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We now continue our studies on:

**The Story of Daniel 8 and 12**

**Prophecy Research Initiative**  
presents

# **The Story of Daniel 8 and 12**

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These conclusions are always tentative since new light constantly unfolds.

Lesson Five –  
Daniel 8 & 12



**The Ram of God  
and  
That Terrible Goat**

*“Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.” (Dan. 8:3)*



Lifting up one's eyes is an ancient idiomatic expression.

- Isaac lifted up his eyes and saw Rebecca coming.
- Jacob lifted up his eyes and saw Esau coming.
- God's people, while reaping wheat in a valley, lifted up their eyes and saw the ark coming.

(Gen. 24:63, 33:1-5, I Sam. 6:13; respectively)

This phrase often relates to something dramatic that is about to occur, especially in prophecy. “Deliverance” of some form usually follows.

The most wonderful “lifting up the eyes,” perhaps in the whole Bible, comes from this story:

*“And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him was ... a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.”* (Gen. 22:13)



God provided a “ram” and delivered the son, Isaac. God is providing today His Son to deliver us:

“The Lamb of God” – “THE *Ram of God*.”

Daniel lifts up his eyes and says:

*“Behold, there stood before the river a ram.”* (Dan. 8:3)

Notice: Daniel’s first picture of the Ram was of inactivity. The Ram is waiting for something.

Daniel goes on, seeing:

*“a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high”* (Dan. 8:3)

What could these be? Gabriel will later say:

*“The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.”*  
(vs 20)

Are these horns, then, the first two historical kings, Darius and Cyrus?



Our first impression would suggest that Gabriel had just told Daniel to think of that historic empire, Medo-Persia!

But there are deeper prophetic issues related to this Ram and its geographic symbolism.

It says:

*“The two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.”* (Dan. 8:3)

Darius the Mede was the first governor of the Babylonian region, appointed by Cyrus, the conquering general. Though his rule was regional, he was called a “king.” He was the first and smaller of the two horns.



The last horn was larger, which would correspond to Cyrus, who then took over the whole kingdom.



However, the literal, historical picture sets the stage for a very solemn and wonderful prophecy! How do we know this?

Here are the fascinating details:



1. Before he even announced that the Ram was Medo-Persia, Gabriel said, “O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.” (Dan. 8:17b)! (The Ram and he-goat are end of time.) Did you get that?  
We will learn shortly that that refers to the time surrounding the Second Advent.
2. This announcement is given as a spiritual metaphor. It is going to be our *key* to understanding the prophecy of Daniel 8! **Then:** Was there anything “spiritual” about Cyrus?

That is a stunning invitation to evaluate the symbolism related to Daniel 8. Did you know that over 100 years previous to this prophecy God told Isaiah that Cyrus, **by name**, would come on the scene as a “deliverer?”

It's almost unbelievable, but this is what He said:

## Cyrus:

He is my shepherd

(Isa. 44:28)

God's anointed

(Isa. 44:28)

Came from east

(Isa. 46:11)

Sets the captives free

(Isa. 45:13)

Called righteous

(Isa. 43:13)

## Jesus:

Good Shepherd

(John 10:11, Heb. 13:20)

Spirit anointed Him

(Luke 4:18, Isa. 61:1)

As lightening from east

(Matt. 24:27)

Deliverance of captives

(Luke 4:16)

Called THE Righteous

(I John 2:1)

Do you see why this prophecy has dual meaning?

The “kingdoms” of Media and Persia were amalgamated under Cyrus. That gave him his power base to eventually rule the world.

Spiritually – who is the Ram?

We are soon going to see that this is the first great prophecy of the final battle between Christ and Satan.



But what about the two horns of  
God's end-time Ram?

What two distinct powers, in support  
of Jesus Christ, at the "time of the  
end," could be represented by the  
two horns?

The answer doesn't lack for theories – most are tied to the varied meanings of the two witnesses of Revelation 11:3-5.

The clue lies in the two different times the horns appear, then grow, noting especially that the second horn becomes much larger. There is one example of two groups of people/saints who give wonderful support to Christ at the end of time:

1. The 144,000, representing the 12 tribes, is the smaller horn.
2. The great multitude is the greater horn.



Both groups will be translated, all will wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb – **That Ram of God!**



This is so fascinating. We've seen these two rivers in past lessons as symbols:

1. Hiddekel (Tigris) River – Great Multitude
2. Ulai River – 144,000

God repeats, reminds, reworks symbols to make sure the divine purpose/meaning is known.

