# DANIEL 8, -- RAM & HE-GOAT

# **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter Daniel documents both the vision he experienced, and subsequent interpretations as provided by an angel. For clarity, the recorded vision and interpretations and are best understood by aligning each vision segment with the respective angelic interpretation. But before beginning, it helps to grasp the scope of this vision/interpretation.

What Daniel has done in the beginning of the 8th chapter is present the Image of Metals in a slightly different and historically expanded simile. He does this by first citing a "ram" which represents the nomadic Medes and Persians who roamed ancient Persia prior to the Babylonian/Chaldean Empire, and then describes a "he goat." This "he goat" represents the same world empires as portrayed by the Image Of Metals from Chapter 2, starting with the "great horn" as the Babylonian/Chaldean Empire under King Nebuchadnezzar, called the Head of Gold.

Next, he accounts for "four conspicuous horns" which represent of the Breast, Belly, Legs, and Feet of the Image of Metals. Thus, having established the span of world empires, he focuses on one of these four conspicuous horns, which is understood to represent the Feet -- Divided Kingdom, and provides specific details for one "little horn," which is actually represents one of the toes of the Image of Metals. (Apparently Daniel ignores the nine other 'little horns,' plus the eleventh 'little horn,' the leaving the full account to the chapter 7 Dreadful beast depiction.)

In this study we'll discover that this "little horn" is the arisen nation of the U.S.S.R., and the king who "understands riddles" and presides over this litany of events, will apparently prove to be Mikhail Gorbachev

# THE SEQUENCE OF WORLD KINGDOMS

# **VISION -- Verses 3-8**

DANIEL 8:3 "I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the river. It had two horns; and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. <sup>4</sup> I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward; no beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power; and he did as he pleased and magnified himself. <sup>5</sup> As I was considering, behold, a he-goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. <sup>6</sup> He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the river, and he ran at him in his mighty wrath. <sup>7</sup> I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns; and the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled upon him; and there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power. <sup>8</sup> Then the he-goat magnified himself exceedingly, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns towards the four winds of heaven."

# **INTERPRETATION -- Verses 20-22**

DANIEL 8:20: "As for the ram which you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. <sup>21</sup> And the he-goat is the king of Greece; and the great horn between his eyes is the first king. <sup>22</sup> As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power."

# RAM -- Media And Persia (1100 BC & 800 BC)

As already described in the Daniel 2 - Head of Gold - <u>Regional History</u>, this ram with the two horns, "*Media and Persia*," is the predecessor to the Babylonian/Chaldean Empire. But to confirm the historical setting of this "*Media and Persia*," we can examine the reign of King Darius (Ref. Daniel 5:20, 6:12, 9:1, and 11:1), because his authority was limited by the traditions of the "*Medes and Persians*" during his rulership:

- 1.) Daniel 5:30 clearly states that this Darius the Mede received the kingdom of Belshazzar, of the "*Chaldeans*," which is to say the Babylonian/Chaldean Empire.
- 2.) Daniel 9:1 clearly states that King Darius "became king over the realm of the Chaldeans."
- 3.) In Daniel 6:12, Daniel is cast into the den of lions according to the ordinance to which King Darius had affixed his seal, which could not be undone even by King Darius, "according to the law of the Medes and Persians."
- 4.) In Daniel 11:1, Daniel "stood up to confirm and strengthen," this obviously distressed King Darius in the face of impending doom by the expanding strength of his close neighbor, the Medo/Persian King Cyrus the Great.
- 5.) In Daniel 6:28, after Daniel survived the lions den, and the accusers (and families) were cast in to the pit, the following chronology is presented: "So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian."

We now see three things. The first is that King Darius was indeed a Babylonian/Chaldean king. Secondly, the "Medes and Persians" are substantiated as having a regional presence prior to the Babylonian/Chaldean Empire as evidenced by Darius' powers being limited by legal traditions established by his regional predecessor. And the third is that the Medo/Persian Empire under King Cyrus the Great was subsequent to both of these. In addition to scriptural evidence, ancient world history confirms the 1100 - 800 BC existence and predominance of these "Medes and Persians."

Thus, we can clearly perceive that this "ram" represents the tribal nomadic, less structured form of governing, forever replaced by a new "he-goat"/"Greece" structured type of government.

