

# Vision Interpreted

Daniel 8:15-27

By Scott Huckaby

5/10/2026



**Daniel 8:1-14 Summary:** God revealed to Daniel a vision of a ram and a goat in mortal combat. This vision was prophetic when it was given, but it has been literally fulfilled so exactly that some say it had to be written much later than Daniel's time.

- Daniel's prophetic vision of the ram with two unmatched horns and the goat with one horn puts the conflict between Medo-Persia and Greece under a microscope.
- It also serves as a type for the struggle between the two legs of the Roman empire; the "Christian" West and the Islamic East.

## What observations or applications come to mind?

The Bible has to be from God (end from beginning)

## Gabriel Interprets the Vision, Daniel 8:15-22

<sup>15</sup> Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. <sup>16</sup> And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." <sup>17</sup> So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end." <sup>18</sup> Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. <sup>19</sup> And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be. <sup>20</sup> The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. <sup>21</sup> And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. <sup>22</sup> As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

## How did Daniel react to the angel Gabriel?

As Gabriel approached Daniel, Daniel became terrified, fainted and fell on the ground but Gabriel revived him and made him stand up

## What interpretation did Gabriel give Daniel?

He began the interpretation by declaring that the vision pertained to "the time of the end" (v17 & 19).

## How can this vision be about "the time of the end" since it is about Medo-Persia and Greece per verses 20-21?

The mention of "the time of the end" in verse 17 does not mean that the entire vision is about the distant end times only. Instead, the vision spans a broad prophetic timeline, starting from Daniel's own time and extending into future events.

- The phrase "time of the end" in Daniel 8:17 can be understood as the period when God's prophetic plan concerning these empires and their impact on Israel reaches its culmination.
- The vision includes historical events such as the rise and fall of Medo-Persia and Greece, which were fulfilled centuries after Daniel's lifetime, but it also points forward to later prophetic fulfillments, including the tribulation period and the coming of the Antichrist.

The vision is given to Daniel to reveal God's sovereign control over history and the unfolding of His plan for Israel and the nations.

## v19 – What other time-frame clues are given here?

"time of wrath" (NIV), or "time of indignation" (KJ and Hebrew) "indignation" means "fury, wrath, God's displeasure with sin."

## Could this be referring to when God is angry with Israel and disperses them out of the land in 70 A.D?

No... while this passage starts out addressing the Medes, Persians, and Greeks; the context of verse 25 indicates that a future king that comes out of these kingdoms rises against the Prince of princes (Jesus). This has to be referring to the Tribulation.

- This is reinforced by, "in the latter time of their kingdom" in verse 23
- Also, "When the transgressors have reached their fullness" ...in the fullness of time, the end of the Time of the Gentiles

## **Gabriel Reveals the Antichrist, Daniel 8:23-27**

<sup>23</sup> “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. <sup>24</sup> His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. <sup>25</sup> “Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means. <sup>26</sup> “And the vision of the evenings and mornings which was told is true; therefore seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future.” <sup>27</sup> And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king’s business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.

### **What do verses 23–25 tell us about the Antichrist?**

*having fierce features*

The Antichrist will be an imposing figure. There will be something about him that sets him apart from other governmental authorities.

- He will be charismatic and intense (like Hitler who was a type of the Antichrist)

*understands sinister schemes*

He will have the intimate counsel of Satan and thus be a party to his plans to enslave people and lead them away from God.

- The occult will be part of the Antichrist’s rule

*His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power*

He will have supernatural powers because Satan will be directing him and Satan has a multitude of minions under his control.

- He will also be aided by technology which is being put into place now.

*He shall destroy fearfully*

This is what Satan does and why he is called Apollon, the Destroyer.

- Fear will be a big part of his control over people as we saw during Covid.

*shall prosper and thrive*

He will have great success in all he does; he will be invincible...

Revelation 13:4 – *So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”*

*He shall destroy the mighty*

He will “reset” existing power structures

*...and also the holy people*

He will institutionalize persecution of Christ-followers (they will be enemies of the State)

*he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule*

There will be great deception and it will be effective in leading people away from God.

*he shall exalt himself in his heart*

He is like Satan, filled with pride

*he shall destroy many in their prosperity*

He will institute socialism worldwide...

Daniel 11:24 – *he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches*

Indeed, the Mark of the Beast of Revelation 13 tells us that he institutes centralized control of the world economy.

*he shall even rise against the Prince of princes*

He will act in opposition to Jesus Christ.

*he shall be broken without human means.*

Jesus will destroy him when He returns...

Rev 19:20 – *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet... These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

### **v26 – Why was Daniel told to seal up this vision?**

- This direction given by Gabriel implies that the vision was not to be understood at that particular time
- In Revelation 13:10, it is said to the author John, “*Seal not the vision, for the time is at hand*”
- What in Daniel’s time was “hidden” was more fully explained in the book of Revelation, and as the time draws nearer for the rapture and Tribulation it will be even more clear!

### **v27 – Why did Daniel faint and become sick?**

Daniel was so emotionally distraught by this vision that he fainted and was sick in bed for several days.

- Even though Gabriel had interpreted the vision for him, Daniel could not totally comprehend it – he could not understand it!

### **What observations or applications come to mind?**

The Bible has to be from God (end from beginning)