

## The Book of Daniel

### Week 9

The dreams and visions portion of the book of Daniel opens with a preview of the world history and a series of four earthly kingdoms replace by a fifth heavenly kingdom. The second vision signals and narrowing of the focus of God's revelation to his servant. This one to pics only two animals symbolizing to earthly empires. The setting of this vision shifts as well presumably from Babylon to Susa.

1. Significance of 550 BC
  - a. Cyrus breaks free and sets up Medo-Persian Empire
  - b. Prophet identifies this Cyrus in Isaiah 45:1 as "The Lord's Anointed"
  - c. Cyrus will be king who will allow Israelites to go back to Jerusalem.
  - d. Daniel's last vision will happen during the reign of Cyrus the Great.
2. Two Animals
  - a. 2 Horned Ram – powerful, charging in three directions, becomes great
  - b. 1 Horned Goat – Swift, attacks and tramples Ram, becomes very great and then at apex of power the large horn is broken off and replaced with 4 smaller ones.
3. Small Horn
  - a. Smaller horn grows out of one of the four, and though it starts small, it grows in power quickly.
  - b. Claiming equality with God, very arrogant, halts daily sacrifice, extreme persecution

Verse 12 is a pivotal verse because we see there is something greater than this one. This one is being given the host and the sacrifice because of the transgression or rebellion of the Israelites. Horn only has power for the divine retribution toward the Israelites for rejecting their true God.

4. Limited Time (Hope to God's people)
  - a. 2300 mornings & evenings (Twice daily sacrifice) = 1150 days about 3 ½ years
  - b. 7 = Work of the Lord. Things only God can do. (Completeness, wholeness, Shalom)
  - c. 666 = Satan's Handiwork (Really Really bad, nasty, really evil)
  - d. 3 ½ = half of seven and denotes a definitely limited period of time
5. Interpretation of Vision
  - a. Given to Daniel by the Angel Gabriel as ordered by the voice of God Himself.
  - b. 2 Horned Ram = Medo-Persian Empire
  - c. Goat = Alexander the Great and the empire of Greece
  - d. 4 Horns = 4 kings (generals) who took power after the passing of Alexander

Core of the vision and the purpose of the revelation given to Daniel is that there will be a time of severe persecution against God's people.

6. King Antiochus
  - a. Reigned from 175 BC-163 BC and ravaged the Hebrews and their temple.
  - b. He desecrated the Jerusalem temple and prompted the Maccabean Revolt.

- c. Stern-faced king who was defiant, shameless, and insolent.
- d. Remember God is In Complete Control!