

## **Dr. Robert Vannoy, Major Prophets, Session 22, The Vision of Daniel 8 – Ram and He-Goat Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Vannoy, Major Prophets, Session 22, The Vision of Daniel 8 – Ram and He-Goat, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

Robert Vannoy's lecture on Daniel 8 interprets Daniel's vision of the ram and he-goat. The ram with two horns symbolizes the kings of Media and Persia, while the he-goat represents the king of Greece. Alexander the Great's swift conquest of Persia is depicted, followed by the division of his empire into four kingdoms. The lecture identifies Antiochus Epiphanes, a ruler from one of these kingdoms, as the "king of fierce countenance" who desecrated the Jewish temple. This interpretation connects the vision to historical events in the Old Testament period, highlighting the challenges faced by the Jewish people.

**2. 10 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Vannoy, Major Prophets, Session 22 – Double click icon to  
play in Windows media player or go to the  
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link  
there (Old Testament → Major Prophets → Major Prophets.**



**Vannoy\_MP\_Session  
n22.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Vannoy, Major Prophets, Session 22, The Vision of Daniel 8 – Ram and He-Goat

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Robert Vannoy's lecture on Daniel 8, focusing on Daniel's vision of the ram and the he-goat and its interpretation:

#### Briefing Document: Robert Vannoy on Daniel 8

##### Main Themes:

- **Vision and Interpretation:** The core of the lecture revolves around Daniel's vision in Daniel 8 and its subsequent interpretation. The vision involves symbolic animals (ram, he-goat, little horn) representing kingdoms and rulers.
- **Historical Context:** Vannoy emphasizes the historical context of the vision, connecting the symbols to specific empires and figures, primarily the Medo-Persian Empire, the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great, and Antiochus Epiphanes of the Seleucid Empire.
- **Symbolic Representation:** The lecture elucidates the interpretation of the symbols used in the vision (Ram, Goat, horns)
- **Prophecy and Fulfillment:** The lecture explores the nature of prophecy and its partial fulfillment in historical events. The question is raised as to whether these events are shadows of greater events to come.
- **Questions of Interpretation:** Vannoy acknowledges ambiguities and questions regarding the scope and timing of the prophecy, particularly concerning the "time of the end" and the identification of the "king of fierce countenance."

##### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Daniel 8:1-2 - Vision in Elam:** Daniel's vision occurs in Shushan, the capital of Elam, during the reign of Belshazzar. Vannoy notes it's likely a visionary experience rather than Daniel being physically present. "I saw in a vision that it came to pass when I saw that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam."
- **Daniel 8:3-14 - Ram and He-Goat Vision:** The vision depicts a ram with two horns (Media and Persia) being defeated by a he-goat with a notable horn (Greece under Alexander the Great). The he-goat's horn is broken into four, representing

the division of Alexander's empire. A "little horn" emerges from one of these divisions.

- **Daniel 8:15-19 - Introduction to Interpretation:** The angel Gabriel is sent to help Daniel understand the vision, revealing it concerns "the time of the end." Vannoy raises the question of how this phrase should be understood. "Understand, O son of man, for the time of the end shall be the vision."
- **Daniel 8:20-27 - Interpretation Begins: Ram = Medo-Persian Empire:** The two horns of the ram represent the kings of Media and Persia, with Persia eventually becoming dominant ("the higher one came up last"). "The ram which thou sawest having two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia."
- **He-Goat = Greece (Alexander the Great):** The he-goat represents the king of Greece, and the "great horn" is the first king, Alexander. The speed of his conquest is highlighted: "He came from the west over the face of the whole earth and he touched not the ground."
- **Broken Horn = Division of Alexander's Empire:** After Alexander's death, his empire was divided into four kingdoms under his generals: Cassander (Macedonia), Lysimachus (Thrace/Asia Minor), Seleucus (Syria), and Ptolemy (Egypt). "Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nations, but not in his power."
- **Little Horn = Antiochus Epiphanes (Likely):** The "little horn" that arises from one of the four divisions is likely Antiochus Epiphanes, a Seleucid ruler. He is described as "a king of fierce countenance and understanding dark sentences." He is characterized by his actions against the Jewish people, including defiling the temple, banning Jewish practices, and promoting the worship of Greek gods.
- **Antiochus' Humiliation and Actions:** Vannoy recounts the story of Antiochus being humiliated by a Roman general (Popellius Laenas) who prevented him from conquering Egypt. This humiliation led Antiochus to vent his anger on the Jews.
- **Maccabean Revolt:** Antiochus' actions led to the Maccabean revolt around 168 B.C.
- **Open Questions:** Vannoy acknowledges that certain aspects of the vision remain open to interpretation, such as the precise meaning of "the time of the end" and the ultimate identity of the "king of fierce countenance" (i.e., whether it is solely Antiochus or if he foreshadows a future Antichrist). "Is this the Antichrist who is

to come at the end of the age? Or is there some reason to think that it is not the Antichrist?"

