*CSB – Ignatius Catholic Study Bible - Daniel*

*NJBC – New Jerome Biblical Commentary*

*SN = Special Notes*

*NAB = New American Bible*

*SK = Chinese Bible*

*CCC = Catholic Catechism*

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| **A** | **Overview** * In Daniel’s vision, he sees a very proud ram with two horns. This ram is struck down by a he-goat from the west. When the he-goat becomes strong, the great horn is broken, and “instead of it here came up four conspicuous horns … out or one of them came forth a little horn, which grew exceedingly great” and became proud. It takes away burnt offering from the Prince and overthrows his place of sanctuary. “For two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state” (8:14).
* Gabriel who has “the appearance of a man” explains the vision is about “time of the end”. The ram with two horns represents the Medo-Persian Empire. The goat’s “conspicuous horn” is Alexander the Great and the four horns that replace him are the four generals who assumed control of Alexander’s empire after his death. The little horn will persecute the Jews but “by no human hand, he shall be broken” (8:25).
 | Dan 8 |
| **B** | **The Battle Between the Ram and the Goat*** Historical background: Approximately 550 B.C. when Belshazzar became deputy regent of Babylon in his father’s absence (Nabonidus); two years after Daniel’s dream of the 4 beasts in Chapter 7.
* The vision concerns Alexander the Great of Greece (a he-goat with a conspicuous horn) defeating the Medo-Persian Empire (the ram with two horns). The empire was divided into four kingdoms (four conspicuous horns). The “Little horn” is Antiochus IV Epiphanes who is responsible for persecuting the Jews and desecrating the Jerusalem Temple. He died a painful death after a long battle with serious illnesses.
* “The great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns “ – The Medo-Persian Empire was demolished by Alexander the Great in 323 B.C.. The four generals who succeeded Alexander the Great took control of Macedonia, Thrace, Syria, and Egypt. This is similar to the vision of the four-headed leopard in Dan 7:6.
* “Out of one of them came forth a little horn” – the author focuses on Syria’s Antiochus IV, a man of colossal arrogance and ego. He is described as “… grew exceedingly great … to the host of heaven; and some of the host of the stars it cast down to the ground”. The stars represent the wise among God’s people. \*\* A brief overview of Antiochus’ crimes and fate.
* Antiochus’ desecration of the Temple lasted for three years (two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings = 150 days = 3 years), “then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state”.
 | Dan 8:1-4CSB 8:1CSB 2:14, SN1CSB 8:8, SKCSB 8:9-12, SK,1 Maccabees 1:10-61,2 Maccabees 5:11-20, 6:1-11, 9:5-12, 1:13-17CSB 8:141M 4:36-58 |
| **C** | **Allegory or History?*** Accurate and detailed historical records, especially the records about Antiochus IV, prompt questions about the identity of the author and the date of the work. Is the writing a historical record or a prediction of the future? According to our reference material, the work was written later based on Daniel’s writing.
 | CSB pp 13-14BSP Note 1A |
| **D** | **Daniel’s Visions Interpreted by Gabriel*** The name of archangel Gabriel implies he is one “sent from heaven”; this understanding gives a deeper meaning to his “appearance of a man”. This is Archangel Gabriel’s first appearance in Scripture. “I was frightened and fell upon my face” – a typical reaction of humans encountering God or His messengers.
* “Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end” – “time of the end” refers to the end of Antiochus’ reign of terror, not the end of the world.
* Gabriel’s interpretation confirms the meaning of the vision. Antiochus “shall even rise up against the Prince of princes; but by no human hand, he shall be broken”. He called himself Antiochus Epiphanes “theos epiphanes”. At the end, he was punished by God and died a terrible death.
 | Dan 8:15-27SK, NAB, CSB 8:17Gen 17:3, Ezk 1:28CSB 8:17CSB 8:25, 2M 9:5-12 |