

Living in the Age of the Ram and the Goat

The Coming War Between Iran
and the United States as foretold
in the book of Daniel

*Chapter 1: Daniel's Vision of
the Ram and the Goat*

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Scripture quotations taken from the King James
Version of the Bible unless noted.

Preface

It is my strong belief that the events of book of Daniel in the Bible foretell events that are taking place right now on the world stage. This is the first book in a series of small books that I plan to release that reveal how current world events and possible future events are taking place; events that conservative theologians have overlooked in their analysis of prophetic scripture in which they have confused the past with the future. I believe a war is coming (but not as soon as some might expect), the war between Iran and the United States, and it will be the event that will act as the gateway to the “end times” described in the Bible.

Darren Thompson

Introduction

“In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first.

And I saw in a vision: and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai. Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high: but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.

And as I was considering, behold, a he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven”

(from the King James Version of the Bible, Daniel 8:1-8).

Conservative scholars have interpreted the above passage as a description of historical events that occurred when Alexander the Great invaded the Persian Empire. The “ram” is symbolic of the Persian Empire and the two horns are symbolic of the two kingdoms, the Medes and the Persians that form the Persian Empire. The “rough goat” represents the Greek Empire. How did the scholars make this symbolic comparison? They didn’t. The angel from Daniel’s vision linked these animals with their corresponding world power:

“The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.” (Daniel 8:20-21)

I believe that these scholars have made an error in the timeframe when this vision of Daniel's was to be fulfilled. This vision does not describe the events of the life of Alexander the Great but rather events that are to occur in the end times, events that may occur during our lifetime. Consider the details of the following passage.

“And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.” (Daniel 8:16-17)

It is clear from the phrase “at the time of the end” these events happen during the end times, the timeframe when the events of the book of Revelations begin to transpire and for reasons that I will make apparent later I believe this vision of the Ram and the Goat describes events that mark of the beginning of the end times. So let's re-examine this great vision of Daniel's in light of the events of our present age.

The Ram as Seen in the 21st Century

Let's take a close look at the events of the vision of the Ram and the Goat, verse by verse.

“In the third year of the reign of the king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first.” (Daniel 8:1)

Daniel indicates in this verse that this vision occurred during the reign of Belshazzar, the third Babylonian king mentioned in the Bible after Nebuchadnezzar and Evil-Merodach, and this vision occurred after the vision that is described in Daniel chapter 7.

“And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai.” (Daniel 8:2)

Daniel is re-located during his vision from Babylon where king Belshazzar had his capital to Shushan, the capital of the Persian Empire (Elam was part of the Persian Empire) which was led by Cyrus the Great at that time. The Persian Empire is the same as modern day Iran. The river of Ulai is the present day Karun River in Iran and it is located very near the Iraq/Iran border. The Karun River is historically and militarily significant because it is the place where the militarily weaker Iranians were able to stand against Saddam Hussein's forces during the Iraq-Iran War.

“Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high: but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.” (Daniel 8:3)

The two horns of the ram represent the modern day descendants of the empires of Persia and Media. Persia we know represents the nation of Iran, but what nation represents Media? The only present day ethnic group that claims to be descendants of the nation of Media is the Kurds, the people of Kurdistan. What is ironic about Kurdistan is that presently, no one considers Kurdistan as a military threat because of its unique

circumstances as a nation. Kurdistan has 25 million people yet it is a country with no official borders. The Kurdistan people live as the minority people in several different countries in an unofficial area that includes western Iran, northern Iraq, northern Syria and eastern Turkey. The only autonomous government recognized is the federal entity that the Kurds control in Iraq. Historically the Kurds have been persecuted in whatever country they inhabited, Iraq and Turkey being the worst offenders. Yet according to this verse they will rise as a nation to be reckoned with. Obviously Iran is the horn that rises first according to this verse, but Kurdistan will be the powerful nation that rises last. Note that this verse states the second horn will rise *last* and not *second*. This is an important distinction as well as an important clue. I believe that this indicates that the “little horn” that will rise in Daniel 8:9 is the last nation that will rise in the end times, Kurdistan. One day Kurdistan will have its own borders, its own government and will be a world power.

“I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.”
(Daniel 8:4)

According to this verse, the ram, the nations of Iran and Kurdistan, will push westward, northward and southward. The ram will certainly be economically powerful if the resources of Kurdistan include the vast oilfields that the Kurds control in northern Iraq. So why would the Kurds become partners with Iran? It can't be based on religion since the Kurds are Sunni Muslims while the Iranians are Shia Muslims. More than likely since the Kurds more than anything else

desire their own country, I believe that Iran promises the Kurds in Iraq their own country if they will help Iran to take over Iraq. Currently in Iraq the three major ethnic groups are the Shia Muslims, the Sunni Muslims and the Kurds. The Kurds are Sunni Muslims by faith but they are significantly different from the other Sunni Muslims because of their culture and the Kurds consider themselves a separate nation from the Iraqi citizenry. Since the Shia Muslims in Iraq are of the same faith as the majority of Iran and if the Kurds in Iraq become political partners with Iran then Iran should have no trouble overcoming the objections of the Sunni Muslims in Iraq.

