

**Growth Group Lesson**  
**February 19-20**  
Daniel 8

**Recap from Daniel 7:** Daniel receives a vision that illustrates the evil of human kingdoms as they rise up in rebellion against God. Ultimately, God will destroy the evil kingdoms and powers, raising the Son of Man to rule alongside Him. As we look forward, we see Jesus taking the role of the Son of Man.

**Big Idea:** God is sovereign over all circumstances, including the rising and falling of human kingdoms and powers. He uses all of these to His own advantage, but will finally destroy evil at the second coming of Christ.

**Spend some time praying with your group and asking for help in understanding and applying His word.** Review and reflect on the prayer requests shared the previous week. Give praise for the answers to your group's requests.

**Overview of Chapter 8**

Israel is under God's judgment, which will come primarily through two Gentile nations—Medio-Persia and different Greek kingdoms. We see the foreshadowing of a future judgment against all evil kings who will oppose the Lord Jesus Christ in the final Day of the LORD. The book of Daniel is very important to biblical prophecy, giving many of the images and themes for the book of Revelation. One main theme is the prediction of future suffering for God's people and the call to perseverance.

**Read Daniel 8**

In Daniel's vision, notice how God deals with different nations, as He raises up one to overcome another. He uses these nations to accomplish His righteous purposes.

1. What two kingdoms did God raise up in Daniel's vision? One represented by the Ram in verses 3 and 20, and the other represented by the Goat in verses 5 and 21.
2. What will Israel's fate be under these kings? **8:24-25**
3. Do you believe God is also the sovereign ruler over those who have authority in the US? If so, why?
4. Does this bother you or bring you comfort? Why?

We know that human kingdoms and powers are not perfect, especially as described in the book of Daniel. Even though these authorities do things that are often evil, or at least against our conscience, we are still called to submit to them. Explore these commands for us:

**Read Romans 13:1-5**

5. What are we commanded to do? Do you find this easy or difficult? Why?
6. Who establishes all authority?
7. In verse 2, what happens to those who set themselves against this authority?
8. How do we escape "fearing" those in authority? **Verses 3-4**

9. In verse 4, God sets up authority to do what? Why is this important?
10. According to verse 5, what is the advantage of submitting to those in authority?
11. What would submitting to this authority look like in your life this week?

**Read Titus 3:1-2**

12. What are the commands toward rulers and authorities?
13. Does our culture make it difficult for us to follow these commands? If so, why?

**Read 1 Peter 2:13-17**

14. Who is included in the command to “Submit?” **Verses 13-14**
15. What might we receive if we do what is right? **Verse 14**
16. According to verse 15, what is the will of God, and what benefit might you receive from following it?
17. We have much freedom in following Christ. How are we to properly use it? **See verse 16**

We look forward to the day that Jesus will remove evil and injustice. He has already been given all authority, and one day He will return triumphantly to rule over all of the nations. With all the evil that surrounds us now, submission to those in authority may be difficult. As we wait for Jesus, we follow His example of submission to the Father

**Talk** about how God has enabled you to follow His commands in regards to authority.

**Pray** for one another to continue this.

**Pray** for our governing authorities to do good, and ask how we can come alongside them to help bring that good.