

# THE STORY OF DANIEL

by

Mrs. Harriet Irene Fisher

Author of

“Aunt Hattie’s Bible Stories” for Boys and Girls

Moody Colportage Library #191

Copyright, 1936

## CHAPTER NINE

### DANIEL’S VISION OF THE RAM AND THE GOAT

IN the third year of the reign of Belshazzar Daniel had another dream. This time he dreamed he was in the palace at Shushan, Persia, a city which later became the capital of the kingdom of the Medes and Persians.

As he was standing by the river he lifted up his eyes and saw a ram with two horns, and these two horns were both high, but one was higher than the other and the higher one came up last.

He saw the ram pushing west, then north and south. There was no beast great and strong enough to stop him and all fell before his power. He had no regard for anyone but followed his own will and became very great.

Then as Daniel was thinking what his vision might mean, he saw a goat coming from the west, rushing with such speed that his feet seemed not so much as to touch the ground. This goat had a big horn between his eyes.

He came toward the ram with the two horns which was still standing by the river. As he approached, his fury was increased and he struck the ram with such force as to break both of his horns and trample him under his feet, and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.

Therefore the goat became very strong, but in the midst of his strength his horn was broken, and in its place came up four notable ones. Out from one of these four came a little horn which became very strong towards the south, the east, and the pleasant land (another name for Palestine).

This little horn increased in power until he defied the Prince of the host, or the Lord Himself.

He set himself up in the Temple and gave orders that the daily sacrifices should not be offered any more and that the altar should be cast down.

Some of the stars of heaven were cast down and trampled under foot. Then Daniel heard voices. Some angels were talking about the scenes before him. One holy one asked how long this sacred Temple should be desecrated and the other answered for two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings, or days.

I am not surprised that Daniel sought to know the meaning of all of this strange and terrible vision.

Presently a man's voice was heard, saying, "**Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.**"

So frightened was Daniel when the angel Gabriel came near to him that he fell upon his face. In comforting words Gabriel said, "Son of man, these visions will come true at the time of the end."

Daniel was in such a deep sleep that the angel had to touch him and lift him up.

"Listen, Daniel," he said, "and I will make you to know what shall be in the end for that is when these things will happen.

"The ram," he continued, "which you saw had two horns; the bear, in your other vision and the arms and chest of silver of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image are all one and the same. They represent the kingdom of the Medes and Persians.

"The two horns are two divisions. The one horn, being higher than the other, shows how the Persians, one division, will be stronger than the Medes, the other division."

The angel Gabriel was able to look ahead to see the future, for all literally came true in the few years that followed. The bear, in the vision, had three ribs in its mouth and the ram pushed westward, northward and southward. That is exactly the story of the Medes and Persians in their conquests, for they pushed west and conquered Baby Ion, Syria and Asia Minor; north, and overthrew Armenia and the Caspian countries, and going south took Egypt, Libya and the adjoining parts. And what a terrible conquest it was. The words of the vision were literally fulfilled, "**Arise and devour much flesh.**"

Gabriel explained further, "The rough goat with the big horn between its eyes, the leopard with four heads and four wings, the body and thighs of brass of the great image are the same and represent the kingdom of Greece.

"The horn between the eyes is the first king who shall die at the height of his power and his kingdom shall be divided into four parts or heads, none of which shall be strong."

Here again it is interesting to read our secular histories to find how literally the visions were fulfilled in the years following Daniel's time.

Many years before the time of the vision, the Persians had gone west across the Aegean Sea and mercilessly invaded Greece, at that time without defense. The Grecians, after these raids, held an undying hatred of the Persians.

Upon the death of Philip of Macedon, ruler of Greece, his young son, Alexander, came into the place of power.

No better picture could have been given of him than the rough goat of Daniel's vision, for, coming from the west with remarkable swiftness, prompted by an inborn desire to avenge past wrongs, he descended upon the Persians and dealt them a deadly blow from which they never recovered.

Alexander pushed his conquering armies with such speed that at the end of a reign of twelve years he was called, "Alexander the Great, Emperor of the World." He had conquered, and sighed for more worlds to conquer.

At the age of thirty-three he died, a victim of his own appetites. As the vision revealed, **"When he was strong then the great horn was broken."**

After his death his kingdom was divided into four parts over which four of his generals ruled. These kingdoms were mighty but not in their former power, hence, **"Four kings shall stand up in the nation, but not in his power."**

Let us pretend again,

"O Gabriel, man from heaven, it is too much for me to understand."

"Daniel, it is hard for you to understand, but all of these things concern your nation Israel. From my point of view it is all very plain for I can see the entire sweep of the ages. Come into the observatory of heaven again. I think I can help you to understand some of these things better."

"O thank you, Gabriel, I have been wishing you would say that."

"Try this telescope first."

Daniel looked eagerly, but disappointment was written upon his face as he said, "I cannot see as far as I did the other day."

