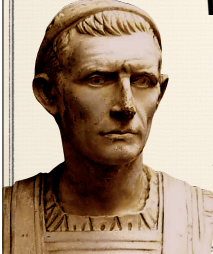


Vision #2

Daniel 8 is about Antiochus IV Epiphanes


who is a forerunner of Antichrist

and it will help us identify the antichrist spirit in our age.




Daniel 8

“In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent to the one which appeared to me previously. I looked in the vision, and while I was looking I was in the citadel of Susa, which is in the province of Elam; and I looked in the vision and I myself was beside the Ulai Canal. Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a **ram** which had **two horns** was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns *were* long, but one *was* longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last. I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no other beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and magnified himself.”




“While I was observing, behold, a **male goat** was coming from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground; and the goat *had* a conspicuous **horn between his eyes**. He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath. I saw him come beside the ram, and he was enraged at him; and he struck the ram, and he shattered his two horns, and the ram had no strength to withstand him. So he hurled him to the ground and trampled on him, and there was none to rescue the ram from his power.”




“²⁰ The **ram** which you saw with the two horns represents the **kings of Media and Persia**. ²¹ The shaggy goat represents the **kingdom of Greece**, and the **large horn** that is between his eyes is the **first king**.”

Media & Persia



Greece



“The large horn”

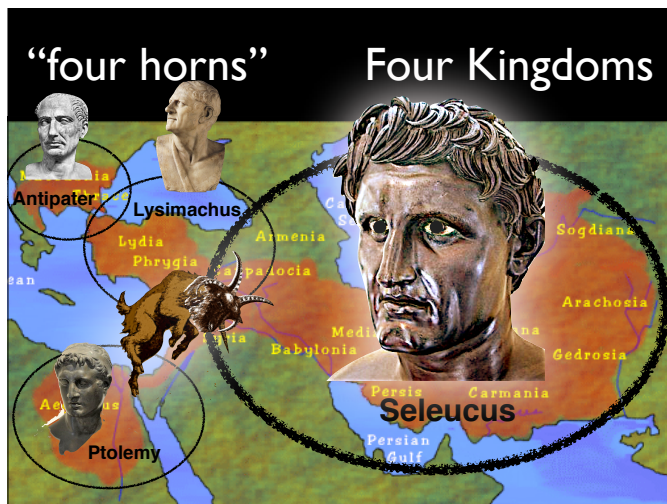
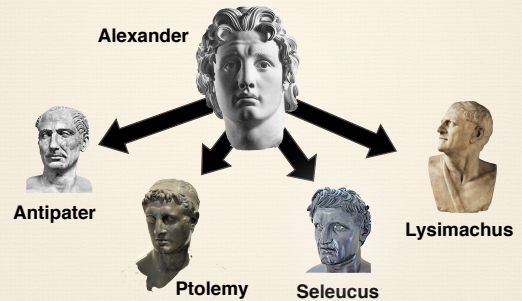
Alexander the Great



“⁸ Then the male goat magnified *himself* exceedingly. But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken; and in its place there came up **four conspicuous horns** toward the four winds of heaven.”



“²² The **broken horn** and the **four horns** that arose in its place *represent* **four kingdoms which will arise from his nation**, although not with his power.”



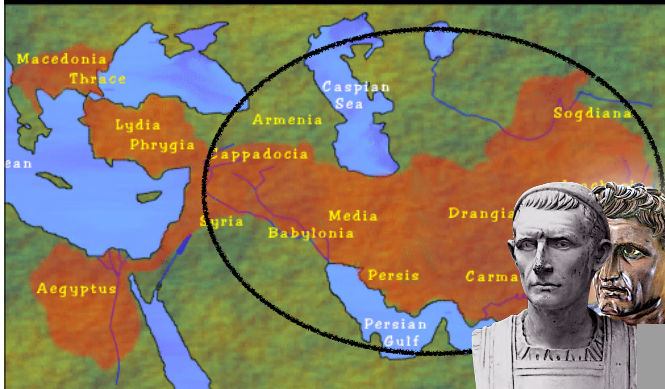
“⁹ Out of one of them came forth a rather **small horn** which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the **Beautiful Land**. ¹⁰ It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down.”

“¹¹ It even magnified *itself* to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down. ¹² And on account of transgression the host will be given over to the *horn* along with the regular sacrifice; and **it will fling truth to the ground** and perform *its will* and prosper.”

“²³ In the latter period of their rule, when the transgressors have run *their course*, a king will arise, **insolent and skilled in intrigue**. ²⁴ His power will be **mighty**, but **not by his own power**, and he will destroy to an extraordinary degree and **prosper and perform his will**; he will **destroy mighty men and the holy people**. ²⁵ and through his **shrewdness** he will **cause deceit to succeed by his influence**; and he will **magnify himself in his heart**, and he will **destroy many while they are at ease**. he will even **oppose the Prince of princes**, but he will be **broken without human agency**.”

