

DANIEL CHAPTER 8

SUMMARY

THE VISION OF THE RAM AND THE HE-GOAT

A) Daniel's 2nd vision in the 3rd year of Belshazzar (550BC)

B) The ram:

- 1) Definition: "A male sheep - (the ovine genus)
- 2) Description:
 - a) Two horns = focal point of the ram. The part that gave the ram its strength, but also constituted the weakness of the ram.
 - b) Having one horn higher than the other. Its impact will be off centre and not focussed to gain the maximum of their combined force. One was higher than the other.
 - c) Once the horn was despatched with, the animal only became a meek and gentle sheep
 - d) The ram is said to push: westward, northward, and southward, but does not mention eastward (because he came from the East)? The centre point of the vision being Jerusalem?
 - e) The downfall of the ram: he was not accountable to anyone for his actions "but he did according to his will and became great"



C) The he-goat:

- (1) Definition: "Horned ruminant quadruped. Nearly the size of a sheep, but stronger, less timid and more agile
- (2) Description:
 - a) The goat came from the west
 - b) He touched not the ground (his travel velocity: cf 7:6)
 - c) Notable horn: Outstanding feature and the focal point of its strength
 - d) "Ran into the ram (with all its fury) The ram seems not to move when compared to the goat, but simply stood he ground. The aggressor, the he-goat was driven by anger (hatred) and was focussed on the horns as the point of impact, thus destroying the unity of the two nations (went for the smaller one)?
 - e) "None that could deliver. The ram had already destroyed the others, who were just too glad to be rid of him
 - f) The downfall of the he-goat? He waxed very great (pride goes before the fall...) or a kingdom divided against itself...Matthew 12:25
 - g) How was its kingdom divide? "towards the four winds of the earth (widely dispersed)
 - h) Out of one of them. One of the descendants waxed exceedingly great:
 - I) Southward, Eastward, the pleasant land
 - II) Hoist of heaven and the stars
 - III) Magnified himself even unto God
 - IV) Daily administration taken away
 - V) Cast truth down to the earth



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- (3) The sanctuary to be cleansed: The desolation to continue until the end of the little horn. When the little horn is taken away the desolation will cease and the sanctuary will be cleansed.
- (4) Gabriel helps the understanding:
 - (1) "At the time of the end" when the indignation shall end
 - (2) The ram - the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians
 - (3) The rough goat - the kingdom of the Grecians
 - (4) The great horn - its first king
 - (5) Broken and replaced - four divisions (generals) of the kingdom
 - (6) The latter time of the kingdom, the little horn = a terrible Grecian king (Antiochus iv Epiphanes)
 - (7) Destroy the mighty and holy people
 - (8) Cause craft to prosper
 - (9) Magnified himself
 - (10) Destroy many during the period of peace
 - (11) Stand against God and be broken without a hand = no human means
 - (12) Shut up the vision (500-175BC) many days hence (from human standpoint)?

THEME:

(Luke 18:14)

"Everyone that exalts himself shall be abased and he that humbles himself shall be exalted"