In Revelation the two witnesses also represent:

- Moses – Elijah
- Old – New Testaments
- Smyrna – Philadelphia Churches



At the end, God's people, in two symbolic groups, will support Christ in His final work – both are inclusively called the wheat harvest.

Daniel continues:

*“I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward.”* (Dan. 8:4)



“pushing” (*piel* tense – H): thrust with great force

**Stunning:** In verse 3, Daniel saw the ram “standing” by the Ulai River. During that time the two horns grew. That was the only movement noted.

Here is another vision of the Ram: “I saw the ram” pushing or moving out with great force. The divine video changes in emphasis.

Growing horns – motion in vs 3

Charging Ram – motion in vs 4

If the Ram is charging west, north and south,  
where is He coming from?

**The East:** The direction from which  
deliverance and rescue arise.

The Ram could not fully accomplish its world  
mission without those horns maturing to help  
give power and firmness to the end-time  
gospel work!

*“Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I  
am God.”* (Isa. 43:12)

Cyrus came out of the east to rescue God's people in Babylon, just as Jesus will do at the very end of time! An ancient predictive prophecy:

*“Calling a bird of prey [Cyrus' symbol was a golden eagle] from the east, the man [Cyrus] of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.”* (Isa. 46:11 – RSV)

In Daniel 8 he/He is represented as coming from a “city” (a government – Shushan – New Jerusalem), a “palace” (a ruling center – God's throne) and a “river” (Ulai – special supportive individuals – River of Life).

These symbols were to the “east,” outside the geographic boundaries of what God gave to the Jewish people (note: the “*far country*”).

As Babylon falls at the end of time, from outside the traditional boundaries of God’s church, a cry will be heard, “Come out of her, my people.”

This “Ram” prophecy, though tied to Cyrus and Medo-Persia, again represents the first major story of how good will prevail in that final war.

This is the imagery we are asked to concentrate on in this battle: the “Ram of God,” and a small horn that comes from a “far country.”



Cyrus would have come from outside these borders.

Straight line assumed to join the river boundaries.

This imagery is of the “land of promise” given to Abraham. (Gen. 12, 15, 26, 28)



*What we've looked at can now be wonderfully summarized by Daniel's early vision symbols:*

1. Shushan – represents the New Jerusalem, where the Ram rules/lives
2. Ulai River – the 144,000
3. Ram – King Jesus, with His palace in “Jerusalem”
4. First Horn – 144,000, giving power initially to the final work of Christ

*All coming out of the “far east” as a unique “power.”*

5. Second Horn – the Great Multitude – won over by the work of the 144,000

The White Horse of seal one (from Revelation's seven seals) represents the first group of people who are "battle ready" to finish the Lord's work.



These are characterized as going out "conquering and to conquer" (Rev. 6:1-2) — a fitting description of the 144,000 as seen by Daniel in that first horn.

There, the rider Jesus, is carrying a crown of victory, which assures the 144,000 that their work will be successful!

Jesus is so concerned and interested in that Ram's first horn! He needs that group in a marked way at the time of the end. Notice this amazing text:

*“And I saw another angel **ascending from the east**, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a **loud voice** to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, **Hurt not** the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed **an hundred and forty and four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”* (Rev. 7:2-4)

Daniel now describes the mission of that aggressive Ram:



*“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.”* (Dan. 8:4)

What is Daniel saying?

1. No beast, no kingdom, nation, power or government can stop the work of Christ right at the end.
2. His work progresses as He has planned.
3. The name of Christ becomes great and that work will be successful.

The picture of this Ram coming from the east with military fervor has once again a prophetic end-time counterpart:



*“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.... And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.” (Rev. 11:3-4, 6)*

*“The beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.”* (Rev. 11:7)

Breaking the two horns.

This part of the verse suggests to many that God’s two witnesses will fail in the end. That is not what it says or even implies. The message simply means that their voices will finally be silenced. BUT – what John notes in the first part of this verse, which is left out above, is important:

*“And when they shall have finished their testimony...”* (Rev. 11:7a)

Then their voices are silenced.

*“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.”* (Dan. 8:5)



In the next two verses we are going to discover that this goat is cruel and tries to kill the Ram. It is a giant metaphor for Satan! This is the beginning of God's apocalyptic prophecy of earth's last days!