#### **HE-GOAT -- Greece**

This "he-goat" is also called "Greece," not because it represents a specific nation, but because it stereotypes a specific type of government. As highlighted in the Daniel 2 - Breast and Arms of Silver commentary, the literal nation of "Greece" is identified as a "kingdom which shall rule over all the earth." This "he-goat"/"Greece" characterizes the figurative depictions of both the birth of this enduring centralized form of government, and also demonstrates the complete and permanent global integration of this form.

The representations are outlined as follows:

#### **CHAPTER 8 EMPIRE ALIGNMENT**

Dan. 8	Dan. 8 (& 7)	World History	Dan. 2, (& 7)	Years
Ram	2-Horns	Media & Persia		1100 - 800 BC
He-Goat	Great Horn	Babylonian/Chaldean Empire	Head of Gold	605 - 539 BC
	Horn 1 of 4	Medo/Persian Empire	Breast of Silver	539 - 330 BC
	Horn 2 of 4	Hellenistic Empire	Belly of Bronze	336 - 146 вс

Horn 3 of 4	Roman Empire	Legs of Iron	146 B.C - 476 AD
Horn 4 of 4	"Divided Kingdom"	Feet Iron/Clay	476 - 2,000 AD
(Little Horn #1)	U.S.	(Lion/Eagle)	≈1850 - 2,000+ AD
<u>Little Horn</u> #2	<u>U.S.S.R.</u>	(Bear)	≈1917 - 2,000+ AD
(Little Horn #3)	China	(Leopard)	≈1950 - 2,000+ AD
(Little Horns #4-10)	U.K., Germany, Japan, Brazil, India, Nigeria, France	(5 of 10 Horns)	1996 - 2,000 AD
(Little Horn #11*)	Second Beast/Anti-Christ	(Dreadful)	≈1999 - 2,000 AD

Note: The explanation of the "eleventh" horn is provided in the "Soviet Union - Introduction" which follows

This new form of government (the he-goat) proves to be adhered to through the breadth and span of ancient and modern history, (breast, belly, legs, and feet), until the "great stone" smites the image. At that time, the 'perfect' government shall "[fill] the whole earth."

# **SOVIET UNION**

#### INTRODUCTION

DANIEL 8:14 "Out of one of them came forth a <u>little horn</u>, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land."

DANIEL 7:7 "'After this I saw in the night vision, and behold a fourth beast, terrible and dreadful and exceedingly strong; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots; and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things."

DANIEL 7:19 "Then I desired to know the truth concerning the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrible, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze; and which devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet; <sup>20</sup> and concerning the ten horns which came up and before which three of them fell, the horn which had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and which seemed greater than its fellows."

In this 8th chapter, it's interesting to note that the eleven "little horns" are not plainly called out, but have to be derived using the 7th chapter of Daniel. In chapter 7, verse 7, the Dreadful beast is depicted as having ten horns. Of course, these ten horns represent the kingdoms of the Image-of-Metal's ten toes, and include the U.S., U.S.S.R., China, U.K., France, Germany, Japan, Brazil, Nigeria, and India. In verse 8, the Dreadful beast is then presented as a "little" horn that supplants three other horns, -- they being the U.S. - Lion/Eagle; U.S.S.R. - Bear; and China - Leopard, (as confirmed by Rev. 13:2). But it isn't until verse 20 that Daniel calls each of these eleven horns "fellows," allowing us to understand that there are indeed a total of eleven "little horns," but in a twist of descriptions, actually a total of ten "little horns." And to understand this riddle, we turn to Rev. 17, where John approaches the sequence of kingdoms from a slightly different angle.

REVELATION 17:9 "This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven hills on which the woman is seated; 10 they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he comes he must remain only a little while. 11 As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to perdition."

Rather than look at the ten end time government "little horns," John the Revelator looks at the Image-of Metals world empires, "seven mountains"/"seven kings:" Babylonian/Chaldean; Medo/Persian; Hellenistic; Roman; U.S.; U.S.S.R.; and China. Then in verse 11, John says that the Anti-Christ is an eighth "that was" (i.e., eleven "little horns") and "is not" (i.e., ten "little horns"). That is to say, that the Anti-Christ arises on the shoulders of three (the U.S., U.S.S.R., and China) rather than from his own kingdom. These eleven "little horns" and eighth king changing perceptions are slightly confusing, but proves to compliment and confirm the interpretation.

Having now considered the fullness of the "little horn" depictions, we can now delve into Daniel's eighth chapter "little horn."

