

DANIEL CHAPTER 8 PROPHECY & THE RISE OF IRAN

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6.6.26

We've looked at Daniel a few times — but in view of the current developments in Iran — it is probably worth another review?

Rather than starting at Chapter 1 (which we will do later) ... I'd like to begin to review at Chapter 8.

Chapter 8 gives us end-time prophecies of Iran and Turkey. It's still not yet clear — but **you have to wonder whether Daniel Chapter 8 is currently being fulfilled — or about to be.**

We know that Daniel is a very important end-time book. How do we know? Because Jesus said so!

Matthew 24:15-16

15 “**Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation,¹ spoken of by Daniel the prophet**, standing in the holy place”

(whoever reads, let him understand),

16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Jesus directs us to the Book of Daniel. So —check it out! Daniel is the Manual for the End-Time!

So ... let's go there!

Daniel 8:1-7

1 **In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.**

2 I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai.

3 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and **there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns**, and the two horns were

high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.

4 **I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward**, so that no animal could withstand him; **nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.**

5 And as I was considering, **suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.**

6 Then **he came to the ram that had two horns**, which I had seen standing beside the river, **and ran at him with furious power.**

7 And **I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him**, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. **There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.**

- Great Battle in the Middle East.
- The Ram rushes out first. West ... North ... South.
- Then the He-Goat battles back. Conquers and destroys the Ram.

We don't need to guess these symbols.

Daniel 8:20

20 **The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia.**

THE RAM IS PERSIA = IRAN.

Daniel 8:21

21 **And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece.** The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king.

THE HE-GOAT IS "GREECE" IN MOST TRANSLATIONS. THE HEBREW IS "JAVAN" WHICH MORE ACCURATELY APPLIES TO ASIA MINOR' (MOSTLY MODERN TURKEY).

(Greece today is a small ... relatively weak and poor nation. **Turkey is the most powerful nation in NATO — based on its army and total manpower — other than the USA).**

Why might this prophecy interest us? **It's end-time prophecy!**

Daniel 8:16-19

16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, **"Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."**

17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, **"Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end."**

18 Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright.

19 And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; **for at the appointed time the end shall be.** (*"... for it refers to the appointed time of the end" — ESV and others*)

TIME OF THE END.

Daniel 8:26

26 "And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true;

**Therefore seal up the vision,
For it refers to many days in the future."**

You'll come across lots of commentaries explaining how Daniel Chapter 8 is Ancient History — how the "notable horn" of the Goat was Alexander The Great.

Yet **the scripture repeatedly refers to “The Time of The End”?** Which in Daniel Chapter 12 is said to be **the Time of The Resurrection of the saints!**

In a WCG Bible Study circa 1974 ... the minister went through Daniel Chapter 8 and acknowledged it was end-time. He couldn't see how a little country like Greece could have a part to play in end-time prophecy! He was closer than most I've heard.

What we're looking at appears to be Iran launching an attack across the Middle East? West ... North ... South — includes Iraq ... Syria ... Lebanon — maybe Eastern Turkey ... Saudi Arabia ... Persian Gulf countries.

Later on — after a year or two ... the He-Goat retaliates. Turkey crushes Iran. Ties in with the Leopard of Daniel Chapter 7 ... which indicates that Turkey leads a coalition of 4 Islamic countries (we'll see that more clearly when we review Chapter 7).

When I've read these prophecies in the past ... I've wondered where the USA might fit in this prophecy? How could Iran attack these US “allies”?

But the events of the past 3 months offer a better explanation — and indicate that this prophecy of Daniel Chapter 8 might now be coming into effect.

On February 28 this year ... the USA launched a massive attack on Iran. Quite destructive! Killed the Ayatollah and many of Iran's leaders — apparently hoping that a decapitation strategy would lead to a popular uprising of the Iranians and a regime change. **Utterly failed!**

In retaliation ... Iran took two key steps:

- i. **Closed the Strait of Hormuz** — preventing free movement of oil tankers. At present — 1.5 billion barrels of oil have been removed from the world's supply. Many countries are relying on their strategic reserves to cover the gap ... but **if the Strait remains closed much longer — it is likely to be catastrophic for most of**

the world's economies. One analyst suggests that the USA may see a 50% drop in the size of its economy.

There are additional problems with natural gas ... fertilisers ... jet fuel — even critical medicines.

So what's happening in Iran today is causing serious problems to most of the world. And the worst may yet lie ahead?

- ii. **Iran has already attacked its neighbouring Gulf Countries.** Iran cannot directly attack the USA (the US air and naval power are far too formidable).

But it can — and has — attacked US allies, in the region. Also US military bases in those countries. Considerable damage has occurred. I think that most US bases have been evacuated.

Iran has already damaged many oil refining facilities in nearby countries ... further reducing potential oil supplies.

It extensively damaged the largest LNG facility in Qatar in March. It is believed that it may take 5 years to repair? LNG is key in the manufacture of fertilisers ... so availability and costs are likely to be problematic ... with knock-on effects on food security!

