



---

# HOW DANIEL 8:14 SPLIT PROTESTANT CHRISTIANITY

BY P. GERARD DAMSTEEGT, DR. THEOL

# VISION OF THE RAM

Daniel 8:3, 4



# VISION OF THE HE-GOAT

**Daniel 8:5-7**





**LARGE HORN WAS BROKEN,  
THE RISE OF 4 NOTABLE HORNS  
TOWARD THE 4 WINDS OF HEAVEN**

**Daniel 8:8**



# RISE OF A LITTLE HORN

**Daniel 8:9**





# LITTLE HORN MOVES TOWARD HEAVEN

**Daniel 8:10**



# LITTLE HORN MOVES AGAINST CHRIST AND HIS SANCTUARY

**Daniel 8:11:**



# LITTLE HORN RECEIVES MILITARY POWER

**Daniel 8:12:**





# HOW LONG IS THE VISION ABOUT THE SANCTUARY?

**Daniel 8:13:**

**“How long *will* the vision *be, concerning* the daily *sacrifices* and the transgression <sup>[a]</sup> of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?”**

# IT WILL LAST FOR 2300 DAYS

**Daniel 8:14:**

**“And he said to me, ‘For two thousand three hundred <sup>[a]</sup> days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’”**

**2300**

# WHEN WILL 2300 PROPHETIC DAYS BEGIN AND END?

Protestants used the year-day principle which is that in symbolic prophecy, a **day is a year**

Thus **2300 prophetic days are 2300 regular years**

The 2300 years begins with the beginning of the **70 weeks or 490 years of Dan 9** which is from the time of the decree to restore and build Jerusalem.

This decree was issued in **457 BC**.

2300 years later brings one to the year **1844**.

At that time it was expected that the cleansing of the sanctuary was to take place



# WHAT IS THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY?



# HOW TO INTERPRET THE ANIMALS?

**Dan 8:20-22**

**The Bible is clear on**

**1. The ram with the 2 horns**

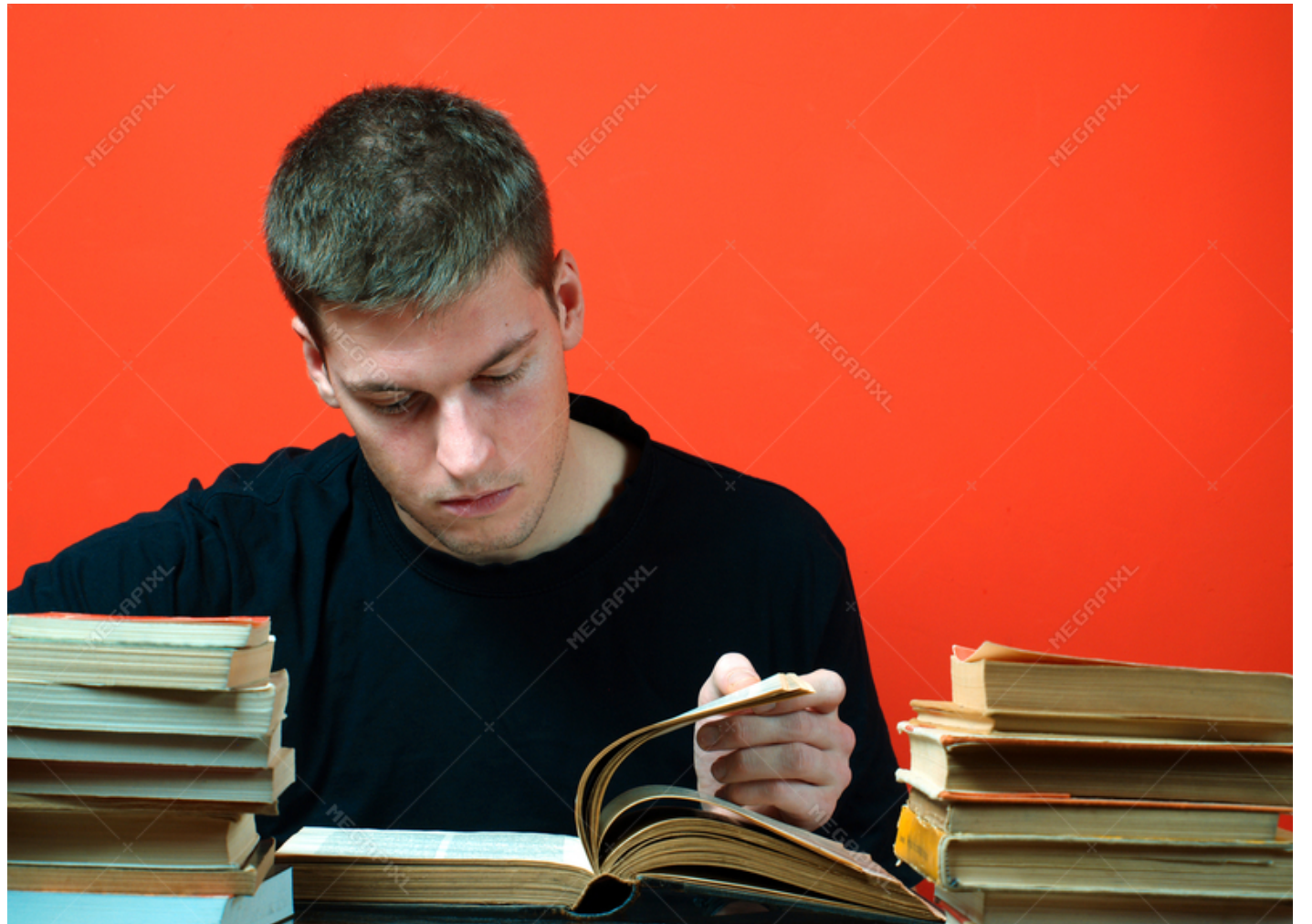
**2. The he-goat, the large horn, 4 horns**