#### VISION

DANIEL 8:14 "Out of one of them came forth a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. <sup>10</sup> It grew great, even to the host of heaven; and some of the host of the stars it cast down to the ground and trampled upon them. <sup>11</sup> It magnified itself even up to the Prince of the host; and the continual burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of this sanctuary was overthrown. <sup>12</sup> And the host was given over to it together with the continual burnt offering through transgression; and truth was cast down to the ground, and the horn acted and prospered. <sup>13</sup> Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to the one that spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the continual burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled under foot?" <sup>0</sup> <sup>14</sup> And he said to him,P "For two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."

- o Heb obscure
- p Theodotion Gk Syr Vg: Heb me

# **INTERPRETATION**

DANIEL 8:23 "And at the latter end of their rule when the transgressors have reached their full measure, a king of bold countenance, one who understands riddles, shall arise. <sup>24</sup> His power shall be great, and he shall cause fearful destruction, and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people of the saints. <sup>25</sup> By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall magnify himself. Without warning he shall destroy many; and he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes; but, by no human hand, he shall be broken. <sup>26</sup> The vision of the evenings and the mornings which has been told is true; but seal up the vision, for it pertains to many days hence."

"Out of one of <u>them</u>" refers to one of the four "conspicuous horns" (Medo/Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, & "divided"). Although it is not specifically stated, there is an inference provided to identify which one of the four "conspicuous horns" the "little horn" shall arise from. In Dan. 8:26 the angel

instructs Daniel to "'seal up the vision, for it pertains to many days hence.'" Thus, one can readily discern that this "one of them" probably is the last one, which represents the "feet of iron and clay"/"divided" kingdom. Because this fourth "conspicuous horn" is comprised of the U.S., U.S.S.R., China, and the subsequent Anti-Christ alliance, (also called the Lion/Eagle, Bear, Leopard, and Dreadful) we must consider which one of these four end time entities is the one "little horn" specifically presented.

In this eighth chapter of Daniel, we find four specific criterion of this one "little horn." The first is the geographical expansion during its maturation; the second is the mention of a "king who understands riddles," the third is the duration that lasts for "2,300 days" (6 years, 4 months); and the fourth is the identification of the event - "the transgression that makes desolate."

### 1. GEOGRAPHY

DANIEL 8:14 "Out of one of them came forth a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land."

Of the three historical nations pertaining to the "feet of iron and clay," (U.S., U.S.S.R., China, and Anti-Christ alliance), only the U.S.S.R. conforms to the geographical expansion described.

Between the years 882 and 1200 AD, Russia existed as an approximate 80,000 square mile country just east of modern Poland. This region struggled against the Vikings to the north and the Batya's Mongols to the east. Peaceful Khazars lived to the south, just north of the Black Sea. The navigable north-south river waterway trade routes provided a region rich in commerce, with natural defensive lines

In 972 the Russians handily defeated the Khazars to the south, gaining territory to the Black Sea, only to have the fierce Polovsty's occupy the same land by 1093. By 1147, Moscow established itself as the commercial center of Russia. The 1200's saw the Russians and Polovsty's unite ("toward the south") in daunting attempts to withstand the Mongol hordes. By the 1500's the Mongol threat had evaporated, the Russians expanded "toward the east" across the former land of the Mongols, and subsequently colonized Alaska\* in 1815.1

### SOVIET GEOGRAPHICAL EXPANSION

		SOVIE	GEOGRAI IIICAL EZ	AIAIIDIOII	
		"Exceedingly	"Toward the South"	"Toward the East"	
YEAR		<u>Great</u> "	DEG.	DEG. EAST	DEG. WEST
		SQUARE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE*	LONGITUDE
		MILES			
1000	O AD	80,000	47	44	22
1996	6 AD	<u>8,518,000</u>	<u>35</u>	$(180 + 10) = \underline{190}$	
NET CHAN	GE:	+8,438,000	+ 12	+ 146	+ 2

<sup>\*</sup> Alaska's inclusion would result in an east longitude of 140 deg. with the net change in of +176, [(180 + 40) - 44], -- within four degrees of half way around the world.

This "exceedingly great" designation is particularly enlightening when considering that the U.S. has 3,615,000 square miles, China has 3,760,000, and Canada has 3,852,000. The U.S.S.R. exceeds its nearest rival by an astonishing 219%.

Geoffrey Barraclough, <u>The Times Atlas of World History, Revised Edition</u>, Hammond Inc., NJ, 1984, pp. 114, 128, 230

The last portion of this prophecy, "and toward the glorious land," has yet to be fulfilled, and is described in Ezekiel 38 & 39, and in Daniel 11:40-44.