"I know you cannot, for I wanted you to see some events closer to you. Tell me, what do you see?"

Intently Daniel gazed upon the scene and then said, slowly, "O Gabriel, the whole picture is about my people, Israel. God is judging them because of their sins. I see a terrible man with an ugly face. He is persecuting my people."

“He goes into the Temple, our beautiful Temple in Jerusalem, and demands that the priests shall not offer any more sacrifices and that the altar be broken down. He tramples upon the faithful priests who are serving in the Temple. This one must be the little horn out of the four notable ones of my vision.”

“Come to this larger telescope. Now tell me what you see.”

“I see the same man of the fierce face, terrible to look upon.”

“Are you sure it is the same one?”

“Let me look a bit longer. No, it isn’t the same one but he looks much like him. This one is fiercer and more terrible than the first one. He is very powerful but not in his own power, for I see Satan behind him and giving him the power to do dreadful things. Everything seems to go just as he directs. I see prosperity on every hand, but no one is happy. But wait, he stands up against the Prince of princes. He must be the little horn of the fourth-beast vision. Gabriel, is the Prince of princes our promised Messiah?”

“Yes, Daniel, you have thought wisely. That is exactly who he is and this world emperor defies him.”

“Gabriel, I see this terrible one falling to the earth before the power of the great Prince, the smiting stone of the dream image.”

And then the angel told Daniel to shut up the vision for it should not be fulfilled for many days. Four times in the vision the end had been spoken of, or that these things would all happen at the close of the time when the Gentiles were in power and Israel was being judged because of her disobedience.

Let us turn to the history of the Jews following Daniel’s time and see how a part of the vision was literally fulfilled.

In the latter years of Daniel’s life a few thousand of the Jews, held captive in Babylon for seventy years, returned to Palestine by permission of Cyrus, the king. They rebuilt the walls and the Temple and set up once more the service of the Temple according to the Law of Moses.

For a time they lived godly lives and enjoyed much religious freedom, for the kings of Persia were friendly and kind to them.

The king gave the government of the Jews into the hands of the high priests, some of whom lived according to the law and were zealous of the God of Israel, while others were corrupt and wicked.

But always in the nation of Israel there was a group which the Bible calls the “remnant” that was true to God and sought to know His will.

I cannot take the time in a story like this to tell you of the many troubles and trials that came to the nation between the records of the Old and New Testaments but Palestine was much of the time the battleground for the armies of Syria and Egypt and regardless of whichever won, Israel always suffered.

During that time a king by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes came to the throne of Syria. He desired to have all the people, over whom he ruled, worship his heathen gods. The faithful of the children of Israel said they would not worship these gods but only Jehovah, the true God.

This made the king so angry that he made a personal trip to Jerusalem to force them to obey his command.

That is where we, again, see a part of Daniel's vision fulfilled, for Antiochus Epiphanes actually went into the Temple and offered not a ram, bullock nor lamb upon the altar, but a pig, which was forbidden in the Law of Moses. And not only that, but he took the broth of the pig and sprinkled it upon the furniture of the Temple. In God's sight nothing could have been more blasphemous.

Then this terrible king with the fierce face threw down the altar and gave the command that no more sacrifices were to be offered in the Temple. He was very wicked and taught the young Jews vile habits and corrupted their morals. He put the office of high priest up and sold it at auction, the highest bidder being the one to serve.

Is it any wonder that the angel-watcher asked how long this desecration should continue? The answer was twenty-three hundred days and that was about the length of time that Antiochus Epiphanes troubled Jerusalem. At the end of that time peace was restored for a season and the Temple cleansed. But great desolation, sorrow and suffering had been endured. Thousands of Jews in and around Jerusalem had been slain.

Could any king do worse? It is hard to think so, but Antiochus Epiphanes was only a type or an illustration of the king of fierce countenance who shall **"arise in the last end of the indignation"**; that is, at the close of the day in which God judges His people, the end of the age in which we live.

The Syrian king desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem but the coming **"little horn"** of Daniel's vision will defy the Prince of princes, even our Lord Jesus Christ. But, as Gabriel told Daniel, it will not be in his own power but in the power of Satan himself.

This one shall be a great world ruler who will magnify himself and make the nations prosper.

Finally he will set himself up in the Temple in Jerusalem and command men to worship him.

Then, the smiting stone will fall, or in other words, the Lord Jesus Christ will come the second time and he, the Antichrist, shall fall and be broken without hands.

A dark and terrible picture is this which is yet to come to pass upon the earth and so near that the dreadful man of fierce countenance may be living in the world today. However, let us who have been born again through faith in Jesus Christ rejoice, for that awful day will not come until the Church of Jesus Christ, of which we are members, shall hear the shout of the Lord to meet Him in the air. **“So shall we ever be with the Lord.”**

As the vision passed, Daniel said that he fainted and it was several days before he was able to look after the king’s business.

~ end of chapter 9 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>

\*\*\*