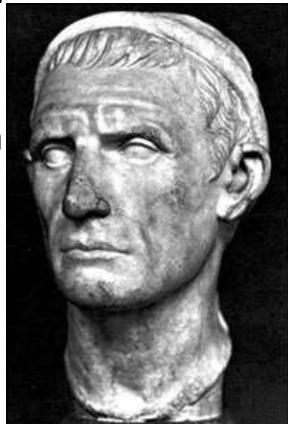
Revelation 13 The Dragon and Two Beasts:

The Beast from the Sea The Beast from the Earth UNHOLY TRINITY

Daniel 8 **She Ram & Goat** And a TYPE for the Final World Ruler...

Copyright 1998 Ted Larson

- ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES Like antichrist in many ways, but also different. Many believe this "little horn," and entire passage (Daniel 8), has double fulfillment.
- Definitely relates to Antiochus Epiphanes, but most likely also to another (still future) little horn – the one of chapter 7.
- Antiochus Epiphanes one of many Bible "types" – something or someone who represents something else.



- Often God uses people and events that fulfill prophecy in "local" or "near" time, but also represent fulfillments at end of time.
- Antiochus Epiphanes is first "little horn" who gave us a taste of the final "little horn" – the one seen in chapter 7.

- Hated Jews, determined to abuse, persecute and degrade them.
- Tried to Hellenize Jews (make Greeks out of them). Introduced Greek literature, culture, plays, sports, government, and religion; spread Greek language as one means of international communication.
 - Most Jews resisted. Antiochus attacked Jerusalem, killing 50,000 men, women, and children. Sold additional 40,000 into slavery.

- Temple desecrated, dedicated to Jupiter Olympus; on bronze altar sow was offered, juices liberally spread throughout the temple.
- Used harlots in temple to celebrate Saturnalia and forbade observance of Sabbath, reading of Scripture, and circumcision.
- Verses 10–12 refer to all of this. Antiochus's atrocities are accurately predicted here.
- These activities elsewhere referenced as first *"abomination of desolation."* But won't be the last.

- Jews had finally had enough, banded together under leadership of Maccabees. After 3 years of fighting, Jews able to restore temple worship late 164 BC
- Commemorated now in 8-day Jewish holiday known as Hanukkah, referenced in scripture as the Feast of Dedication (rededication and cleansing of the Temple). Jesus went to this feast, mentioned in John 10.

"And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. ..." (v. 10)

- Difficult to interpret.
- Reasonable interpretation, Antiochus challenged God, was permitted to capture Jerusalem and Temple.
- Warfare most likely included spiritual realm (angels and demons involved). Some feats attributed to Antiochus are astounding; true, demonic power was exhibited.

- Should note term *"the host of heaven"* used various places, most often meaning angels, but also used to depict people of God in this case, the Jews.
- Don't really know what this passage means, but safe in understanding there were <u>spiritual elements</u> to these abominations by Antiochus
 Epiphanes – and there will be the same with the next little horn –Antichrist.

• Interesting clue : Matthew 24: 15-22, Jesus talking with disciples about end of time: "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."

- ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION: Term used in Daniel chapters 9, 11 and 12, and by Jesus in Matthew 24.
- Abomination often related to idols. Ultimate abomination to put idol in most sacred place on earth – in Holy of Holies, exactly what Antiochus did.
- Time of <u>this</u> abomination by Antiochus still several hundred years in future when Daniel had his vision. However, when Jesus referred to it, <u>event was almost 200 years old</u>. It was history, not something in the future.

Commentary/definition of "Abomination of Desolation," Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary:

"A despicable misuse of the Temple of the Lord during a time of great trouble—an event foretold by the prophet Daniel. The phrase is found in Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14 as a quotation from Daniel 9:27, 11:31 and 12:11. In Daniel, the words mean "the abomination that makes desolate." In other words, Daniel prophesied that the Temple would be used for an "abominable" purpose at some time in the future. As a result, God's faithful people would no longer worship there—so great would be their moral revulsion, contempt, and abhorrence at the sacrilege—and the Temple would become "desolate." According to the verses in the gospels, a similar misuse of the Temple would take place in the future....

