

U.S.-Iran War 2026: 2nd fulfillment of Daniel 8?

By Mikkel S. Kragh

Today is February 23, 2026, and many expect that the United States may launch a massive aerial attack against Iran possibly within a couple of days, or at least very soon.

For decades, students of Bible prophecy have speculated that a possible American aerial attack against Iran could be a second fulfillment of the prophecy in Daniel chapter 8, which describes a ram which is attacked and destroyed by a goat coming from the west:

“I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great. And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.” (Daniel 8:4-12)

Everyone agrees that this prophecy was fulfilled when Alexander the Great attacked the Persian Empire in 334 BC and finally defeated it in 330 BC, after which Alexander died in Babylon in 323 BC and his empire was divided among four of his top generals. The little horn that sprung up is also universally agreed to be King Antiochus IV Epiphanes of the Seleucid Empire, who is a type of the future Antichrist.

However, some prophecies are fulfilled more than once. Is it possible that this prophecy will have a second fulfillment in a possible American-Israeli attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran? Let us take a look at how it could play out.

The attack against Persia/Iran will be from the air

According to the prophecy, the goat coming from the west WOULD NOT TOUCH THE GROUND: ***“an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground”*** (Daniel

8:5) This was fulfilled, at least in part, by Alexander, because he rode on a horse. However, kings at that time all rode on a horse or in a chariot, so there was nothing special in Alexander riding a horse. Alexander's army did have cavalry, but so did the Persians and every other army at that time.

Their *Wunderwaffe* was the Macedonian infantry, or phalangites, which were organized into densely packed phalanx formations armed with *sarrisa*, 6 meter (18 feet) long pikes. When the enemy attacked the Macedonian phalanx, the enemy would impale themselves on the Macedonian pikes. That was how the relatively small Macedonian army defeated the much larger Persian army.

On the other hand, the expected American-Israeli attack on Iran is believed to be almost entirely airborne. The Americans and Israelis are expected to attack Iran using a huge number of aircraft, missiles and drones. They are expected not to launch a ground invasion. This is because a ground invasion likely would be unsuccessful and extremely costly. The United States also has only bad experiences with ground invasions of Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, etc. And finally, Donald Trump has a preference for short attacks that cost little, has no or few American casualties but a great theatrical effect for the mass media.

A huge American-Israeli aerial attack on Iran would, therefore, fulfill the part of the prophecy about the goat not touching the ground.

Death of the goat

According to the prophecy, Alexander was the "great horn" that was broken after the Greek goat had destroyed the Persian ram. This was fulfilled when Alexander first defeated the Persian Empire, and then immediately after died of fever (or some other disease) in Babylon in 323 BC.

If there was to be a parallel to this in a potential American attack against Iran today, most would probably think it would mean that President Donald Trump would die immediately after the attack. The first problem with this identification is that Donald Trump is nothing at all like the military genius that Alexander was.

There is, however, another part of America that is comparable to the power and genius of Alexander. And that is the U.S. dollar.

The U.S. dollar has been the reserve currency of the world since the Bretton Woods Agreement in 1944. There, the almost victorious Allied nations agreed that the U.S. dollar would be the reserve currency of the world, because after the Second World War, America produced half the goods in the world and possessed more than half the gold in the world. Europe was in ruins, and so was East Asia. According to the Bretton Woods Agreement, the nations of the world literally could exchange their dollars for gold.

The Vietnam War ruined the finances of the United States, and their European allies suspected that their gold reserves in Fort Know possibly were not there. Therefore, in 1971 France asked the U.S. to get all their gold back that was kept at Fort Know. The U.S. agreed, and a French war ship literally docked at the harbor of New York at sailed back to France with the French gold. The American government realized that if all their allies asked to get their gold back, America could not give it to them, because they had spent it on the Vietnam War. In 1971 President Nixon, therefore, declared that the dollar was going to taken off the gold standard "temporarily" so nations could not trade their U.S. dollars for gold. That "temporary" status became permanent and has remained until

today. Instead, Nixon made an agreement with the Saudis and the other Gulf States that all oil would have to be sold in U.S. dollars. This insured that the nations of the world would need large quantities of American dollars, and that the dollar would keep its reserve status. This deal was known as the "Petro dollar".

Since everyone wanted to buy dollars, the United States kept on spending more than they produced, and therefore acquired a larger and larger national debt. As of February 2026, the U.S. national debt is a staggering 38 trillion dollars, an amount so big that even if the American government wanted to pay it back, they would not be able to do so. In 2026, even the interests on the national debt are larger than the Defence budget. And the American Defence budget is by far the largest in the world. Larger than the next 10 nations combined. And since the American debt is only increasing, the interests on the debt is also increasing, exponentially.