“A latter king”

Antiochus IV Epiphanes

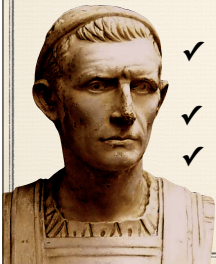


2 Maccabees 5:11-14

“When these happenings were reported to the king, he thought that Judea was in revolt. Raging like a wild animal, he set out from Egypt and took Jerusalem by storm. He ordered his soldiers to cut down without mercy those whom they met and to slay those who took refuge in their houses. There was a massacre of young and old, a killing of women and children, a slaughter of virgins and infants. In the space of three days, eighty thousand were lost, forty thousand meeting a violent death, and the same number being sold into slavery.”

Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- ✓ Ruled for only 11 years (175-164 BC)
- ✓ Subdued Egypt, & Jewish Maccabee revolt.
- ✓ Shut down nearly all Jewish religious practices.
- ✓ Put an altar to Zeus in the Jewish temple.
- ✓ Desecrated the temple for 3 years - forcing priests to drink pigs blood from the altar.
- ✓ Killed 40,000 Jews in one day, perhaps a million more in following months.
- ✓ Called himself Epiphanes “God manifest.”
- ✓ Jewish historians call him “Antiochus the wicked.”



Antiochus IV Epiphanes

- ✓ Ruled from 175-164 BC
- ✓ Subdued Egypt, & Jewish Maccabee revolt.
- ✓ Shut down nearly all Jewish religious practices.
- ✓ Put an altar to Zeus in the Jewish temple.
- ✓ Desecrated the temple for 3 years - forcing priests to drink pigs blood from the altar.
- ✓ Killed 40,000 Jews in one day, perhaps a million more in following months.
- ✓ Called himself Epiphanes “God manifest.”
- ✓ Jewish historians call him “Antiochus the wicked.”



A spirit of Lawlessness

חנוכה
HANUKKAH

vs.14

“then the holy place
will be properly
restored.”



Antiochus linked to Antichrist through his desecration of the temple

Daniel 11:31

“Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the **abomination of desolation.**”

Matthew 24

“¹⁵ Therefore when you see the **abomination of desolation** which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains;”

1 John 2:18

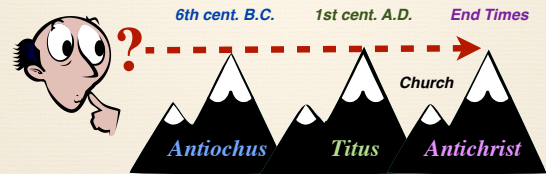
“Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that **antichrist** is coming, even now **many antichrists** have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.”

False Christs	Antichrist spirit	The Antichrist
Many people	Rejection of the Law & Christ	A person
<i>Matthew 24:24</i> “For false Christs and false prophets will arise”	<i>1 John 4:3</i> “this is the spirit of the antichrist, which is coming and is already in the world”	<i>2 Thess. 2:8</i> “And then the lawless one will be revealed”

1 John 2:18

“Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that **antichrist** is coming, even now **many antichrists** have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.”

O.T. Prophetic perspectives are timeless.



2 Thessalonians 2

“1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and **the man of lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”

“7 For the secret **power of lawlessness** is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. 8 And then **the lawless one** will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. 9 The coming of **the lawless one** will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.”

Lawless = disrespect for God’s rule.

What is the spirit of Antichrist

Lawlessness

Denying the authority of God’s revealed truth and denying Jesus as the Messiah come in the flesh.

American culture is not becoming more secular. It continues to be religious in the sense that it is deeply committed to spirituality but not to Christian orthodoxy.

American culture is moving away from both a secularism that fails to inspire and an institutional religion that is irrelevant. We are moving toward a “god within, therapeutic guide to the American dream” spirituality.

Popular culture is rewriting the rules of engagement with God.

We are to believe that the spiritual energy in all people is leading us from within to be loving and whole as we listen to and follow our heart.



Ross Douthat

The emerging American culture

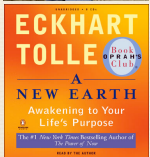
The “God Within” cult of ethical therapeutic pantheism

- ✓ Political - **Libertarianism**
- ✓ Religious - **Gnosticism**
- ✓ Psychological - **Narcissism**
- ✓ Social - **Deinstitutionalism**
- ✓ Ethical - **Relativism**

The emerging American culture

- Rejection of orthodox Christianity
- A spirit of Lawlessness**
- Replacing it with “the god within.”
- ✓ Political - **Libertarianism**
 - ✓ Religious - **Gnosticism**
 - ✓ Psychological - **Narcissism**
 - ✓ Social - **Deinstitutionalism**
 - ✓ Ethical - **Relativism**

The New Earth Church



“I am a Christian who believes that Jesus came to show us how to live lives that are in touch with the spirit within.”

Take your baptism seriously.

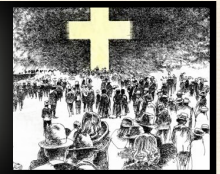


Individualism
It is all about ME.



Independence
I am the ultimate authority.

Achieved
roles and goals



Baptism
“His image in & through me”

Bond slaves
of Christ

Ascribed
roles and goals

To which “self” must I be true?



Matthew 5

“¹⁷ Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.** ¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”