The word “push” in this verse literally means to “gore” as in the goring caused by a horned animal. Symbolically it is used in other places in the Bible to indicate the expansion of a nation. Therefore according to this verse Iran will expand westward, northward and southward. What countries might be conquered by Iran and Kurdistan if this is true? Consider that Iraq, Kuwait and Turkey are to the west of Iran; Turkmenistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan are located on the coast of the Caspian Sea to the north of Iran; Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, U.A.E. and Qatar are located on the coast of the Persian Gulf south of Iran. It is interesting to note that this verse indicates that Iran will invade to the west, then the north and finally to the south. I think this pattern of conquest reveals Iran’s future objectives. Since Iraq is Iran’s largest military opponent in the region and it is located to the west of Iran it only makes sense that Iran would conquer Iraq first. Once Iran has conquered Iraq it would have an unimpeded path to the countries of the southern part of the Caspian Sea. After the Caspian Sea is controlled then Iran will conquer and control the Persian Gulf.

Why Invade the Caspian Sea?

When the Soviet Union ceased to exist and broke up into smaller countries in the early 1990's the United States and Europe saw an opportunity to increase the security of the worldwide oil supply. There was evidence that the Caspian Sea had vast potential as a new source of petroleum but had not been developed because the Soviet Union did not have the resources to develop the infrastructure necessary to drill and transport the oil. When the Soviet Union was still in power the only nations on the coast of the Caspian Sea were the Soviet Union and Iran but after the Soviet Union's fall from power new smaller nations appeared on the coast of the Caspian Sea from the former Soviet Union: Turkmenistan, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan. The United States and Europe began to invest heavily in these new countries to develop the petroleum resources in Caspian Sea with the hope that they would be friendlier than the Soviet Union or Iran. Presently the Caspian Sea only accounts for 3% of the world's oil supply but it has been speculated it may have as much as 25% of the world's oil supply. The United States and Europe have also helped to finance the BTC (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan) pipeline that runs through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey on the west side of the Caspian Sea near Iraq that transports oil to the Mediterranean Sea. These activities by the United States and Europe have not gone unnoticed by Russia and Iran who consider the Caspian Sea as "their backyard". Rumors abound that the Russians have tried unsuccessfully to sabotage the BTC pipeline. If Iran controlled this pipeline as this verse predicts it could achieve its goal of removing the influence of the United States and Europe from the Caspian Sea but also drastically increase the worldwide price of petroleum; a move that would benefit their

national economy. Also according to this verse, after Iran conquers the southern part of the Caspian Sea it would then invade the nations to its south across the Persian Gulf: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, U.A.E. and Qatar. Iran then would have complete control of over two-thirds of the world's oil resources since it would control the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf. As it says in this verse Iran would indeed be "great".

Enter the Goat

"And as I was considering, behold, a he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes." (Daniel 8:5)

Many theologians believe that Daniel 8:5 describes the military campaign of Alexander the Great. They argue that Alexander's invasion covered the face of the "known" world as the bible viewed it and that the Bible is using the phrase "touched not the ground" as a poetic reference to the speed of Alexander's forces.

What is disturbing about this type of interpretation is that is being presented by people I believe to be men of God who teach that the Bible should be taken literally, yet they have stretched the interpretation of this verse using symbolism to "fit" Alexander the Great. I believe if you take the descriptions mentioned in this verse literally several observations become apparent that make this verse a description of events in our generation. Let's start with the phrase that describes a military force that "touched not the ground". Wars that have involved battles in which the combatants did not touch the ground have only occurred since World War I

when biplanes armed with machine guns battled one another in the sky. Airplanes began to use bombs against land and sea targets in World War II. Also in World War II battleships became powerful weapons from the sea with their ability to lob “Volkswagen” sized munitions at their land targets. The Vietnam War era introduced the capability of the world’s superpowers to launch munitions halfway around the world using intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). If there is a time that nations have become well suited to conducting war without touching the ground it is during our generation.

The “he goat” which “came from the west on the face of the whole earth” also refers to events in our generation. Consider the possibility that the “he goat” represents a leader that is the head of an organization that represents every nation “on the face of the whole earth”. This interpretation would not contradict this phrase and it is also descriptive of a scenario that is possible in our lifetimes: the Secretary General of the United Nations could use a multinational force against the two nations of Iran and Kurdistan. Therefore if the Secretary General is the “he goat” he must also represent the nation of Greece as stated previously. Therefore this prophecy can only occur sometime in our future when the Secretary General of the United Nations is from Greece. Is this a possibility?