Once again, it is the final conflict  
between Christ and Satan.





The words “he goat” are renamed in verse 21 as the “rough goat,” all meaning “hairy male goat.”

Daniel was given these descriptive words for a very special reason.

“he-goat” – *sapir* (H)

“hairy male goat” – *sair* (H)

When the latter Hebrew word, *sair*, is used with *sapir*, as in verse 21, it refers to *deception*. This came from Jacob putting “hair” on his arms to deceive Isaac, his father. This goat is a **deceiver!**

It is so interesting how God describes by drawing on what is familiar.

- 200 years before, in Greece, in the province of Arcadia, a new god of mythology came into being
- Named Pan – the upper half was man with goat horns (in most depictions), the lower half was goat.
- He was evil, lustful, very deceptive and was a perfect illustration for Satan in Daniel's imagery.
- This is doubly curious, because in Daniel 8:21 it says that this rough goat comes from Greece! More on that shortly.



But there is more to this Pan story that God uses to rivet a truth into our minds.

This hairy male goat, Pan, had many evil stories attached to him. **But one stands out:**

- He tried to seduce the mythological goddess Selene. She resisted. Then Pan laid a plan.
- He dressed up in a ram's skin, and she was seduced.

When “goat” Pan sought to be like a ram, he was able to deceive! That is exactly what happens with Satan at the end of time. He tries to be like Christ. Most of the world will be deceived and seduced!!!

“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour’s advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come [wearing the cloak of a ‘ram’]. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation [Rev. 1:13-15]. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld.... multitudes from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying, This is ‘the great power of God’ [Acts 8:10].” (GC88 624)

The “*he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground.*” (vs 6)



Where is  
west?

From Daniel it would be Palestine, but that doesn't fit the historical story.

Greece fits the literal history, but we are dealing with a spiritual type or metaphor. Rome will be specific to the “little horn,” which comes later. BUT – what is that horn?

Revelation 13 talks of a power that influences the whole world. It is deceptive and blasphemous, persecutes and is like a leopard (Greece)! (Dan. 7:6)

*“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

*“And the beast which I saw was like unto a **leopard**, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”* (Rev. 13:1-2)

That seven-headed, ten-horned beast comes out of the sea as the antichrist. Satan is waiting on the shore for it to emerge. When it does, prophecy says that the dragon gives him its power. (Rev. 13:4)

That “leopard-like” beast acts like a horn to Satan!

If the rough male goat was Greece, did that “notable horn” have anything to do with its first great conqueror?

Most scholars claim that that single horn represents Alexander the Great of Greece, a world conqueror.

At the end of time, that horn power is symbolized by that leopard-like beast which comes out of the sea. He blasphemes God.

Did Alexander the Great do that?



“Satan’s **agents** are constantly working under his direction to establish his authority and build up his kingdom in opposition to the government of God. To this end they **seek to deceive** Christ’s followers and allure them from their allegiance.... As Satan endeavored to cast reproach upon God, **so do his agents seek to malign God’s people**. The spirit which put Christ to death moves the wicked to **destroy His followers....** And this will continue to the close of time.” (GC 507)

That means we should see **the goat hurting the ram!** It means that something in that first horn must be Satan-like!

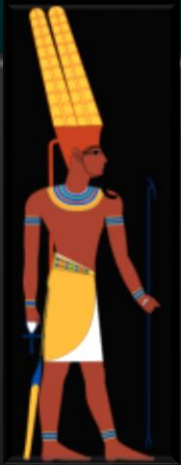
At the end a “little horn” becomes great and represents the papacy, but before the first “horn” of Greece was broken – something most fascinating was added to history.

Alexander the Great.  
His story represents well  
the end-time he-goat, Satan.



In a 12-year period  
he conquered the  
civilized world like a  
strong horn. But there was  
a sinister side to this warrior:





Alexander had an interest in mythological gods. This may have come from Greek religious influence in his early years.

In 332 B.C. he entered Egypt in a military campaign. He was regarded as a liberator/hero. He was declared by the Egyptians as the new “master of the Universe.” He took the country without a battle. Intriguingly, he became interested in the god **Ammon-Re**. This was a ram and sun god.

The Ammon-Re temple had been moved from the Nile Delta far west to an oasis town called Siwa, near the Libyan border.

