

God's Design in the Hebrew Scriptures: Daniel

Chapter 8 — The Vision of Evenings and Mornings

- I. The Susa Vision, 8.1-14
 - A. The Setting, 1-2
 - B. The Powerful Ram, 3-4
 - C. The Swift, Shaggy Goat, 5-8

Here, as everywhere in the book, the vision exactly answers to the after-history. I do not want to occupy you too much with history; for a knowledge of human records is certainly not necessary to enable one to understand the word of God; but on the other hand nothing is gained by ignorance, and faith is but confirmed, and God glorified, when we see how the wonderful exactness of His holy Word is witnessed to by the annals of uninspired men.

Henry Allan Ironside, Lectures on Daniel the Prophet., 2d ed. (New York: Loizeaux Bros., 1953), 143.
 - D. The Man of Intrigue, 9-14

Keil (*Daniel*, pp 302-304) argues quite convincingly that the 2,300 evenings and mornings represent a total of 2,300 days, and many scholars follow this view. First, Keil points out that in the Hebrew text the phrase is literally "until evening morning, 2,300." He then demonstrates that in Old Testament usage an evening and morning specified a day (e.g., Gen 1). Second, he shows that when the Hebrews wished to make a distinction between the two parts of a day, the number of both was given, for example, "forty days and forty nights" (Gen 7:4, 12). Third, Keil correctly observes that appeal to Dan 7:25 and 9:27 to support a period of three and one-half years here is not valid since these passages do not describe the activities of Antiochus IV. Neither does Dan 12:11-12 speak of Antiochus.

Stephen R. Miller, vol. 18, *Daniel*, Includes Indexes., electronic ed., Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001, c1994), 229.
- II. The Susa Interpretation, 8.15-27
 - A. The Setting, 15-18
 - B. The Powerful Ram, 19-20
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Antiochus - Antichrist Type - Antitype

Many parallels exist between the two individuals, suggesting that Antiochus prefigured the Antichrist:

1. Antiochus (8:9) and Antichrist (7:8) are symbolized by horns that were "little" or "small" at the beginning. Representing both kings as little horns supports the idea that one king prefigures the other.
2. Antiochus was "a stern-faced king" (8:23), and Antichrist will have an "imposing" look (7:20). Both of these descriptions imply cruelty and harshness.
3. Antiochus was "a master of intrigue" (8:23), and the brilliance of the Antichrist is suggested by the "eyes" of the horn (7:8, 20). The ability to offer seemingly correct solutions to the world's perplexing problems may be one factor that will catapult Antichrist to power.
4. Antiochus had great power (8:24); Antichrist will have greater power (cf. 11:39; 2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:7-8). Yet 8:24 says that it was not Antiochus's "own power." His power was that of Satan, who controlled him, and this satanic inspiration was the reason he attempted to destroy God's people, the Jews. Antichrist also will be energized by Satan (cf. 2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:2), and this is one reason he will attack God's people as well.
5. Antiochus destroyed thousands (8:24); Antichrist will destroy more (Rev 13:15; 16:13-16).
6. Antiochus prospered for a short while (8:24), and Antichrist will prosper for a brief time (11:36; Rev 17:12).
7. Antiochus persecuted the saints (8:24); Antichrist also will oppress believers (7:21, 25; Rev 13:7).
8. Antiochus was a deceiver (8:25); Antichrist will be the master deceiver (2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:4, 14; 19:20).
9. Antiochus was proud (8:25). He called himself Epiphanes ("the illustrious one" or "God manifest"), although the Jews called him Epimanes ("madman"). Antichrist, however, will be one of the most arrogant individuals the world has ever known (7:8, 11, 20, 25; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:5).
10. Antiochus blasphemed God (8:25); Antichrist will blaspheme God (7:25; 11:36; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:5-6).
11. Antiochus was not killed by human hand (8:25), nor will be the Antichrist (2 Thess 2:8; Rev 19:19-20)

Stephen R. Miller, vol. 18, *Daniel*, Includes Indexes., electronic ed., Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001, c1994), 237.