...This would show that a time of great trouble was coming on Judea. People should take warning and flee to the mountains (Matt. 24:16; Mark 13:14). Daniel's prophecy was initially fulfilled about 165 B.C. when Antiochus IV (Epiphanes), Greek ruler of Syria, polluted the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem by sacrificing a pig on the holy altar. This sacrificing of an unclean pig was the worst kind of abomination that could have taken place. ... the final abomination of desolation, however, refers to the idolatrous image or the "man of sin" who will take over God's place in the Temple and make people bow down and worship him (2 Thess. 2:3–4). According to this interpretation, this will be the final act of sacrilege that marks the beginning of the end time.

To better understand the times and reign of Antiochus Epiphanes, read Apocryphal books of 1 and 2 Maccabees (available for online reading. Just type in the word "Apocrypha" or "1-2 Maccabees" into your search engine and chose one that comes up). These books not necessarily **inspired**, are not included in our scriptures, but they may give us a very accurate portrait of the times and the horrible reign of Antiochus. These books give a detailed description of these times, and an insight into the madness of this man and his obsession with eradicating the Jews.

To finish out this chapter....

¹³ Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?"¹⁴ And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."

¹⁵ Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.

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 <u>refers to the time of the end</u>."

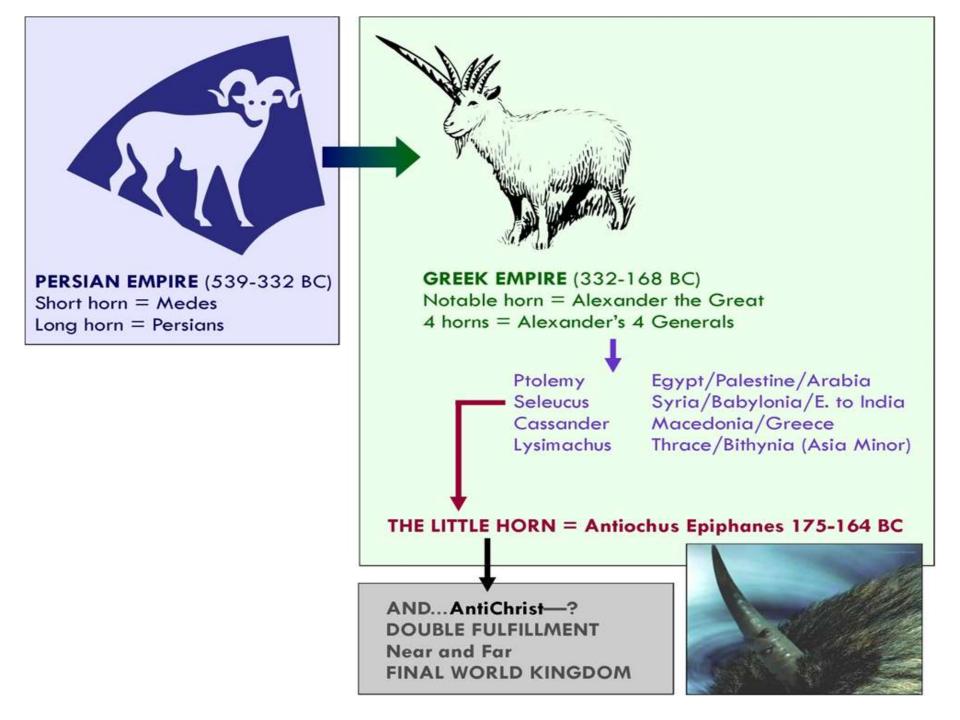
¹⁸ Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. ¹⁹ And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen <u>in the latter</u> <u>time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the</u> <u>end shall be</u>.

²⁰ The ram which you saw, having the two horns they are the kings of Media and Persia. ²¹ And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. ²² As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

AT this point we are going to have to dive a little deeper again, as the information again pertains specifically to BOTH Antiochus Epiphanes and the final world leader...