Just recently the United Nations selected a new Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon (the South Korean candidate) who began his term in office in January 2007. A great deal of political arm twisting normally takes place in the process of selecting a Secretary General and Ban Ki-moon’s appointment was no different. China, which has the power of veto over any

potential nominee, was adamant that the next candidate come from Asia. The United States, who also has the power of veto over any potential candidate, held the position that the next candidate shouldn't necessarily come from Asia but conceded when China indicated that the candidate from South Korea, a prominent democracy in the region, was acceptable to them. This process of deciding who will be the next Secretary General often is decided based on which region has not had an opportunity to have a Secretary General in office that is from their region. Therefore we should be able ascertain which region the next Secretary General will come from based on the number of Secretary Generals that have been selected from each region. Three Secretaries General have come from Western Europe, two from Africa, one from Latin America and including Ban Ki-moon, two from Asia. Eastern Europe has not had any from their region yet, however the United States did make some argument for Eastern Europe during Ban Ki-moon's selection. Therefore, if this process is based on fairness, it would appear Eastern Europe should have a chance at Secretary General next. Eastern Europe so happens to be where Greece is located, so it is possible that Greece could be the home country for the next Secretary General candidate. How soon could this occur? The Secretary General has a five year term in office but is limited to two terms and with few exceptions they are reappointed and serve for the full 10 years. Therefore it is possible that a Secretary General of the United Nations from Greece could be a reality by the year 2011 but it is more likely to occur in 2016.

The Notable Horn

“...the goat had a *notable* horn between his eyes.”
(Daniel 8:5)

The first observation one should make when analyzing the notable horn is a result of the following question: why doesn't the Bible describe the horn as a “single” horn rather than a “notable” horn? Again, many theologians have interpreted the appearance of this he goat to be a unicorn, a goat with one horn. What if the goat actually has more than 200 horns, which represent the member nations of the United Nations, and those horns are located all over its body? What if the notable horn is striking in its appearance, relative to every other horn the he goat has, because it is a mighty military superpower, the world's only military superpower? The word “notable” is not really in context here unless it is describing the appearance of one unique horn compared to the other horns of the he goat. Thus the use of the word “notable” in this verse would be completely consistent if it is referring to a multi-horned goat with one large horn sticking out of its forehead.

Note the location of the notable horn. It is located between the eyes of the goat. Why is this important? I believe that this symbolism indicates that the notable horn has great influence over the direction of the he goat compared to the other horns: the notable horn leads the eyes of the goat in the direction he should look. Is there a country that presently fits this description that is member of the United Nations? It is obvious that the notable horn must be a representation of the United States.

Now, for the sake of clarity, let's assemble the individual parts of these observations. The he goat is the United Nations led by a Secretary General who is from the nation of Greece and the notable horn represents the United States.

The Goat and the Ram Collide

“And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.” (Daniel 8:6)

According to this verse the he goat confronts the ram at the Uлай (Karun) River near the Iran/Iraq border. How is this possible since the ram “pushed westward” and presumably conquered Iraq? Well, note how the ram has been moving so far: previously the he goat didn't touch the ground, so he was either flying or swimming, but in this verse the he goat is running at the ram. I believe this indicates that the he goat is able to take back control of Iraq from the air and/or the sea and then the he goat uses Iraq as his staging point to conduct a land war against the ram.

The Ram's Horns are Broken

“And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the

great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.” (Daniel 8:7-8)

Here the he-goat is able to successfully defeat the ram and his two horns, Iran and Kurdistan, are broken. While they may be broken Iran and Kurdistan still have important roles in other end time events.

The he goat, the Greek Secretary General of the United Nations, will become very powerful since the United Nations should have control of rebuilding the entire Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea after taking control of it from Iran (as I stated earlier this area should represent at least 2/3 of the world petroleum supply).

The most disturbing event in these two verses is the breaking of the great horn. Note the phrase, “when he was strong, the great horn was broken”. This phrase implies that after this great military victory for the United States, the United States is somehow “broken”. What is curious about this verse is it doesn’t say how the great horn is broken. It certainly could be through internal events like an economic catastrophe or a political struggle or even an unmentioned military struggle. One possible scenario is the Rapture of the Christian that is mentioned in the Bible. Since approximately 80% of Americans claim to be Christians, the Rapture, the removal of all Christians from the Earth prior to the Tribulation events of the book of Revelations, could leave the U.S.A. in a very weakened condition. What if the Rapture is this unmentioned event that leaves the notable horn of the he-goat broken?