### **Quotes:**

- "I saw in a vision that it came to pass when I saw that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam."
- "The ram which thou sawest having two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia."
- "The rough goat is the king of Greece, and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king."
- "The he-goat came from the west over the face of the whole earth and he touched not the ground."
- "Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nations, but not in his power."
- "Out of one of them came forth a little horn which grew exceedingly great."
- "A king of fierce countenance and understanding dark sentences shall stand up."
- "Is this the Antichrist who is to come at the end of the age? Or is there some reason to think that it is not the Antichrist?"
- "He magnified himself even to the Prince of the Host."

### **Implications/Significance:**

- The lecture provides a historical framework for understanding Daniel's vision, connecting it to specific empires and rulers.
- It highlights the fulfillment of prophecy in historical events, while also acknowledging the potential for future fulfillment.
- It underscores the importance of considering the historical context when interpreting biblical prophecy.
- It raises important questions about the nature of prophecy and the relationship between historical events and eschatological (end times) events.

This briefing document provides a comprehensive overview of the main points discussed in the provided excerpts.

## 4. Study Guide: Vannoy, Major Prophets, Session 22, The Vision of Daniel 8 – Ram and He-Goat

### Daniel 8 Study Guide

#### Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. According to Daniel 8:2, where was Daniel when he received the vision, and what is the significance of this location?
2. In Daniel 8:3-4, what actions characterize the ram, and what does this suggest about its power and influence?
3. What are the key actions of the he-goat in Daniel 8:5-7, and what does this symbolize?
4. What happens to the great horn of the he-goat in Daniel 8:8, and what is the result of this event?
5. According to Daniel 8:9, what emerges from one of the four horns, and how does it behave?
6. In Daniel 8:11-12, what actions are attributed to the "little horn," and what is the effect on the sanctuary?
7. What is the question asked in Daniel 8:13 regarding the duration of the vision, and what is the response?
8. According to the interpretation in Daniel 8:20, what do the two horns of the ram represent?
9. In Daniel 8:21, what does the he-goat represent, and what does the great horn between his eyes symbolize?
10. According to the lecture, who is the most likely historical figure represented by the "king of fierce countenance" in Daniel 8:23?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. Daniel was in Shushan in the province of Elam, which is significant because Shushan later became the capital of the Medo-Persian Empire, foreshadowing the empires to come.
2. The ram pushes westward, northward, and southward, dominating other beasts, which suggests its great power and unchecked expansion.

3. The he-goat attacks the ram with fury, breaking its horns, which symbolizes the swift and decisive defeat of the Medo-Persian Empire.
4. The great horn is broken, and four notable ones emerge, which signifies the division of Alexander the Great's empire into four kingdoms after his death.
5. A little horn emerges, growing exceedingly great towards the south, east, and the pleasant land, which indicates a new power arising and expanding its influence.
6. The little horn magnifies itself, takes away the daily sacrifice, and casts down the sanctuary, indicating sacrilegious acts and defilement of the temple.
7. The question asks how long the vision concerning the daily sacrifices and transgression of desolation will last, and the response is "Unto 2,300 days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."
8. The two horns of the ram represent the kings of Media and Persia, symbolizing the dual nature of the Medo-Persian Empire.
9. The he-goat represents the king of Greece (Alexander the Great), and the great horn between his eyes symbolizes the first king, Alexander himself.
10. The lecture identifies Antiochus Epiphanes as the historical figure most likely represented by the "king of fierce countenance" due to his actions against the Jews and desecration of the temple.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the symbolic significance of the animals and their actions in Daniel 8, and how they relate to the historical events described in the chapter.
2. Analyze the interpretation of Daniel 8, focusing on the kingdoms and rulers represented, and evaluate the accuracy of the interpretation based on historical context.
3. Examine the role of Antiochus Epiphanes in relation to the prophecies of Daniel 8, and discuss the evidence supporting or refuting his identification as the "king of fierce countenance."
4. Evaluate the different views on the "time of the end" mentioned in Daniel 8, and analyze whether it refers to the end of the Old Testament period or the end of the age.
5. Discuss the lasting relevance of Daniel 8 for understanding historical events and theological themes, and analyze its significance for interpreting prophecy.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Shushan (Susa):** The capital of Elam and later one of the capital cities of the Persian Empire, significant as the location of Daniel's vision.
- **Medo-Persian Empire:** The empire formed by the union of the Medes and Persians, symbolized by the ram with two horns in Daniel 8.
- **Ram:** Symbolizes the Medo-Persian Empire, particularly its expansionist policies and dominance.
- **He-Goat:** Symbolizes the Greek Empire, specifically Alexander the Great, and his swift conquest of the Persian Empire.
- **Alexander the Great:** The king of Greece who conquered the Persian Empire, represented by the he-goat with a notable horn.
- **Four Horns:** Represent the four kingdoms that arose from Alexander the Great's empire after his death: Macedonia, Thrace/Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt.
- **Little Horn:** Symbolizes a king arising from one of the four kingdoms of Alexander's empire, often interpreted as Antiochus Epiphanes.
- **Antiochus Epiphanes:** A Seleucid king who persecuted the Jews and desecrated the temple in Jerusalem, considered by many to be the "king of fierce countenance" in Daniel 8.
- **Seleucid Empire:** One of the four kingdoms that arose from Alexander the Great's empire, ruled by Seleucus and his descendants.
- **Daily Sacrifice:** The regular offering made in the temple in Jerusalem, which was stopped by Antiochus Epiphanes as part of his persecution of the Jews.
- **Transgression of Desolation:** The abomination that causes desolation, referring to the desecration of the temple by Antiochus Epiphanes.
- **2,300 Days:** The period of time mentioned in Daniel 8:14, after which the sanctuary will be cleansed.
- **King of Fierce Countenance:** A ruler who is powerful, deceitful, and opposes the holy people, often interpreted as Antiochus Epiphanes.
- **Time of the End:** A phrase used in Daniel 8, interpreted by some as the end of the Old Testament period and by others as the end of the age.



