

A Ram and a Goat

Daniel 8

by Don Falkos

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During the reign of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a vision.

A ram with two horns stood by a stream. It became very powerful, expanded its realm to the north, west, and south, and did as it pleased. Then a shaggy male goat came from the west. The goat had a prominent horn between its eyes. It attacked the ram, broke its horns, and trampled it. The goat became extremely powerful. But then its large horn was broken and was replaced by four others. A small horn emerged and became very powerful. It fought the ruler of heaven and trampled truth on the ground.

The angel Gabriel explained the vision to Daniel.

The two horns of the ram are the kings of Media and Persia. The shaggy goat is Greece, and the large horn between its eyes represents the king of the Greek Empire. The four horns that replace the large one show that four kingdoms will arise out of the Greek Empire, but none will have the power of the first.

When the four have become immeasurably evil, an arrogant king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power and succeed at everything he does. He will be amazingly destructive; he will flourish through deceit; he will think himself to be better than God; he will lull people of God into a false sense of security and then destroy them. He will desecrate the Temple of God and put a halt to the sacrificial system for three and a half years. His demise will come about without human intervention.

Daniel grew weak and was ill for several days.