Explain.

**9.** Twice ([Daniel 8:19](#), [26](#)) Gabriel makes it clear that this vision concerns (applies to) the "time of the end" or "the distant future." Many Bible scholars believe that Antiochus Epiphanes is a picture of the final evil ruler who will appear on the world scene just before the establishment of Christ's kingdom. What specific qualities can you see in Antiochus that you might also expect to see in an evil ruler bent on world conquest?

**10.** In what ways would this chapter be an encouragement to Christians living under political tyranny (or even emotional discouragement or spiritual attack)?

**11.** How does [Daniel 8](#) fit with Daniel's main theme of God's sovereignty?

**12.** What perspective does [Daniel 8](#) give us in understanding how a good God can permit evil?