## 5. FAQs on Vannoy, Major Prophets, Session 22, The Vision of Daniel 8 – Ram and He-Goat, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source, formatted in markdown:

### 1. What is the setting of Daniel's vision in Daniel 8, and why is it significant?

Daniel's vision takes place in Shushan, the capital of Elam, situated in the province of Elam (Daniel 8:2). While not particularly significant during Belshazzar's reign, Shushan later became the capital of the Medo-Persian Empire, a crucial historical point as Daniel's vision extends beyond Babylonian times into the Persian and Greek periods.

### 2. What are the main symbols in Daniel's vision, and what do they represent?

The key symbols are:

- **The Ram with Two Horns:** Represents the kings of Media and Persia (Daniel 8:20). The two horns, with one higher than the other, symbolize the rise of Persia after Media.
- **The He-Goat:** Represents the king of Greece (Daniel 8:21).
- **The Great Horn on the He-Goat:** Represents the first king of Greece, specifically Alexander the Great (Daniel 8:21).
- **Four Horns that Replace the Great Horn:** Represent the four kingdoms that emerged after Alexander's death, dividing his empire into four parts (Daniel 8:22).
- **The Little Horn:** Represents a king who arises from one of the four divided kingdoms, characterized by fierce opposition to God and his people (Daniel 8:9, 23). This is often interpreted as Antiochus Epiphanes.

### 3. How does the vision describe the rise and fall of the Medo-Persian Empire?

The ram pushing westward, northward, and southward (Daniel 8:4) depicts the Medo-Persian Empire's expansion. The ram's two horns, with the higher one coming up last, symbolize Media's initial importance followed by Persia's dominance under Cyrus.

### 4. How does the vision describe Alexander the Great's conquest of the Persian Empire?

The he-goat from the west, moving swiftly "without touching the ground" (Daniel 8:5), represents Alexander the Great's rapid conquest of Persia. The goat striking and breaking the ram's horns (Daniel 8:7) symbolizes Alexander's defeat of the Persian Empire.

**5. What happened to Alexander the Great's empire after his death, according to the vision?**

The vision states that when the he-goat "was strong, the great horn was broken and for it came four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven" (Daniel 8:8, 22). This signifies that Alexander's empire was divided into four kingdoms ruled by his generals: Cassander (Macedonia), Lysimachus (Thrace and Asia Minor), Ptolemy (Egypt), and Seleucus (Syria).

**6. Who is the "king of fierce countenance" described in Daniel 8, and how is he connected to the four kingdoms of Alexander's empire?**

The "king of fierce countenance" (Daniel 8:23) is a ruler who arises from one of the four divisions of Alexander's empire. Historically, this is often interpreted to be Antiochus Epiphanes, a Seleucid king who persecuted the Jews and desecrated the temple in Jerusalem. The text emphasizes that this figure comes from *within* the context of Alexander's divided empire.

**7. How did Antiochus Epiphanes defile the temple in Jerusalem, and what was the consequence?**

Antiochus Epiphanes stormed Jerusalem and defiled the temple by desecrating it with swine sacrifices and Greek idols (as noted in the source though not explicitly stated in Daniel 8). He banned Jewish practices like Sabbath observance and circumcision, and forced Jews to worship Greek gods (as noted in the source though not explicitly stated in Daniel 8). This led to the Maccabean revolt.

**8. What is the significance of the 2300 days mentioned in Daniel 8:14?**

The statement that "Unto 2,300 days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed," refers to the period during which the temple was defiled by Antiochus Epiphanes. The cleansing of the sanctuary would eventually happen when the Maccabean revolt gained enough momentum to retake the temple.