

# Faith under Fire – The Ram and The Goat

## Lesson 7 – Daniel 8:1-27

**Introduction** – Chapter 8 is a simple vision when compared to chapter 7.

### Major points of the Vision

- 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Belshazzar's Reign
- In Susa – A city near the center of future Persia Empire. Winter residence for Persian kings.
- Ram with two horns – Persia and Media. Persia eventually become the dominant empire.
- Goat with one horn is Alexander the Great who died at age 33 and then his empire was divided.
- Small Horn – Antiochus IV (Manifest of God) Also known as Antiochus the Mad
- He is known for his persecution of the Jews.
- He stopped the worship of God in the Temple. Instead he used the Temple to worship Zeus. (Pig Sacrificed)
- He attacked God himself with the attack against how God's people were able to worship.
- Maccabees revolt restored the temple as the center of worship to God. Maccabee revolt was successful, and Antiochus soon dies from some type of disease.
- He died in 164 BC and will always be known as a villain in Jewish History.
- V 14 - 2,300 evenings and mornings and then the sanctuary will be restored. Main idea is that this period of persecution and abuse will come to a stop.

What does this vision mean to us today?

What truth do we apply to our lives?

### Application:

- God's people will be attacked.
- The arrogant and powerful believe they can challenge and attack God
- God is aware of the Future and always in Control.
- God's people will be restored.
- Worship can never be taken away from God's People.

## **Sidebar Lesson:**

What Problems do we encounter with too much emphasis on Prophecy?

- Most prophets did not predict the future, they called people to return to God and warned of Judgment to come.
- Emphasis should always be placed on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Based on our understanding of Jesus and our understanding of how God is described throughout scripture, we then work to understand prophecy.

## **The Problem of Predicting Dates:**

What is the harm of Predicting Dates?

- 200 major predictions about the end of times since 1945.
- One man maxed out all his credit cards because he knew the next day would be the last day on earth. Another man said he did not need to resolve the conflict with his wife, since tomorrow will be the last day on earth.
- Paul warned of people being lazy and not working because of their belief of end times. (Thessalonians) He stated that we are to watch for Jesus's return, but not to stop living their lives.

## **The Problem of "In our Lifetime":**

- The Late Great Planet Earth – Wars, rumors of Wars and Earthquakes.  
What generation has not experienced these signs?
- Misuse of Prophecy is an attempt to wrestle control away from God and leads to disruption in the church.
- Yes, we live in the "Last Days" the time between the first and second coming of Christ. God is in control and has a limit on how long evil will reign.

**Conclusion:** Live in the Present, while waiting with hope for the future.