

# Daniel:

## God's Divine Ambassador

New Hope  
Baptist Church  
Winter Bible Study  
2010



# The Story Thus Far:

- ❖ 605 B.C.: Nebuchadnezzar took over Judah
  - ❖ Took Daniel and other aristocratic youths to Babylon to serve his kingdom
  - ❖ Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah became Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- ❖ 586 B.C.: Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, carried last of the Jewish leadership into exile
- ❖ 539 B.C.: Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon

# The Story Thus Far:

- ❖ Chapter 1: Daniel & Friends remained faithful to God and the Covenant
- ❖ Chapter 2: Daniel received a vision from God both revealing and interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream
  - ❖ Foretold world history, including the 4 major empires (including Babylon)
- ❖ Chapter 3: The golden image; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego delivered from the fiery furnace by "the Son of God"
- ❖ Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar's boanthropy

# Daniel's Visions

- ❖ Chapter 7: The 4 Beasts and “Ancient of Days”
- ❖ Chapter 8: The Goat and 4 Horns
- ❖ Chapter 9: The 70 Weeks and the “Prince”
- ❖ Chapter 10: Spiritual Warfare
- ❖ Chapter 11: Enemies of God's People
- ❖ Chapter 12: Tribulation, Resurrection, and Final Victory

# The Vision of Ch. 8

- ❖ Date: “Third year of Belshazzar” (c. 553-552 B.C.)
- ❖ Location: Susa in Elam
- ❖ Animals in the vision
  - ❖ Ram
  - ❖ Goat



# The Vision of Ch. 8

- ❖ vv. 3-4: “I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal. It had two horns, and both horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward. No beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great”
  - ❖ 2 unequal powers in the empire
  - ❖ “Higher one” emerged last
  - ❖ “Westward, northward, and southward:” directions in which the empire would expand
  - ❖ All were powerless before this empire

# The Ram: Persia

- ❖ v. 20: “As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia”
- ❖ Persian rise to dominance
  - ❖ Cambyses I married Mandana, a Median princess (600-559 B.C.)
  - ❖ Cyrus II: Cambyses’ son (553-530 B.C.)
    - ❖ Conquered Astyages, King of Media, his grandfather, 550 B.C.
- ❖ “Westward:” Lydia (conquered 546 B.C.)
- ❖ “Northward:” Media (conquered 550 B.C.) & Babylon (conquered 539 B.C.)
- ❖ “Southward:” Egypt (conquered 526 B.C.)

# Persian Empire





# The Goat: Greece

- ❖ vv. 5-8: “As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground. And the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns. And the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power”
- ❖ Alexander the Great: Conquered Persia, 334-331 B.C.

