

## 2. God is sovereign over the future.

God has the future of the nations under control and he has my future under control.

Biblical prophecy is what sets the Bible apart from every other book. You won't find specific details of the future written hundreds of years before they happen in the Book of Mormon, the Koran, the Hindu Vedas or the book of any other religion. These details prove God is the author of the Bible.

## 3. God is sovereign over those who do evil.

God is not the author of sin but he is sovereign over sin and will use it to bring him glory.

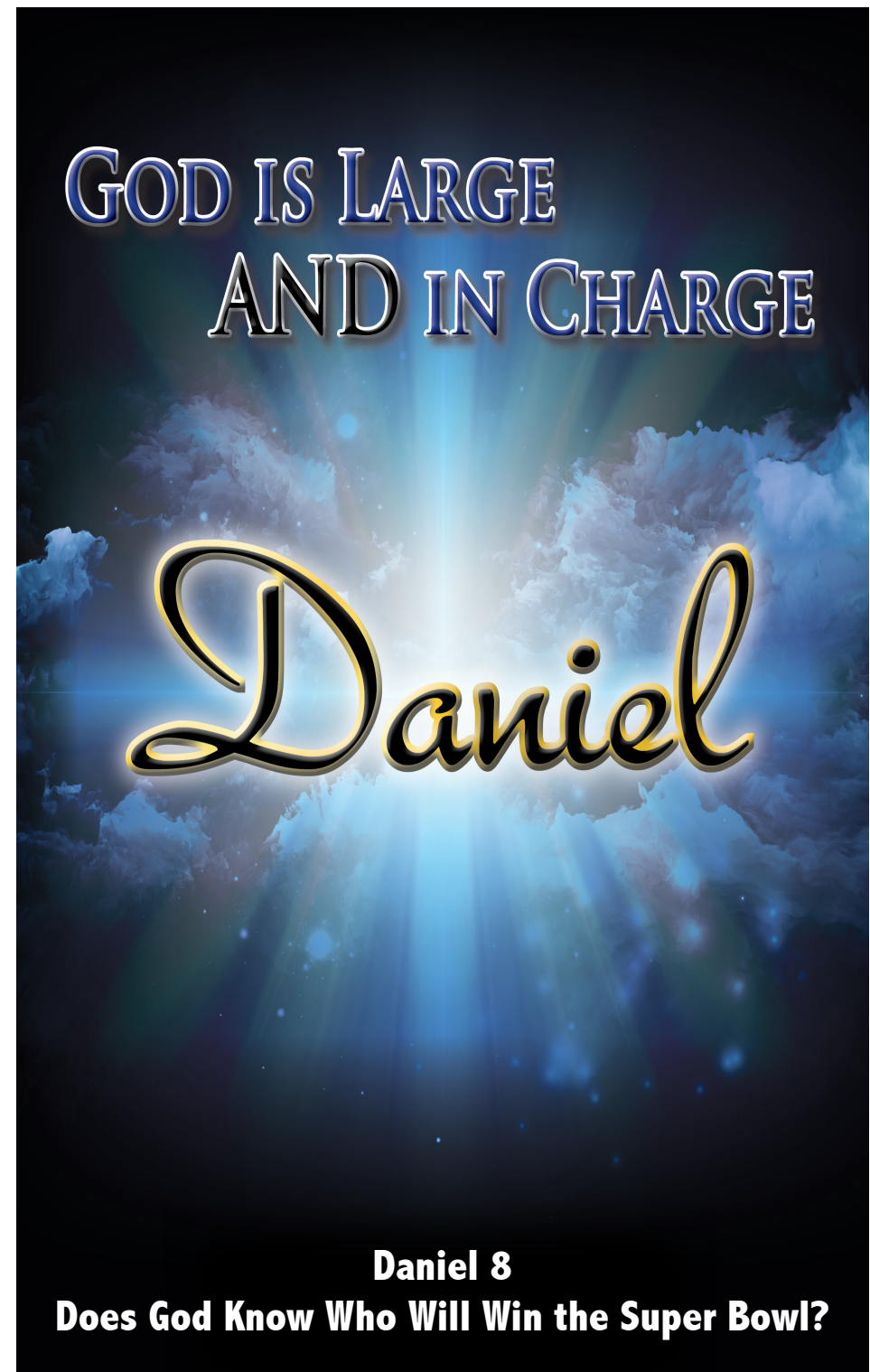
*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9 (ESV)*

The story of Joseph in an illustration of how God can turn sinful choices on their head and uses them to bring him glory.

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50:20 (ESV)*

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February 10 - Daniel 9 - Daniel's Prayer for His People and Seventy Weeks  
February 17 - John Howard teaching - Pastor Kurt on vacation



# Faith Church - EFCA

February 3, 2013

Daniel 8

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1. Daniel was an exile in Babylon.
2. Daniel 7 to 12 is written in the apocalyptic style.
3. The point of apocalyptic literature is NOT to amuse us with the fine details about the way the future may unfold.
4. Daniel 7 to 12 are not chronological additions to the book.
5. Daniel 2, 7 and 8 are connected.

## The Context

*In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the citadel, which is in the province of Elam. And I saw in the vision, and I was at the Ulai canal. Daniel 8:1–2 (ESV)*

- a. He took away the regular burnt offerings.
- b. He threw truth to the ground.
- c. His greatness was not by his own power.
- d. He would be broken without human hand.

## Life Lessons

1. God is large and in charge of the nations. That is our great encouragement.

God created the universe first and foremost for His glory and he had the right and authority to govern all things just as he pleases to accomplish his perfect ends.

The sovereignty of God is never a threat to the people of God. It is our hope. God loves us. The sovereignty of God is a threat to those who persist in their sin a rebellion.

## The Ram - The Medes and the Persians

*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. Daniel 8:3–4 (ESV)*

*As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. Daniel 8:20 (ESV)*

## The Goat - The Greeks

*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. 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. Daniel 8:5–8 (ESV)*

*And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. 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. Daniel 8:21–22 (ESV)*

## A Little Horn - Antiochus Epiphanes

*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. 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." Daniel 8:9–14 (ESV)*

*And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and 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. Daniel 8:23–25 (ESV)*

*...as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18 (ESV)*