The Four Kings from the Four Directions

When the great horn is broken four notable ones come up in its place in the direction of the four winds of heaven. What is being described here? I believe that once the U.S. is removed as the stabilizing influence in the world, the glue that holds the U.N. together, its demotion from its position as a world superpower will result in the U.N. breaking up into four “mini United Nations”. These four mini U.N. organizations will represent a different part of the globe: the Americas and Europe (east direction), Russia and the Middle East (the north direction), Asia (west direction) and Africa (the south direction). All these directions are relative to the nation of Israel since Jerusalem is the center of the world by God’s perspective. Also there will be a notable “horn”, the most influential nation in that particular region, that acts as the leader for each of these respective organizations. It is important to note that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to protect weaker nations from the aggressor nations. This is only possible if there is a militarily strong nation that is the leader of the nations that is willing to conduct “police” actions when necessary, so it is necessary for each of these organizations to have one nation that is equal in military might to the strongest nation in the other groups. What is currently interesting is there is a strong military power in each of the four parts of the globe except for Africa. This suggests that a strong military nation will rise in Africa to cause the fulfillment of this scripture.

Does the Bible give any clues as to the identity of these four horns, these nations that will lead their respective part of the globe? I believe Daniel chapter 11, describes some of the actions of the kingdoms of the

north and the south. A descendant of the daughter of the king of the south invades the land of the king of the north and brings the spoils of war home:

“But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter in the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail: And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north.” (Daniel 11:7-8)

Therefore, based on this verse the horn from the south is Egypt. In fact Egypt is mentioned several times relative to the actions of the “king of the south” in Daniel chapter 11.

I believe the Bible identifies the king of the north in the book of Micah as he foretells when Jesus will protect Israel from an invader from the north in the end times (Micah 5:5-6):

“And this man (Jesus) shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land; and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.”

According to these verses the king of north may be from Assyria and more specifically, from the “land of Nimrod”. Assyria may be hard to pin down in terms of a modern location but the “land of Nimrod” is very

clear because Nimrod was the founder of ancient Babylon. Therefore, I believe that the king of the north represents a ruler from modern day Iraq.

While the Bible is not as clear in its description of the king from the west I believe the Bible does mention this nation in several scriptures regarding the end times. Greece is the only country mentioned by name in the Bible that is involved in end time events that is located west of Israel (Zechariah 9:13):

“When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man.”

God strengthens Israel in this verse to defend itself from Greece in the end times. Based (on this information it becomes apparent that when the United Nations splits into four different world organizations that the former Secretary General of the United Nation that represents Greece becomes the leader of the organization that represents the western portion of the globe (the Americas and Europe).

The Bible doesn't give any information as to the identity of the nation that represents the king of the east although the Old Testament and New Testament do indicate that the king of east does engage the king of the north at some point during the end times:

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him (king of the north); therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.” (Daniel 11:44)

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.”
(Revelations 16:12)

Kurdistan: The Little Horn

“Out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east and toward the pleasant land.” (Daniel 8:9)

As I have mentioned previously I believe that Kurdistan is the little horn, the country that is home to the Antichrist which brings such devastation to the world in the end times. Kurdistan will be the last kingdom to rise, the only country which claims to be the descendant of the Medes (as mentioned above this is the chief requirement necessary to be the last kingdom to rise). Daniel 8:9 describes a further requirement of the little horn; it must come from one of the four horns that arise after the great horn of the he-goat is broken. If Iraq is the horn that rises from the north on the he-goat and many of the Kurds are located in Iraq, then Kurdistan meets the requirement of being from one of the four horns. Note that Daniel 11:23 describes the antichrist and the fact that he will “become strong with a small people”; this certainly fits the description of the Kurds.

Summary of Daniel Chapter 8

The following is a summary of the events that I believe will fulfill the events as described by the book of Daniel, chapter 8:

1.) “I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand, but he did according to his will, and became great.” (Verse 4)

The ram represents Iran and Kurdistan (the Kurds in Iraq). Iran and Kurdistan will conquer Iraq, then the countries around the Caspian Sea and finally the countries of the Persian Gulf so that Iran and Kurdistan control the world’s oil supply.

2.) “As I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.”
(Verse 5)

The goat represents the United Nations when it is lead by a Secretary General from Greece and the notable horn represents the United States. The United Nations and the United States come against Iran and Kurdistan and defeat them.

3.) “Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.” (Verse 8)

Shortly after this victory the United States ceases to be a military power (the Bible doesn’t specify how). The United Nations divides into four smaller multinational organizations that represent the four directions (north, south, east and west). The north will be led by Iraq, the south will be led by Egypt and the West will be led by

Greece (the Bible doesn't specify which country is the lead nation from the east).

4.) "Out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land."

The little horn, the last kingdom to rise that are the descendants of the Medes, is the nation of Kurdistan and Kurdistan will arise out of Iraq.