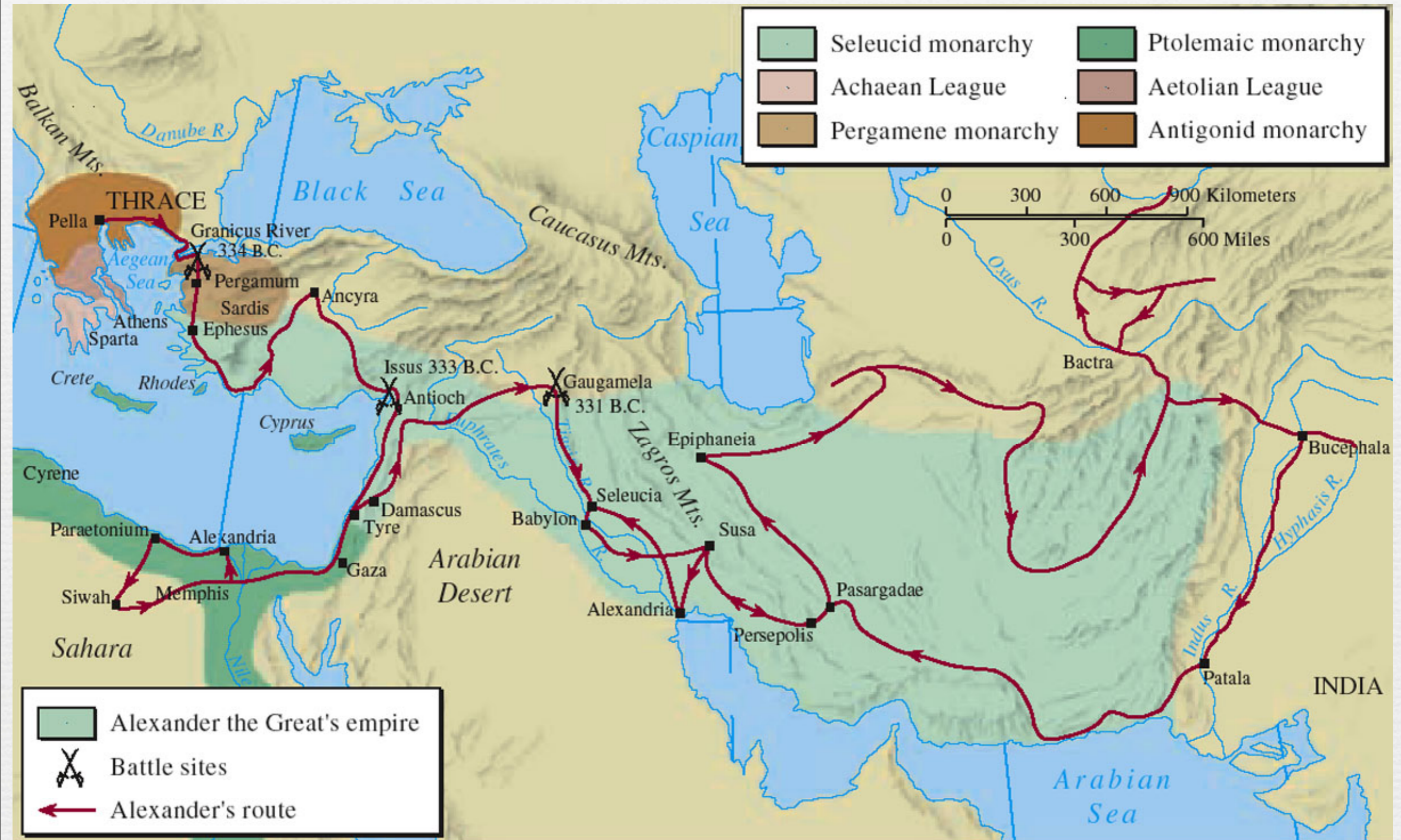
# Alexander's Battles



# The Goat: Greece

- ❖ v. 8: “Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven”
- ❖ Interpretation, v. 22: “As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his\* nation, but not with his power.”
  - ❖ Division of Alexander’s empire:
    - ❖ Antigonus: Inherited Syria and Babylon (later replaced by Seleucus)
    - ❖ Ptolemy: Inherited Egypt
    - ❖ Cassander: Inherited Macedonia
    - ❖ Tysimmachus: Inherited Thrace

# Four Horns



# The “Little Horn”

- ❖ vv. 9-12: “Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some\* of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper.”

# Antiochus Epiphanes IV

- ❖ Possible fulfillment: Antiochus Epiphanes IV of Syria
  - ❖ Ruled Seleucid Empire 175-164 B.C.
  - ❖ “Epiphanes:” “Illustrious” or “Manifest”
  - ❖ Served as a political hostage in Rome 188-187 B.C.
  - ❖ Defeated his brother’s assassin and took over the empire, 175 B.C. (his nephew was a hostage in Rome)
  - ❖ Called himself “Theos Epiphanes,” or “God Manifest”
  - ❖ His enemies called him “Epimanes,” or “Madman”



# Antiochus Epiphanes IV

- ❖ 170 B.C.: Antiochus invaded Egypt; captured Egypt's child king, Ptolemy VI and made himself regent
- ❖ 168 B.C.: Egyptians chose a new king, Ptolemy VIII (brother of Ptolemy VI); brothers decided to co-reign
- ❖ Antiochus: Invade Egypt!
- ❖ 171 B.C.: Antiochus had deposed the Jewish high priest, Jason
  - ❖ Antiochus had earlier deposed Onias III, the legitimate high priest, and replaced him with Jason, his Hellenized brother
  - ❖ Menelaus bribed Antiochus, who then appointed him high priest

# Line in the Sand

- ❖ 168 B.C.: Antiochus invaded Egypt
  - ❖ Met by a single Roman, Gaius Popillius Laenas
  - ❖ Gaius was dispatched from Rome to end the war between the Ptolemies and Antiochus
  - ❖ Gaius: “Go home”
  - ❖ Antiochus: “I’ll consult with my advisors”
  - ❖ Gaius:
    - ❖ Drew a circle around Antiochus in the sand
    - ❖ Told Antiochus, “Before you step out of that circle give me a reply to lay before the senate” (Source: Livy)
    - ❖ Antiochus: “I will do what the senate thinks right”



# Oppression of the Jews

- ❖ Rumor spread through Judea that Antiochus had been killed in Egypt
  - ❖ Jews revolted against Menelaus (led by Jason)
  - ❖ 167 B.C.: Antiochus took out his rage at the Romans on the Jews
  - ❖ Restored Menelaus
  - ❖ Massacred 40,000 Jews, sold 40,000 into slavery
  - ❖ Outlawed practice of Judaism
  - ❖ Enforced Hellenism: Greek thought and societal norms
  - ❖ Dedicated Temple to Zeus and sacrificed a sow on the altar

# How Long?

- ❖ vv. 13-14: “Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, “For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?” And he said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state.”
  - ❖ 2300 “evenings and mornings:” 1,150 days (3 years 55 days)
  - ❖ 168 B.C.: Antiochus desecrated the Temple
  - ❖ 165 B.C.: Temple re-consecrated by Judas Maccabaeus (origin of Hanukkah celebration)

# Gabriel's Appearance

- ❖ vv. 15-17: “When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, ‘Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.’ So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, ‘Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end.’”
  - ❖ First appearance of Gabriel in Scripture

# Antiochus' End

- ❖ 164 B.C.: Antiochus was on campaign against the Parthians (Persians)
  - ❖ Heard of Maccabean victories; cursed Maccabeans
  - ❖ “He was seized with severe abdominal pains, fell out of the chariot, and lay for days in pain, stench, and corruption, dying with vain petitions on his lips. So the tyrant met his end by non-human intervention, an abdominal cancer, that turned suddenly severe” (Allen Ross, *Studies in The Book of Daniel*)
  - ❖ v. 25: “...in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken – but by no human hand.”

# John Calvin's prayer:

- ❖ “Grant, Almighty God, whatever revolutions happen daily in the world, that we may always be intent on the sight of thy glory, once manifested to us in thy Son. May the splendor of thy majesty illuminate our hearts, and may we pass beyond the visible heavens, the sun, the moon, and every shining thing; and may we behold the blessedness of thy kingdom, which thou proposest to us in the light of thy Gospel. May we walk through the midst of the darkness and afflictions of the world, content with that light by which thou invitest us to the hope of the eternal inheritance which thou hast promised us, and acquired for us by the blood of thine only begotten Son. — Amen.”