Let's look again at Daniel 8:4:

Daniel 8:4

4. **I saw the ram (IRAN) pushing westward, northward, and southward**, so that no animal could withstand him; **nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.**

Iran “pushes at” (or “butts”) its neighbouring countries. This year it has attacked them all — using drones and missiles. It has resources to do even more damage — even more severely! **It has “pushed out” the US military.**

Does this current attack fulfil the prophecy? It might. It is hard to say! In the past ... I expected the prophecy to be fulfilled by Iranian armies marching out ... with lots of Iranian tanks and artillery ... as they physically invaded their neighbours. But maybe I got that wrong?!

And what we've seen so far might be the preliminary stages? **President Trump is threatening to resume his attack on Iran. If he does ... Iran is likely to ramp up its retaliation against its neighbours — becoming much more aggressive and destructive.**

It might bring about the complete fulfillment of Daniel Chapter 8?

There are connections between the 4 Beasts of Daniel Chapter 7 ... the Ram and He-Goat of Daniel Chapter 8 ... and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

Revelation 6:3-4

3 When He opened **the second seal**, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

4 **Another horse, fiery red, went out.** And **it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another**; and there was given to him a great sword.

The Red Horse seems to be associated chronologically with the Ram of Daniel Chapter 8. Notice it takes peace from the earth. Peace is IRENE in Greek. It appears over 90 times in the New Testament. Other than one occasion ... **it always means "Peace of Mind"**.

It seems likely that the economic crisis which may soon hit most of the world will take peace (of mind) from the Earth.

Also ... 30% of the world's fertiliser supply is now disrupted. Already affecting crop yields this year and next. Lower yields means prices spiking ... and possibly hunger and famine in parts of the world — especially Africa and Asia?

Which ties in with the Black Horse.

Revelation 6:5-6

5 When He opened **the third seal**, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, **a black horse**, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, **“A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.”**

Food shortages and high prices! Famine ... hunger ... death through starvation.

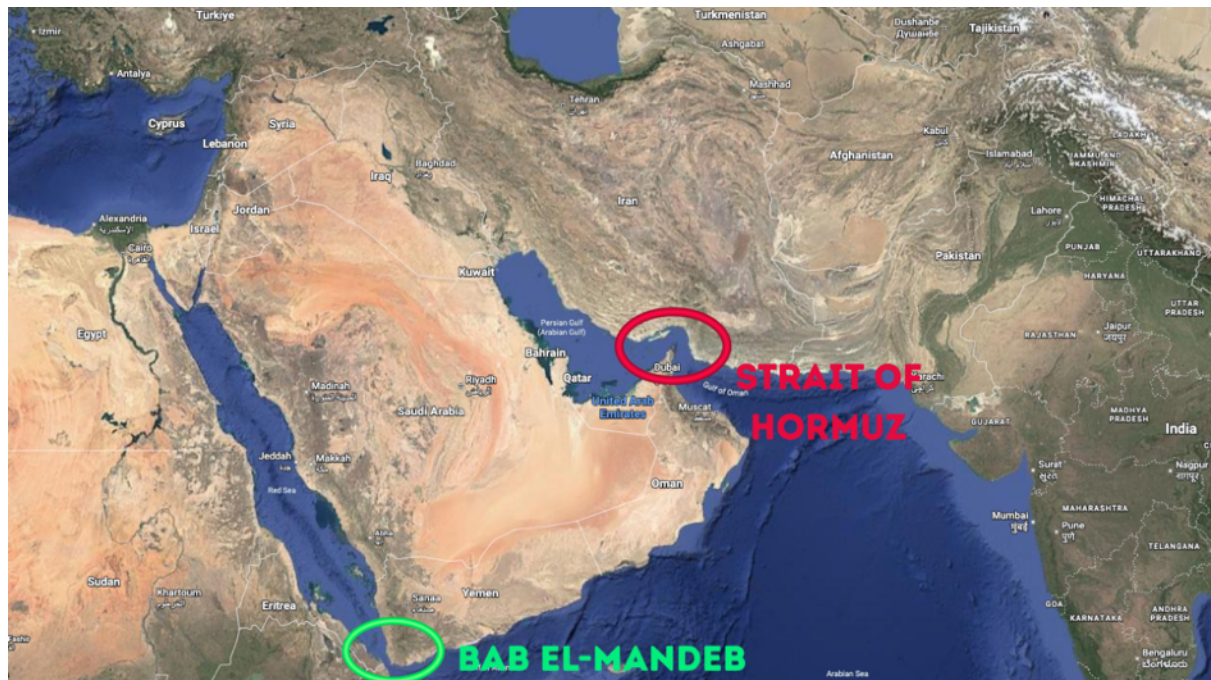
So ... the Ram may have already “run out” ... or be about to ... we have peace of mind being removed — with probable anxiety and fear ... plus likely food shortages and severe price increases — all affecting the whole world.

IN CONCLUSION:

What we’re seeing now with Iran may not be the total fulfillment of Daniel Chapter 8 — but definitely worth watching closely!

Daniel appears extremely topical? Next time ... we’ll go back to the beginning and start a structured review from Chapter 1 onwards.





**COUNTRIES
STRUCK BY
IRAN**