### 2. A KING OF BOLD COUNTENANCE

### **VISION**

DANIEL 8:10 "It grew great, even to the host of heaven; and some of the host of the stars it cast down to the ground and trampled upon them. 11 It magnified itself even up to the Prince of the host; and the continual burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of this sanctuary was overthrown. 12 And the host was given over to it together with the continual burnt offering through transgression; and truth was cast down to the ground, and the horn acted and prospered. 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to the one that spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the continual burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled under foot?" Of 14 And he said to him, P" For two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."

<sup>0</sup> Heb obscure

P Theodotion Gk Syr Vg: Heb me

# **INTERPRETATION**

DANIEL 8:23 "And at the latter end of their rule when the transgressors have reached their full measure, a king of bold countenance, one who understands riddles, shall arise. <sup>24</sup> His power shall be great, and he shall cause fearful destruction, and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people of the saints. <sup>25</sup> By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall magnify himself. Without warning he shall destroy many; and he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes; but, by no human hand, he shall be broken. <sup>26</sup> The vision of the evenings and the mornings which has been told is true; but seal up the vision, for it pertains to many days hence."

There have been many Soviet rulers, a good portion of which have wielded a reign of terror.

YEARS OF REIGN	RULER
1462 - 1533	Ivan III (Ivan the Great)
1533 - 1584	Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible
1584 - 1605	Fyodor I
1605 - 1613	(Dynasty Struggle)
1613 - 1645	Tsar Michael Romanov
1682 - 1725	Peter I (Peter the Great)
1725 - 1727	Catherine I
1762 - 1796	Catherine II (Catherine the Great)
1796 - 1801	Peter I
1801 - 1825	Alexander I
1825 - 1855	Nicholas I
1855 - 1881	Alexander II (Tsar-Liberator / Great Reformer)

1881 - 1894	Alexander III
1894 - 1917	Nicholas II
1917 - 1924	Vladimir Ilich Lenin
1927 - 1953	Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin
1958 - 1964	Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev
10/14/64 - 11/10/82	Leonid Ilich Brezhnev
11/12/82 - 2/9/84	Yuri Andropov
2/13/84 - 3/10/85	Konstantain Chernenko
3/11/85 - 8/19/91	Mikhail Gorbachev (2,352 days)
6/12/91 - 12/31/99	Boris Yeltsin (President of Russia)
12/31/99 - 5/7/08	Vladimir Putin (President of Russia)
5/8/08 - current	Vladimir Putin (Prime Minister of Russia)
5/8/08 - current	Dmitry Medvedev (President of Russia)

### Mikhail Gorbachev

As shown, Mikhail Gorbachev succeeded Konstantin Chernenko as the Politburo General Secretary. His first opportunity to establish authority was in the April 11, 1985, Plenum, having secured several promotions and appointments in the topmost leadership tier. At this same meeting he also presented his "renewal programme" goals. In the July 1 Plenum Gorbachev removed a powerful opponent, G.V. Romanov; replaced Andrei Gromyko with E.A. Shevardnadze as Minister for Foreign Affairs; and appointed L.N. Zaykov and B.N. Yeltsin to important posts. Power brokering continued through June of 1987 to provide a decisive shift of power to Gorbachev.

In the above chronicle it's easy to perceive Gorbachev's ambitiousness, and consolidation of power. According to historical fulfillment, on August 19, 1991, Gorbachev was the victim of a coup which lasted 10 days. His former prodigy and later political nemesis, Boris Yeltsin, strode to his 'rescue' with politically advantageous timing. On August 24th, Mikhail Gorbachev resigned from the office of Communist Party General Secretary.

### 3. 2,300 DAYS

DANIEL 8:13 "Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to the one that spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the continual burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled under foot?" <sup>14</sup> And he said to him, "For two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."

The question remains regarding the 2,300 days. Two scenarios present themselves in this interpretation. The first and most obvious pertains to the following Neve Shalom attack (Ref. the following: #4. The Transgression That Makes Desolate - Neve Shalom"). In the examination of this event, neither the duration of the closure of the Neve Shalom (eight months) nor the length of time from the synagogue Soviet 'Gog/Magog' attack against the Middle East (2,300 days from September 7, 1986 translates to late December of 1993) fulfilled this span.

