

# 119

## GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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### The Exiled Prophet, Part 9: The Ram and the Goat (Daniel 8)

#### TEACHING SUMMARY

Daniel's vision takes place in the third year of Belshazzar and places him beside the canal at Susa. He sees a powerful ram defeated by a swift goat. Gabriel explains that these animals represent the Medo-Persian and Greek kingdoms.

The goat's great horn represents its first king, identified in the teaching as Alexander the Great. Its broken horn and four replacements picture the division of his empire. A later little horn grows strong and attacks the holy people and their worship.

The teaching identifies this ruler as Antiochus IV. It relates the vision to his persecution, interference with sacrifices, promotion of Greek worship, and desecration of the temple. His self-exaltation opposes the God whose worship he tries to suppress.

The teaching understands the 2,300 evenings and mornings as counting two daily offerings, producing 1,150 days. It connects the period with the temple's desecration and restoration. The reference to the end concerns the end of indignation, rather than the end of all history.

In this interpretation, Daniel 8 has already been fulfilled. Antiochus's death by disease fits destruction without a human hand. Daniel nevertheless becomes ill and distressed because the vision reveals suffering and renewed trouble for the temple he longs to see restored.

Three applications conclude the teaching. Fulfilled prophecy encourages trust in God's future promises; the temple's significance calls believers to honor God as his temple; and hope for restoration does not erase compassion for suffering people. Daniel's grief and Yeshua's tears both encourage empathy.

## SUMMARY POINTS

- The vision occurs in Belshazzar's third year.
- Gabriel identifies the ram with Media and Persia.
- The goat represents Greece, with its great horn as the first king.
- The teaching identifies that first king as Alexander the Great.
- Four replacement horns represent the divided Greek kingdom.
- The little horn is identified as Antiochus IV.
- Antiochus attacks God's people and disrupts temple worship.
- The teaching reads 2,300 evenings and mornings as 1,150 days.
- The end of indignation is distinguished from the end of history.
- The closing lessons emphasize trust, holiness, and compassion.

## FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

### Basic

1. The ram represents Media and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The goat represents the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The teaching identifies the goat's first king as \_\_\_\_\_ the Great.
4. After the great horn breaks, \_\_\_\_\_ horns replace it.
5. The little horn is identified as \_\_\_\_\_ IV.
6. The angel who explains the vision is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Challenging

1. The vision places Daniel at the canal in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The teaching interprets 2,300 evenings and mornings as \_\_\_\_\_ days.
3. The Hebrew term discussed for indignation is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Antiochus calls himself Epiphanes and associates himself with the Greek god \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The teaching connects destruction without a human hand with Antiochus dying of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. In the application, believers are described as God's \_\_\_\_\_.

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do Gabriel's identifications guide the teaching's interpretation of the animals and horns?
2. Which actions of Antiochus does the teaching connect with the little horn's behavior?
3. How does the teaching explain the evenings and mornings and the end of indignation?
4. Why is Daniel distressed even though the vision includes an end to the oppression?
5. How does the temple application challenge believers to honor God in their lives?
6. How do Daniel's grief and Yeshua's tears encourage compassion alongside hope?

## ANSWER KEY - GROUP GUIDE

### Basic

1. Persia
2. Greece
3. Alexander
4. four
5. Antiochus
6. Gabriel

### Challenging

1. Susa
2. 1,150
3. za'am
4. Zeus
5. disease
6. temple