# HOW DO WE INTERPRET DANIEL AND REVELATION?

**Major views of prophetic  
interpretation**

- 1. Historicism**
- 2. Preterism**
- 3. Futurism**
- 4. Idealism**





# HISTORICISM

**1. Historicism—It is the oldest approach to Daniel and Revelation**

**It shows the uninterrupted history of the great controversy between Christ and Satan from the prophet's time onward till the Second Advent**

**Little horn fits exactly the history of Rome—pagan and papal**

**Supporters: Most of the early Christians, the Protestant Reformers, most Protestants of the 17th—19th century, many of conservative scholars of prophecy**



# HISTORICIST VIEW OF PROPHECY



**Uninterrupted  
prophetic history**

**Time of the  
prophet**

**2nd Advent**

# **WHY DID PROTESTANTS ACCEPT THIS VIEW OF THE LITTLE HORN?**

**Historicism is in harmony with the Bible:**

**The symbolic history of the attack of the little horn on the truth and its persecution in Dan 8:9-12 reveals the history of the Catholic Church since the early church.**

**The little horn continues till the time of the end and so does the papacy (Dan 8:17).**



# **HISTORICIST/HISTORICAL VIEW OF THE LITTLE HORN**

**Daniel 8:3-8:**

**Ram is Medo Persia, the male goat is Greece, the large horn is Alexander the Great, the 4 horns are Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Ptolemy.**

**In harmony with the prophetic kingdoms sequence of Daniel 2 and 7, the little horn of Dan 8 represents the fourth kingdom, consisting of pagan and papal Rome**