However in examining a second scenario, one considers the span of Gorbachev's term of office. As already presented, Mikhail first exercised his Politburo General Secretary on March 11, 1985. He fell victim to the coup on August 19, 1991, (2,352 days), and resigned from office on August 24. If this August 19th date is reverse extrapolated by the 2,300 days, (by simply counting backwards from the

August date) then the "start date" is <u>May 2, 1985</u>. This date is between the April and July Plenums where he wrested topmost leadership positions from his political opponents.

In any activity, industrial engineers describe a 'learning curve.' This learning curve is longest at the first attempt and gets shorter with each repetition. Using this parallel, it's reasonable to allow some period of time for the Gorbachev administration to make appointments, establish organization, and achieve governing effectiveness. Thus, it's reasonable to see how the angel might have allowed a seven week span (52 days) to pass before starting the 2,300 days of effective leadership of the Soviet Union. Again, this 6.3 years spanned from the first week of May 1985 to the third week of August 1991.

### 4. THE TRANSGRESSION THAT MAKES DESOLATE - Neve Shalom

DANIEL 8:10 "It grew great, even to the host of heaven; and some of the host of the stars it cast down to the ground and trampled upon them. 11 It magnified itself even up to the Prince of the host; and the continual burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of this sanctuary was overthrown. 12 And the host was given over to it together with the continual burnt offering through transgression; and truth was cast down to the ground, and the horn acted and prospered. 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to the one that spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the continual burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled under foot?" Of 14 And he said to him, P" For two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."

The "giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled under foot" was fulfilled in Istanbul, Turkey, at 9:20 a.m. on September 7, 1986. During the Saturday Sabbath services, two Arab terrorists with machine guns and hand grenades stormed Istanbul's main synagogue, the Neve Shalom, ("Oasis of Peace"). They secured the main door, positioned themselves 30 feet apart, and began firing. After killing 21 men, wounding 4, and leaving 1 teenage boy unscathed, they poured gasoline over the carnage and the bodies, and set it all on fire. In a final act of destruction, they pulled the pins on their respective hand grenades which blew one terrorist to pieces and left the second one with only the upper torso intact. The women, who sat upstairs according to tradition, escaped harm.  $^2$ ,  $^3$ ,  $^4$ 

Eight months later, in May 1987, the Neve Shalom was reopened behind bullet-proof glass doors and security cameras.<sup>5</sup>

Although it was initially suspected that the Palestinian terrorist, Abu Nidal, (whose real name is Sabry al-Banna<sup>6</sup>), was responsible for the attack on the synagogue as well as previous attributed attacks on synagogues in Brussels, Vienna, and Rome,<sup>7</sup> it wasn't until the November 30, 1987 issue of U.S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Synagogue Slaughter Claims 24," Associated Press, Istanbul, Turkey, Albuquerque Journal, Sept.7, 1986, p. A1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Gunmen's Identities Stump Investigators," A.P., Istanbul, Turkey, Albuquerque Jorunal, Sept.9, 1986, p. A8

<sup>4 &</sup>quot;Turkish Leader Links Synagogue Attack to Beirut," L.A. Times/Washington Post Service, Istanbul, Turkey, <u>Albuquerque Journal</u>, Sept.8, 1986, p. A8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Precker, Michael, "Jews Return to 'Secure' Synagogue," Dallas Morning News, <u>Albuquerque Journal</u>, July 7, 1987, p. B11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Peres Dares West To Help Punish Terror," A.P., Jerusalem, Albuquerque Journal, Jan. 2, 1986, p. A7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "Turkish Leader Links Synagogue Attack to Beirut," p. A8

# Collin Sadler

News & World Report, that the attack was fully attributed to Abu Nidal.<sup>8</sup> In intelligence circles it is well known that the Libyans sponsor Abu Nidal,<sup>9</sup> and although direct Soviet collusion has not yet been brought to light, it is well known that the Soviets are sponsors of Libya.

And a final hint of evidence concerns a local news broadcast in Nogales, Arizona the evening of October 13, 1986. The news broadcaster quoted Mikhail Gorbachev as saying, "I'd hate to be a Jew living in Soviet Russia today." It appears this perspective may have been based upon 'insider information.' Note: This same attack is cited in the eleventh chapter of Daniel, verse 29.

<sup>8</sup> "Washington Whispers," U.S. News & World Report, Nov. 30, 1987, p. 15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "Libya Used To Expose Terrorists," A.P., Rome, <u>Albuquerque Journal</u>, Jan. 30, 1986, p. A13