²³ "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes. ²⁴ His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. ²⁵ "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means.

- "...in the latter time <u>of their kingdom</u>..." means kingdom of the 4 horns (generals), or <u>Greek Empire</u>.
- There is no question that immediate personage described here is Antiochus Epiphanes. History has confirmed, all commentators believe this.
- However, this vision also applies to the end times. All the characteristics noted in these verses will also be true of the final world ruler.



- *"The time of the end"* referenced earlier places <u>complete</u> fulfillment of this prophecy in time that Jesus called "Great Tribulation."
- This vision and prophecies here go well beyond the immediate future into the "time of the end."
- Go back now and remember phrase *"latter time of their kingdom."* This spoke of Greece, and end of that empire, when Antiochus Epiphanes rose.

 Obviously referring to kingdom of Greece, which absorbed the kingdom of Persia, which absorbed the kingdom of Babylon. Antiochus Epiphanes is the first fulfillment, <u>but if this has double fulfillment</u>, which we know it does, does this particular phrase ("latter time of their kingdom") have any end time meaning?

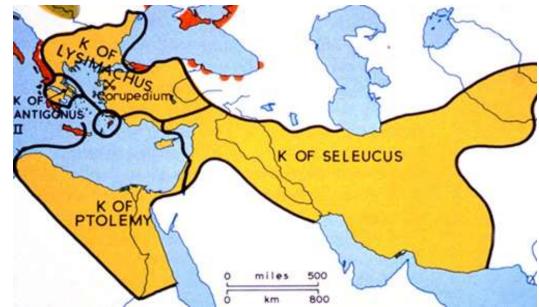
It may very well.

Rome absorbed all of Greek empire and continues today in many ways. Interesting to note that in this past century, we have a sudden **re-emergence of most of these kingdoms** in today's modern geopolitical world:

- Greece (1830)
- Afghanistan (1921)
- Egypt (1922)
- Turkey (1923)
- Iran (1925)

- Lebanon (1930)
- Jordan (1946)
- Syria (1946)
- Pakistan (1947)
- Israel (1948)

 Many believe Antichrist will come from same kingdom as Antiochus, the Seleucid kingdom of the ancient Greek Empire, which has now come literally "back to life."