# HISTORICIST/HISTORICAL VIEW OF THE LITTLE HORN



# **THE LITTLE HORN FITS THE HISTORY OF PAGAN AND PAPAL ROME**

**Dan 8:9: Geographical expansion**

**Dan 8:10: Against the host of heaven,  
cast down the host, stars**

**Dan 8:11: Exalted to the Prince of the  
host, daily taken away, place of the  
sanctuary cast down**

**Dan 8:12: Receives military power and  
cast truth to the ground, it prospers**



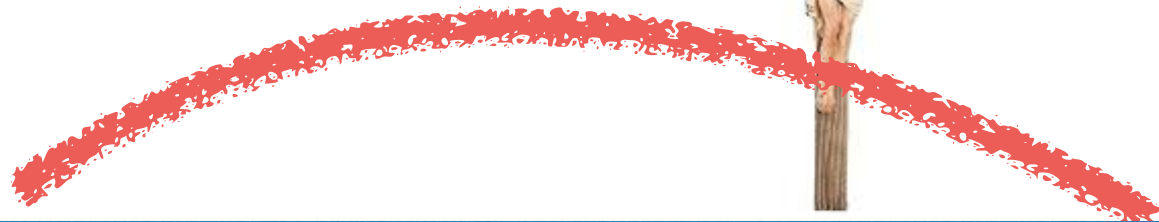
# PRETERISM

**2. Preterism teaches that prophecy has its fulfillment in the past. There is no fulfillment beyond the time of Christ.**

**Supporters: The Jews in the time of Christ, some early Christians, Roman Catholics, modern critical scholars.**

**The RC Jesuit order further developed this interpretation as a weapon to destroy the Protestant view of the papacy as the little horn. Their aim was to remove the papacy as the little horn and Antichrist in prophecy.**

