

**Text: Dan 2, 7, 8**

“The book of Daniel, with which we have now to deal, has been one of the greatest stumbling-blocks in the path of those who have difficulty in believing the miraculous. It consequently holds quite a singular place in the story of the attacks which have been made upon the authenticity and the inspiration of the Scriptures. It was to it that Porphyry first applied the principles and methods of what has been called “the higher criticism.” Many of the prophecies had been so strikingly fulfilled that, to evade their force, they were set down as history, and the date of the composition of the book was fixed at a point from which the predictions seemed to become less distinct and clear.”<sup>1</sup>

For this study, I plan to do a lot of reading, since we are combining three visions that prophesy the sweep of human history from Daniel to the end of time. It is best to read, and let Scripture interpret Scripture.

**I. Daniel’s Visions**

Preliminary notes:

In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. He insisted his wise men tell him the dream before offering an interpretation. We will pick up the narrative where Daniel tells Neb. his dream.

The vision of Daniel 7 comes in the days of Belshazzar, grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. The vision is private, coming to Daniel alone.

The vision of Daniel 8 has some similarities with the previous visions, but one significant difference.

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Interpretation
Head of gold	Lion, wings as an eagle		<b>Babylon</b> (2.36-38; 7.17)
Breast/arms of silver	Bear, raised up on one side	Ram with two horns, one larger	<b>Persia</b> (2.39; 7.17; 8.20)

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<sup>1</sup> John Urquhart, *The Wonders of Prophecy: Or, What Are We to Believe?* (New York: Gospel Publishing House, n.d.), 152.

Belly/thighs of bronze	Leopard, with four heads	The “he-goat” rushing swiftly, with four new horns	Greece (2.39; 7.17; 8.21)
Legs of iron	Great and terrible beast		Rome (2.40; 7.17, 23)
Feet iron/clay	The little horn		remnant of Rome (2.41-43; 7.24-25)
Stone cut without hands	Kingdom of the Ancient of days & Son of man		Kingdom of God (2.44-45; 7.18,26-27)

The small horn of Daniel 8: see 8.22-26 — an heir of Alexander who attacks “the Beautiful land” and its people.

## II. The course of History

- Nebuchadnezzar 605 BC to 562 BC (conquered Jerusalem 586 BC)
- Cyrus the Persian 600 BC [birth] to 530 BC (conquered Babylon 539 BC)
- Alexander the Great 356 BC [birth] to 323 BC (conquered Persia 334-330 BC)
- Greek Empire broke into four empires Greece, Macedonia/Turkey, Seleucid (Persia/Turkey/Palestine) Ptolemaic (Egypt) — after 323 BC
- The Romans began imperial expansion before the rise of the emperors, but the imperial period begins with Augustus in 27 BC, with Rome in possession of most of the Mediterranean world from Spain to Palestine.
- The Roman Empire broke apart and fell into pieces approximately AD 500

## III. The last part of the visions

- A. The little horn
- B. The stone cut without hands