The world's confidence in the U.S. dollar was shaken in 2014, when the U.S. sanctioned Russia for taking over the Crimea Peninsula and supporting the Russians in the Donbas Region of the Ukraine. The world's confidence in the U.S. dollar was shattered in 2022 when the U.S. confiscated Russian reserves in the U.S. to punish Russia for the invasion of the Ukraine. The world said to itself, If America can do this to Russia, they can also do this to us if we have a disagreement with America. Since 2022 de-dollarization had only increased and central banks as well as private banks and investors have instead invested in gold and other assets.

More and more countries are selling their U.S. debt. China used to be the biggest buyer of U.S. treasuries, but today China owns only half the U.S. debt they did in 2013. They know that if the U.S. one day attacks China, as many believe the U.S. will do in order to prevent China from becoming as powerful economically and militarily as the U.S., then the U.S. is not going to pay back the American debt that China has bought. In January the Danish pension fund AkademikerPension, the pension fund for academics and teachers, announced they would sell all their U.S. treasury bonds, because of "poor [U.S.] government finances". They did not sell their treasuries because of Trump's threats to invade Greenland earlier the same month. That only made it easier to announce it publicly.

The United States can continue to increase its giant debt as long as they can sell their treasury bonds. But fewer and fewer are willing to do that. When they can no longer sell new American debt, the American government has the choice between printing lots of new dollars - which means massive inflation - or default on their debt. In either case, the dollar will lose its status as the world's reserve currency.

The governments of Germany and Italy are under pressure from economists to repatriate their gold reserves they hold in the Federal Reserve Bank in New York. The argument in Germany is that if the U.S. government is seriously considering invading Greenland, which is a part of their supposed ally the Kingdom of Denmark, the U.S. government might also simply steal the foreign gold reserves in America.

Even without an American attack against Iran, the U.S. dollar is projected to lose its status as the world's reserve currency within a few years. Earlier this month the U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio even said in public that within 5 years the United States will no longer be able to sanction other nations, because the dollar will no longer be world reserve currency.

Could it therefore be, that like Alexander attacked and defeated Persia and then died, America is going to attack Iran, and afterwards, the U.S. dollar is going to collapse and lose its status as the reserve currency of the world?

The goat's empire is split in four

Geopolitical and financial experts predict that if the dollar was to lose its reserve currency status, the world would not get a new reserve currency, because there is not any one currency that is strong enough to be that. The likely outcome would probably be that there would be several currencies and assets that would supplant the dollar, including gold, the Chinese yuan, the Euro, an inflated U.S. dollar as well as CBDCs, Bitcoin and other digital payment systems.

This would also be similar to Alexander's Empire that was divided between four of his generals:

"Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven." (Dan 8:8)

The Antichrist

The two greatest Hellenistic successor states to Alexander's Empire were the Seleucid Empire in Persia and Syria, and the Ptolemaic Empire centered in Egypt. In the early 160s BC, King Antiochus IV Epiphanes of the Seleucid Empire tried to ban the Law of Moses that the Jews in the land of Israel were following. Antiochus placed the image of the Greek pagan god Jupiter Olympus in the Temple in Jerusalem and forced the Jewish priests to sacrifice pigs to pagan gods. That is why Antiochus Epiphanes is considered to be a type of the future Antichrist.

"And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered." (Dan 8:9-12)

If the American attack against Iran is a second fulfillment of the first part of the prophecy of Daniel 8, it suggests that the future Antichrist will come out of one of the currencies or payment system that are going to replace the dollar as global reserve currency.

Could it perhaps mean that a digital currency is going to replace the dollar, at least in part? That is what many of the most powerful people are pushing for. A digital currency would also make it much easier for the Antichrist and the False Prophet to enforce the Mark of the Beast on the peoples of the world: ***"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."*** (Rev 13:16-17)

The Temple Mount

Many Christians believe that there is going to be built a Jewish temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, because the Antichrist is said to “sit in the temple of God” and proclaim himself to be God:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

There are strong forces in the State of Israel that would like to built this new temple. There is even a Temple Institute which has already prepared most of the necessary equipment for a new Jewish temple, including a replica of the Ark of the Covenant.

One huge obstacle for building a Jewish temple is the fact that the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque are on the Temple Mount. Bulldozing them would make the Islamic world explode in anger, which is why only Zionist extremists in the State of Israel support this.

But consider this hypothetical event: Iran has consistently said that they are going to bombard the State of Israel with missiles and drones if Iran is attacked by the State of Israel or the United States. What if some extremist Zionists have prepared for this, and when the Iranian missiles start to hit the State of Israel, then these extremists are going to fire their own missiles against the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque and blame the destruction of them on Iran? Afterwards, they could start to built a new Jewish temple.

February 2026