# PRETERIST VIEW OF PROPHECY



**Only till Christ**

**2nd Advent**



**Daniel**

**Revelation**

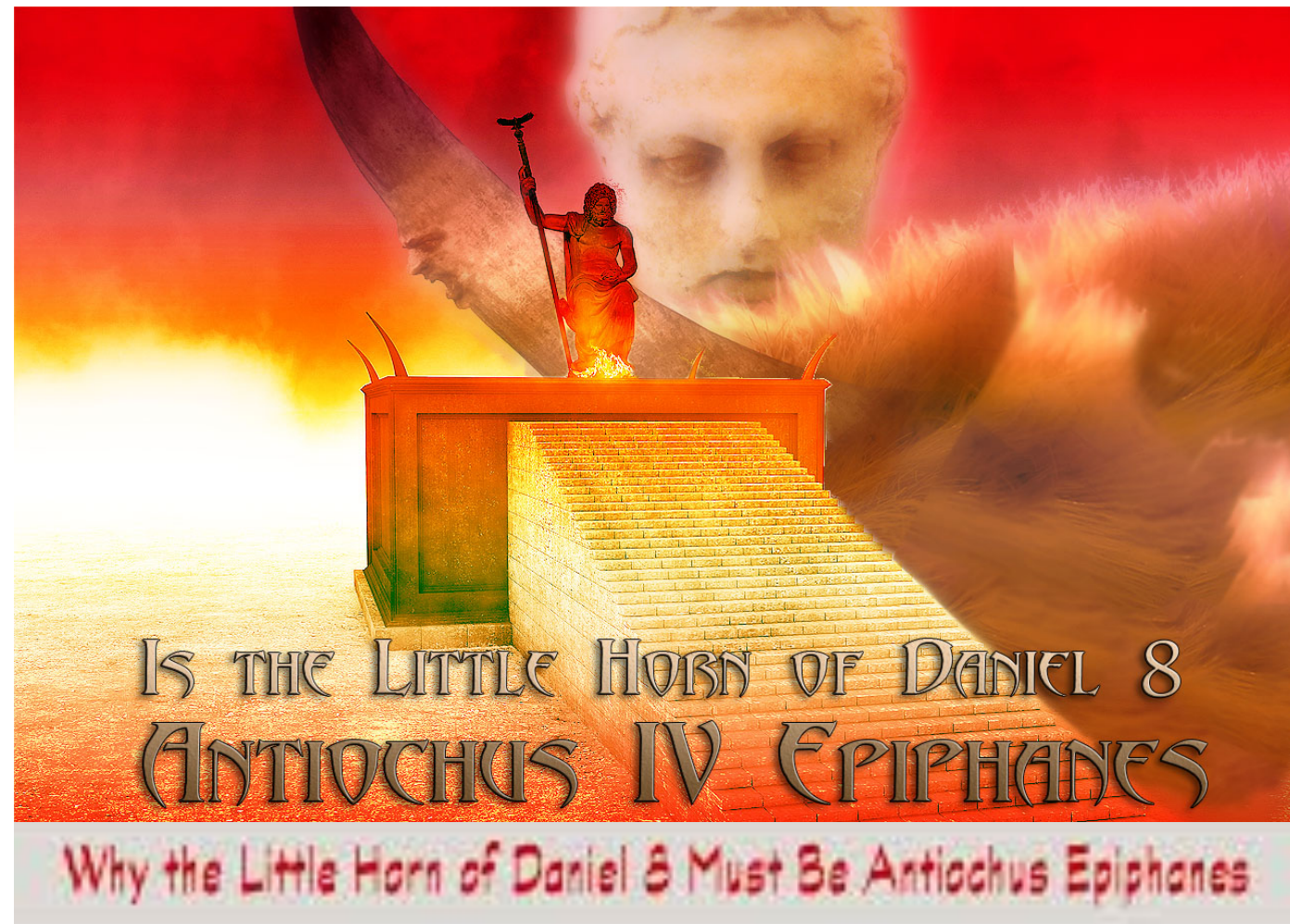
**No fulfillment  
in the future**

# PRETERIST VIEW OF THE LITTLE HORN

Daniel 8:9-12:

**Little horn** came from one of the 4 horns, namely the Seleucus dynasty and was the great **persecutor** of the Jews.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes **polluted the sanctuary** by offering pigs as sacrifices for **3 1/2 years** and placed an idol of Jupiter in the sanctuary.









# PRETERISM'S WEAKNESS

**There is no historical evidence that Antiochus polluted the sanctuary for 2300 literal days**

**History shows that Antiochus polluted the sanctuary for exactly 3 years**

# FUTURISM

**3. Futurism is based on a unique interpretation that splits the 70 week prophecy of Daniel 9 into two parts. The first part of the 70 weeks ends at the end of the 69 weeks with the time of Christ.**

**The second part pertains to the 70th week and covers the last 7 years before the Second Advent. It involves the final attack of the Antichrist on God's people.**

**To insert a gap in prophecy is unprecedented and unbiblical. It distorts Bible prophecy. This gap means that there is no fulfillment of prophecy from the time of Christ till today during a period of nearly 2000 years.**

# FUTURIST VIEW OF PROPHECY



**Gap**

**First Advent**

**Most of Prophecy  
Fulfilled in final  
7 years**

# FUTURISM

**Futurism focuses on the fulfillment of events during the events of the last 7 years before Christ's return.**

**Again RC Jesuits use this interpretation to remove the papacy as Antichrist to a future Antichrist.**



# **FUTURIST VIEW OF THE LITTLE HORN**

**Supporters: Some early Christians, most of the conservative dispensational fundamentalists**

**Antichrist comes from Rome to persecute Christians during the last or 70th week of Daniel 9 which is in the future**

**Final events in Daniel 7, 8, 11, and 12 will be fulfilled in literal time of 3 1/2 years, 2300 days, 1260 days, and 1335 days in the future**

**Problem: Constant speculation about Antichrist**

# FUTURIST VIEW OF THE LITTLE HORN



# IDEALISM

**4. Idealism is a non-historical approach to prophecy. This method spiritualizes the prophetic symbols and sees them often as allegories with multiple meanings which leads to much confusion. The symbols have no historical significance.**

**This was often used during the Dark Ages by Roman Catholic mystics. Even today some use it. Their writings are heavy on exegesis but weak on historical fulfillment because they have little or no confidence in historical facts.**

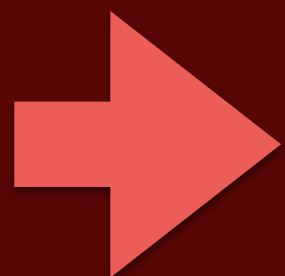
**The Protestant Reformers rejected this method of interpretation, so did the SDA Church in their approach to Daniel and Revelation**