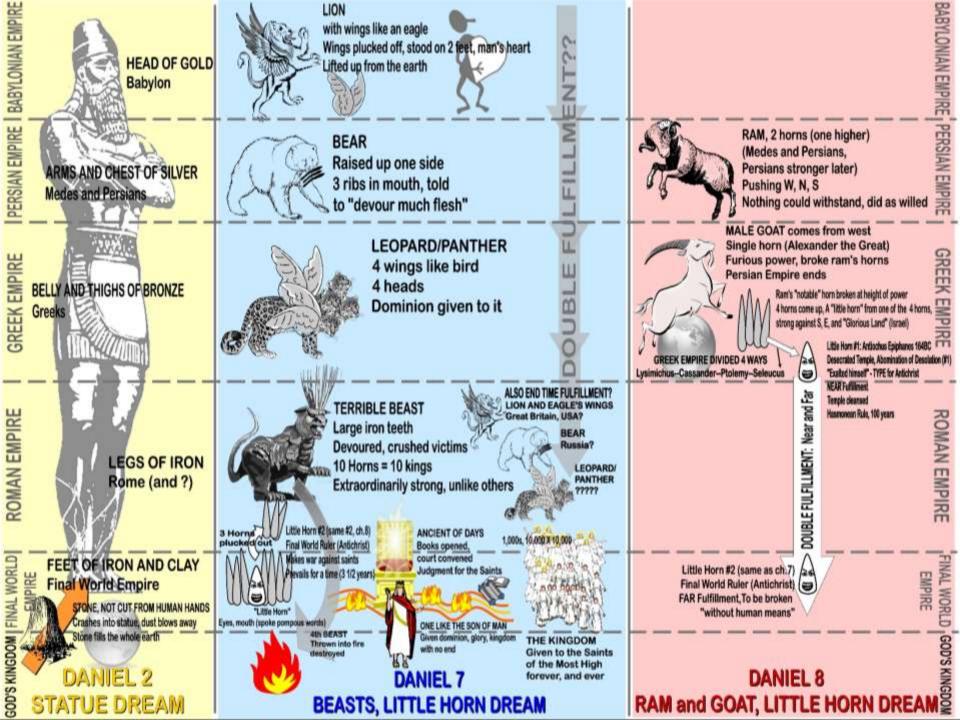


 Passages in Micah 5, which references Antichrist, calls this person "the Assyrian."

- Interesting thought, would not be surprising considering that Antiochus is first fulfillment from the Seleucid dynasty and countries represented above.
- It would make sense final fulfillment (Antichrist) would also be from this region.
- This is speculation, *but based on scripture*. It may or may not be true. There are many other scriptures to consider regarding Antichrist's origins.

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."

²⁷ And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.



Now we move back into the New Testament...

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ [the LORD, Yahweh] had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- 5th mention of Jesus' coming in the letters to the Thessalonians (2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23).
- In 1st letter, "gathering together to Him" ("rapture") is focus: "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)

¹Now, brethren, concerning the <u>coming of our</u> <u>Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to</u> <u>Him</u>, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though <u>the day of Christ</u> <u>had come</u>. (2nd letter, 2nd chapter)

- Something happened to upset believers in Thessalonika (perhaps intensified persecution).
 Word has reached them that the "Day of the Lord" has already happened. ("Day of Christ" is same "Day of the LORD" in OT)
- Paul writing to reassure them. Someone was twisting Paul's teaching.

Something happened to cause these believers to fear they had missed the great event, the "catching away" to be with Jesus. They believed they were already experiencing the "day of the Lord" – the day of wrath and judgment (beginning with Tribulation) and that His second coming for judgment was around the corner.

- Paul talks about <u>two different events</u> in opening section of ch 2, critical to know the difference.
 - 1. "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him..." (catching away)
 - 2. "...as though the day of Christ [the LORD, Yahweh] had come..." (coming in judgment)



Rapture Passages	Second Coming Passages
John 14:1-3	Daniel 2:44-45
Romans 8:19	Daniel 7:9-14
1 Corinthians 1:7-8	Daniel 12:1-3
1 Corinthians 15:51-53	Zechariah 12:10
1 Corinthians 16:22	Zechariah 14:1-15
Philippians 3:20	Matthew 13:41
Philippians 4:5	Matthew 24:15-31
Colossians 3:4	Matthew 26:64
1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19	Mark 13: 14-27
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Mark 14:62, 23
1 Thessalonians 5:19	Luke 21:25-28
2 Thessalonians 2:1	Acts 1:9-11
1 Timothy 6:14	Acts 3:19-21
2 Timothy 4:1, 8	1 Thessalonians 3:13
Titus 2:13	Jude 14, 15
Hebrews 9:28	Revelation 1:7
1 Peter 1:7, 13; 5:4	Revelation 19:11-20:6
Revelation 2:25; 3:10	Revelation 22:7, 12, 20

"CATCHING AWAY" (Rapture)	SECOND COMING ("Glorious Appearing")
Can come at any moment	Must follow timed events
• A "mystery"	• Foretold many times in OT
 Earth not judged 	 Earth is judged
 We don't know the time 	 Can follow events, 3 ½ yrs after "abomination of desolation"
 Messiah comes FOR His own 	• Jesus comes WITH His own
• Only seen by and comes for believers	 Coming impacts entire earth

"CATCHING AWAY" (Rapture)	SECOND COMING ("Glorious Appearing")
• He comes in the air	 He comes to the earth
 Purpose is removal of believers 	 Purpose manifestation and glory of Jesus
Before day of wrath	 Concludes day of wrath
Only His own see Him	Every eye shall see Him
• Saved delivered from wrath	Unsaved experience wrath
 Saints go to heaven 	 Saints come to earth with Messiah