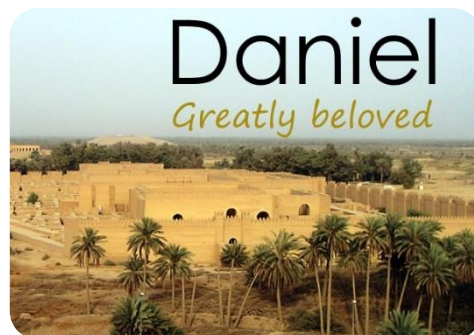


# DANIEL 8 vs 1

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With the Aramaic section having concluded; and introduction of four brutal, monstrous governments of this world rising up all in their time to leave... as GOD determines; now, we come to the section of prophecy written in Hebrew, the language of the House of **Judah** as well as the heritage language of the House of **Israel**. So the LORD has turned from addressing the nations during the time of the Gentiles to speak to His people, so that they do not lose faith and confidence in Him.



**<sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar /** remember, Belshazzar is the grandson of king Nebuchadnezzar... and the Babylon empire was fast coming to an end, no longer in focus in the visions of Daniel... consistent with Daniel who has already move on to Elam, to the Persians / modern Iran.

Daniel says...

**In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar...**

**a vision appeared to me, even to me Daniel,**

**after what appeared to me at the first / 3 years earlier, written in chapter 7.**

**<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 /** Shushan was the chief city of Persia,

**which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision,**

**I was by the river Ulai /** some bible commentators say: by the **canal**. The exact location of the Ulai river is uncertain... though some have identified it as the single river into which both the Tigris and Euphrates rivers finally flow together: the Tigris representing the peoples of the East... and the Euphrates representing the peoples of the West; so we're learning about where East meets West.



**<sup>3</sup> And I lifted up my eyes, and saw, and behold /** pay attention,

**there stood before this river a **ram** which had two horns:**

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and the two horns were high;

but one *Cyrus the Persian* was higher than the other *Darius the Mede*,

and the higher came up last / we know from the previous chapters; this RAM represents PERSIA... the SILVER... the BEAR; we know the two horns were the Medes and the Persians. And Cyrus and the Persians was higher... because it came up last. Remember, this vision was given... nearing the fall of Babylon. It's interesting to note: on its coins the Persian emblem was the RAM; the Persian king Cyrus leading his army wore a RAM's head. And in the Zend-Avesta, the sacred writings of Zoroaster, who is thought by some to be a disciple of Daniel; in these writings, the guardian spirit Yazad or Izad appears as a RAM.



<sup>4</sup> I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him / in chapter 7, we remember there were 3 ribs in the mouth of that BEAR. And Daniel saw a triple alliance of Lydia, Babylon and Egypt working to contain the Medo-Persians.

I saw the ram pushing westward / to Lydia,

and northward / to Babylon, and southward / to Egypt; so that no beasts might stand before him, nor was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will,

and became great / clearly, gadol is a verb

he was gadol-ing / he was enlarging himself; leaders and governments do that! They grossly inflate their importance.

<sup>5</sup> And as I was considering, behold / Danial paid attention,

a he-goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth and touched not the ground / so he came from far away; and he was moving fast, in rapid conquest:

and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes / we know this was GREECE... the BRONZE kingdom... the LEOPARD... in the previous vision. And this notable horn between his eyes is Alexander the great.



<sup>6</sup> And he / this he-goat came to the ram that had two horns, which I saw standing by the river, and ran into him in the fury of his power / he charged full force into him.

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<sup>7</sup> And I saw **him** / the he goat...Greece, **come close to the ram**, and **he was moved with choler against him** / he was moved with wrath... against Persia,

and smote the **ram**, and broke his two horns: and there was no power in the **ram** to stand before **him** / before the he-goat,

but **he** cast **him** down to the ground / the he-goat, Greece threw down Persia,

and stamped on **him**: and there was none that could deliver the **ram** out of **his** hand / we know from history that is what happened, none could rescue Persia from Greece... as Alexander defeated the Medo-Persians. By the way, the Macedonian coinage emblem was the **GOAT**; their capital Agea means **GOAT** city; and the Aegean Sea means the **GOAT** sea; Alexander was called AEGUS meaning... son of the **GOAT**.



<sup>8</sup> So the **he-goat** enlarged / the Hebrew word *gadol*. Since that Persian ram *gadol*-ed a while... now it is time for Alexander the great to grossly inflate his importance... and *gadol*. Daniel says:

So the **he-goat** enlarged... himself: and when **he** was *exceedingly* strong,

the **great horn** was broken / and the LORD is funny... his *gadol-ing* famous horn, all that great *gadol-ing* going on; and that great *gadoler* Alexander... **is dead**; he's already dead! It's as if GOD said, **NEXT!** Like I said, governments grossly inflate their importance! So do politicians and usurpers and pretenders; and with Alexander the great broken... and the trash taken out, let's read on;

and instead of it, came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven / replacing the broken great horn, after Alexander's death there was dissension. Who is the greatest? Who should be his successor? And his empire divided into four parts: **Cassander** took Macedonia; **Lysimachus** took Thrace and Asia Minor; **Seleucus** took Syria and the eastern part; and **Ptolemy** took Egypt and the southern part.

<sup>9</sup> And out of one of them / this verse reads much different than Daniel chapter 7:8 describing the Roman beast that has 10 horns, and there came up among them... another little horn, an 11<sup>th</sup> puny horn.

out of one of them came forth a **little horn** / out of one of the four Grecian prominent ones, these verses clearly affirm Antiochus Epiphanes -- who thought he was: "the God Manifest". He was a ruthless military strategist who accomplished all that is described here. But these verses also have a double fulfillment... reaching to the Antichrist working his evil during the end time of the history of the Gentiles... who will be doing these same things, vexing the House of Judah working violence on them. Antiochus Epiphanes is considered the first of many antichrists that will come.



