SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Daniel

Chapter 8

The Ram, the Goat & the Little Horn

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 8:27

"Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Daniel 8

Daniel 8 is a staircase of pride: a ram, a goat and a little horn, each one making itself bigger, and each one broken right on God's schedule. This week God reminds me that every season of trouble has a number on it, and that I can be faithful today even when I do not understand everything. Like Daniel, I can get up again and go to work, trusting the Prince of princes.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The Complete Study, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Daniel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

The Ram That Did as He Pleased

READ · DANIEL 8:1–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where was Daniel in the vision, and what did the ram do once it started butting in every direction (verses 2–4)?

REFLECT

The ram "did as he pleased and magnified himself" (verse 4), because no one could stand before him. Where are you tempted to live like that ram, doing as you please because nobody is stopping you, and what would it look like to let God set your limits?

REFLECT

Gabriel later tells Daniel the ram stands for "the kings of Media and Persia" (verse 20), an empire that had not yet taken over. What does it tell you about God that He named the next empire while Babylon still looked secure?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask God to show you one area where you have been doing as you please. Hand it to Him by name, and ask one brother to check on you about it this week.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 8:27)

DAY 2 OF 5

Broken at the Top

READ · DANIEL 8:5–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did the goat travel, what did it do to the ram, and at what moment was its large horn broken (verses 5–8)?

REFLECT

The goat's horn broke "as soon as he was mighty" (verse 8), at the very height of his power. Why do you think God so often humbles a man at the moment he feels most secure?

REFLECT

The goat "magnified himself exceedingly" (verse 8), even more than the ram had. How have you seen pride grow in your own life when no one checked it, and what has God used to bring you back down to size?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one quiet act of service today that no one will thank you for. Pray: Lord, I would rather be small and kept than great and broken.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 8:27)

DAY 3 OF 5

How Long?

READ · DANIEL 8:9–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the small horn do to the host, the sacrifice and the truth, and how did the holy one answer the question “How long” (verses 10–14)?

REFLECT

The horn would “fling truth to the ground and perform its will and prosper” (verse 12). Where do you see lies winning right now, and what helps you keep picking truth up off the ground when it seems to be losing?

REFLECT

Heaven answered the cry of “How long” with a number, “2,300 evenings and mornings,” and then the holy place would be restored (verses 13–14). What are you going through that feels like it will never end, and what does it mean to you that God has already measured it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the hard thing you are in. Under it write: God has set the number of days. Pray over it, and ask Him for strength for today only.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 8:27)

DAY 4 OF 5

A Hand Under the Arm

READ · DANIEL 8:15–22

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happened to Daniel when Gabriel came near, and what did Gabriel do for him (verses 17–18)?

REFLECT

Daniel "sought to understand" the vision (verse 15), and God sent Gabriel with the command, "give this man an understanding of the vision" (verse 16). What part of God's Word do you want to understand better, and where will you go to dig into it?

REFLECT

Daniel fell on his face, and Gabriel "touched me and made me stand upright" (verse 18). When has God's truth knocked you flat, and how did He lift you back up?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you read today, ask God for understanding. Then read verses 20–22 and write one sentence about what they show you of God's hand on history.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 8:27)

DAY 5 OF 5

Then I Got Up Again

READ · DANIEL 8:23–27

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

According to Gabriel, whose power did the insolent king really have, and how would he be broken (verses 24–25)?

REFLECT

His power was "mighty, but not by his own power," and he would be "broken without human agency" (verses 24–25). How does it change your fear of the evil you face to know that it is on God's leash and that God Himself will end it?

REFLECT

Daniel was "exhausted and sick for days," then "got up again and carried on the king's business" (verse 27), with his questions still unanswered. What is one ordinary duty this week you can do faithfully, even while some of your questions stay open?

RESPOND — TODAY

Get up and do today's work well, as Daniel did. Before you start, pray: Prince of princes, I do not need every answer; help me keep my post today.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 8:27)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Each proud power in this chapter was broken right when it looked strongest (verses 7, 8, 25). What warning does that hold for a man who is doing well right now, and what comfort does it hold for a man up against a bully?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Gabriel named Media, Persia and Greece long before Greece rose to power (verses 20–21). How does God's track record of keeping His word help you trust His promises about your own future in Christ?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

The 2,300 evenings and mornings were counted in the same units as the daily worship that was taken away (verses 11–14). What has been taken from you in this season, and how can this group help you keep worshiping while you wait for God to restore it?

MY PRAYER

Prince of princes, You set the limits on evil and You lift up the man You have humbled, so today I ask You...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · DANIEL 8:27

"Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it."