

# THE RAM AND THE GOAT

Daniel 8:1-27



## SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, Pastor Peter shared about the vision that Daniel had about the Ram and the Goat. The vision revolves around these two animals, and it's explained that the ram represents the Medo-Persian Empire and the goat represents the Grecian Empire. This vision also points to King Antiochus and the atrocities that he would later go on to commit against Israel. Daniel, after hearing this vision was wiped out in exhaustion and seemingly despair for what is to come.

Daniel knows through the prophet Jeremiah that the seventy years that Israel was going to be in exile in Babylon would soon be up and they would be going back to Jerusalem to rebuild, which should be one of hope, but he was being told that there would be another empire even more wicked than Babylon who would come and destroy the people of God. Under the Seleucid Empire, for 2300 days, great atrocities would happen.

In this transition, God was speaking to Daniel about how to transition into post-exile for the Jews. First, God prepares His people for suffering. There is a warning that even as they come out of exile, there will be new empires that will rise and bring persecution - but God prepares His people beforehand. Second, It is God alone who can deliver, which is the crux of the Book of Daniel.

Even for us, whatever calamities, persecution, trials and tribulation may come - God tells us that we can take heart, because He has overcome the world.



## OUTLINE

1

### THE RISE OF ANOTHER EMPIRE

Even though the Israelites would be transitioning out of exile from Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem, God was telling Daniel that there would be a rise of another empire that would bring even more suffering to God's people. The Seleucid Empire was responsible for the Abomination of Desolation (defiling of the temple, forbidden to circumcise, sold into slavery)

2

### TWO IMPLICATIONS FOR US

First, God prepares His people for suffering. There is a warning that there would be trouble ahead, but the faithful were informed beforehand before these calamities so that they would not be surprised and continue to look to God even in the midst of oppression and great suffering.

Second of all, we are reminded that God alone can deliver God's people from suffering. This idea of deliverance does not always mean that He will remove suffering, persecution, and troubling times - but our hope and trust is that God is our ultimate deliverance who will deliver us from the finality of sin and death. May we hold fast to this hope in the midst of hopelessness and despair.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Icebreaker: How do you usually approach dreams that you have?

2

If you were in Daniel's shoes, how would you feel about the warning of what was to come? Anger? Grief? Anxiety?

3

When we hear bad news presented to us, what are the stages in which we usually process things?

4

How do we understand the reality that God is the true deliverer? What does that mean to us?

5

Spend some time praying over the matters that weigh upon our heart.



## BIG IDEA

Sometimes it may feel like life is just a series of trials and tribulation, and we may wonder where God is in the midst of suffering. We can come to God with full honesty and transparency in that question, but let's hold fast to the truth that God has told us that He is the only one who can truly deliver us from the reality of sin and death. May we continue to remain steadfast and hopeful as we look to Him.