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Daniel says...

**a little horn... which enlarged** himself...again, the word is *gadol*. Now, this puny horn has grossly enlarged himself... like a pimple saying, I am the nation's oil reserves. And this puny little horn of a politician is going to *gadol*...

*first... toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land* / first toward Egypt; then toward Syria and Iraq and Iran: old Persia, and lastly: the beautiful land... the land promised to the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. So this peanut-headed politician is going to peddle his over-blown importance... around the Middle East.

But let's go on...

<sup>10</sup> **And it enlarged** himself greatly **even to the host of heaven** / yes! The word is *gadol*. This little horn... is *gadol*-ing to the armies of the Lord GOD. And admittedly, this verse is difficult. We know **Ezekiel chapter 37 speaks of the Lord GOD's exceeding great army**... *that stood up in the valley of dry bones*. Is that army in focus here? I don't know. But we do know... this big mouth has greatly over-sold his sorry ass... even to highest heaven.

Daniel says...

**and it cast down some of the host... and of the stars to the ground,**

**and stamped on them** / he trampled all over them; this *gadol*-ing blow-hard caused some of the host... and of the stars to fall. Now... if the hosts are armies... are the stars... captains and commanders? You know like 3, 4, and 5-star generals somehow falling? I don't know. I wasn't there when the LORD gave Daniel the vision. But we know... a third of heaven fell for Satan. So it makes you wonder. Is this little horn... not demon possessed, but devilish: possessed by Satan?

<sup>11</sup> **Yes, he enlarged** himself... **to the Prince of the host** / he magnified himself, the same word: *gadol*. He over-inflated his ego, can you imagine? This politician thinks he is **JESUS THE MESSIAH**, the **Savior** and **Deliverer**... delivering the goods to save everybody. The usurping politician *gadol*-ed even against... the Son of man... in the previous chapter,

**and by him the daily *sacrifice* was taken away** / by this usurping *gadoler*, notice the word in italics is added by the translators; clearly

**and by him the daily / the continual \_\_\_ devotion... was taken away,**

**and the place of the sanctuary** / this is how the King James Version reads, but does it have to be a literal building? **No!** In Hebrew 2 words are in focus: **makon = foundation + miqdas = holy place**. Isaiah uses this word: **Make the LORD your fear and dread, and He will be for you your sanctuary**. -- **Isaiah 8**. Obviously the 2 words... a metaphor for God does not mean God is a brick and stone building; clearly,



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**the foundation of the holy place... was cast down** / the LORD God chooses words to speak to 2 very different groups He calls: His people; those who lived 2,500 years ago and offered bloody sacrifices of bulls and goats; and those of us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to whom those rules are no longer required.

**was cast down** / the Hebrew word is *shawlak*. The Revised Standard Version says, *the sanctuary was overthrown...* which speaks to the foundations of daily devotions being destroyed; yet this word means: **brought low** or... **put aside**: tragically ignored as irrelevant.

God's sacred place -- whatever that describes... got a good shellacking! But does this literally have to be a building? **No!** When JESUS returns, He hopes to find faith. He said, **I will build My church** = **that's us!**

To the Ephesians Paul say: built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; we are growing into a holy naos in the Lord: for a habitation of God through the Spirit... something Daniel did not understand. None of the prophets did: that truth was hid from them:

**by him... the daily** / the continual *devotion...* **was taken away, and the foundation of the holy place was brought low** / was put aside... foolishly ignored in our genius 21<sup>st</sup> century.

<sup>12</sup> **And a host** / some type of army, **was given against the daily sacrifice** / again added by the translators; **given to war against the continual devotion...**

**by reason of the transgression** / by reason of the rebellion... those stepping over the line... those always going too far: this **war** speaks to the end time apostasy, the abandonment... the great divorce of faith and faithfulness... happening around us, today,

**and it cast down the truth to the ground;** / this little horn brought low... and conveniently pushed aside truth, so there will be a lot of fake news going on,

**and it practice and prospered** / clearly,

**and it effectively** *did what it was doing* **and prospered** / whatever this novice pimple of a political leader was doing... it succeeded... at least for a while.

<sup>13</sup> **Then I heard one holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that certain one who spoke,**

**How long is the vision of the daily devotions, and the desolating rebellion,**

**to give the sanctuary** / in Hebrew: *qodes* = **most holy**, limited access; set apart, dedicated to God...

**to give the most holy and the host to be trampled down?**

/ not only the place of spiritual refuge – by the way the **most holy** place of spiritual refuge for the Church Jesus is building is in **our hearts...** where the Spirit comes... and makes a most holy home for His purposes... **but also...** the armies of the Prince.

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<sup>14</sup> And he said to me, **Unto two thousand and three hundred morning / evenings offerings**; or is it *morning / evening days* ...many commentaries have been written;

if this phrase refers to **days**: then 2300 = **6 years 140 days**;


but we understand this refers to **offerings** = **1,150 days** related to **chapter 12**;

**then will the sanctuary be cleansed** / the word is: *tsadaq*... the **righteous** ... the **correct**: speaking to the time of tribulation: when many are purified and whitened and tested; clearly this can read...

**then will the most holy be righteous.**

Daniel uses this word again in chapter 12, when he writes: the wise will shine as the brightness of the firmament; and be righteous as stars forever and ever.

 I do not think the brick or stone buildings are worried about being whitened and brightened and purified.

 I do think God's people are concerned about this matter.

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