# WAYS TO INTERPRET PROPHECY

Being Fulfilled



**Historicism**  
God working in History



Fulfilled before 400 AD

**Preterism**  
Past Church History

Fulfilled  
in Christ's  
Time

**GAP**



**Futurism**  
Prophecy in Future

No Historical Fulfillment, all Symbolic **Idealism**



# WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE SANCTUARY?

**Biblical meanings of sanctuary:**

- 1. Jesus Christ (Is. 8:14)**
- 2. Heaven (Ps. 102:19)**
- 3. Judah (Ps. 114:2)**
- 4. The temple of Jerusalem (1 Chron. 22:19)**
- 5. The Holy of Holies (Rev. 4:6)**
- 6. The earth (Is. 60:13)**
- 7. The saints or church (1 Cor. 3:16, 17)**



# WHAT IS THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY IN DAN 8:14?

Adventists position: The meaning of the cleansing of the sanctuary that fits the prophecy of Dan 8:14 is

1. The cleansing of the earth
2. The cleansing of the church

When is the cleansing of the earth and church?

At the Second Advent.

When will that be?

At the end of the 2300 prophetic days or 2300 years

Remember one prophetic day is one actual solar year



# WHAT IS THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY IN DAN 8:14?

Depending on the meaning of the sanctuary, 19th century Protestant interpreters held the following views

1. The beginning of the millennium on earth
2. Reestablishment/conversion of the Jews in Palestine
3. Cleansing of Jerusalem from the Islam
4. Cleansing of the church from all papal influences
5. Cleansing of the church from antichristian abominations
6. Reestablishment of the true worship of God
7. The last judgment that cleanses the church and the earth by fire at the Second Advent of Christ

**Result: All interpreters experienced a disappointment in the 1840s**

# **THE SOLUTION TO THE DISAPPOINTMENT SPLIT CHRISTIANITY**

**Every Christian and church had to reexamine their method of prophetic interpretation**

**After 1844 most Christians rejected historicism as the Protestant approach to interpret Daniel.**

**What approaches were left?**

**Gradually churches accepted the Jesuit approach to prophecy of either preterism or futurism which moved Protestants toward the RCC.**

**However, Adventists remained fully committed to historicism and found a solution to the 1844 Great Disappointment**



# **THE ADVENTIST SOLUTION TO THE GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT**

**Renewed study of the cleansing of the sanctuary**

**From Dan 8:17 Adventists discovered that the sanctuary in Dan 8:14 is the sanctuary in the “time of the end.”**

**This sanctuary is described in Hebrews 8:1, 2: The sanctuary of the new covenant which is in heaven,**

**This led to the new light that in 1844 Jesus Christ began His High Priest ministry in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary.**

**In 31 AD Christ began His priestly ministry as Mediator in the Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary. In 1844 Christ entered the Most Holy Place to begin His antitypical day of atonement ministry that involved besides His work as Mediator, the blotting out of sins during the investigative judgment.**



# Light from the Sanctuary

The sanctuary doctrine reveals a complete system of truth for God's people since 1844





# SANCTUARY DOCTRINE IMPACT

**“The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God's hand had directed the great advent movement and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people.”** (*Great Controversy*, p. 423)

**SO WHAT?**

# **REJECTION OF THE ADVENTIST SOLUTION**

**Prophetic darkness came over the  
Protestant churches**

**The correct view of Daniel and Revelation  
disappeared and Protestantism became  
victim to the Catholic Counter-Reformation  
heresies. Jesuits Ribera further developed  
futurism, and Alcazar preterism**

**This stimulated ecumenical cooperation  
between RCC, which accepts both  
heretical systems of prophetic  
interpretation, and Protestantism**



# WAYS TO INTERPRET PROPHECY

Seventh-day Adventists

**Historicism**  
God working in History

Liberal theologians, Calvinists  
Roman Catholics, Lutherans

**Preterism**  
Past Church History

Non-demoninational Churches  
Baptists, Lutherans

**Futurism**  
Prophecy in Future

Liberal Scholarship: focus on symbols,  
culture, and text, NOT history

**Idealism**

# OUR MISSION CHALLENGE

“Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exist in the churches which constitute Babylon, **the great body of Christ's true followers are still to be found in their communion.**

“There are **many** of these who have never seen the special truths for this time. **Not a few are dissatisfied with their present condition and are longing for clearer light.** They look in vain for the image of Christ in the churches with which they are connected.” (*Great Controversy*, p. 390)