Alexander traveled to Siwa with many of his men to see Ammon-Re. When they arrived at the temple, he covered himself with a ram's skin in respect for that ram god, which was associated with the sacred sun god. This act brought great respect and honor to him from the temple priests.

They declared him *the son of Ammon* by a priestly oracle. Alexander, thereafter, declared himself **divine**. Here is where the prophecy gets amazing!



He soon marched to the Persian capital, Shushan (Susa), where his troops crowned him king and a god.

He immediately dispatched men to return to Greece and announce his position. There he ordered that all Greek coins be struck with ram's horns protruding from his head. He had become a ram god.



Do you see where this is going?

The he-goat represents Satan. Isaiah 14 tells us that he wanted to be like God through a self-declaration.

Alexander the Great – the horn on the goat – has now become a ram god by self-declaration.

The god Pan had already been in existence and represented a man-goat god who was satanic but used a ram cloak to deceive.

Whoever is later represented by this goat's horn at the end of time in this prophecy is in support of Satan. Daniel's prophecy now adds more!





*“And I saw him [he-goat] 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.” (Dan. 8:7)*

When will Satan and his agents start to persecute and make ineffective God’s special agents?



*“And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.”* (Rev. 11:7) — Breaking the two horns.

This is amazing! The two witnesses finish their work and then Satan comes out to destroy those two horns. They are silenced, as we have seen.

Paul had written to Timothy:

*“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* (II Tim. 3:12)

Over and over in Revelation we find God’s people who have “the testimony of Jesus” being harmed. Even John said he was on the Island of Patmos for that testimony.

This hairy he-goat is moving from the west toward the east to strike at the Ram. Jesus knew that this end-time imagery would be very important to give, even in ~550 B.C. He was preparing for this:

*“When the Son of man shall come in his glory [from the east], and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his **sheep from the goats**: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Matt. 25:31-34)*

Daniel has more to say about this Greek/satanic/leopard/goat beast. In this prophecy, that goat does silence the Ram and His two supporters. But it says something else:

*“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)

Historically, Satan's antichrist work was shown by the life and experience of Alexander. After 12 years his troops mutinied. He killed some of his generals and, in a final return to Babylon, he died. The “great” horn was broken!



With this historical understanding of Alexander the Great, we now query:

What later “horn” power would give Satan major support and would want to be like Christ, the Ram/Lamb? Might there be a power that would assume moral authority over the lives of people and would come from the “west?”

Daniel 7 talks about a “little horn” power associated with Rome that remarkably fits this imagery!

The story of the papacy during the Dark Ages is illustrative.

- During 80 different popes
- Over 1500 years
- The Papacy killed 50,000,000 people, often starting with torture

The “divine” claims of many popes match the predictions of the “little horn,” a horrible power that would arise to blaspheme God and harm His followers.

The Catholic Council of Trent in 1545 declared this: “We define that the Holy Apostolic See and the Roman Pontiff hold primacy over the whole world.”

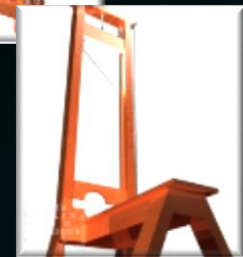
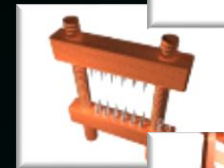
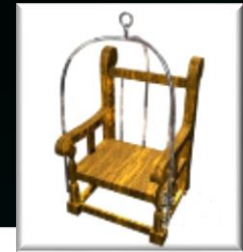
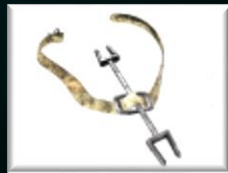


In the same century,  
Cardinal Robert Bellarmine stated this:

“All names which in the Scriptures are applied to Christ, by virtue of which it is established that he is over the church, all the same names are applied to the Pope.”



The instruments of torture, used in the “name of God,” are well documented in the archives of history.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWS0ePXeq24>

“In the thirteenth century was established that most terrible of all the engines of the papacy – the Inquisition. The prince of darkness wrought with the leaders of the papal hierarchy. In their secret councils Satan and his angels controlled the minds of evil men, while unseen in the midst stood an angel of God, taking the fearful record of their iniquitous decrees and writing the history of deeds too horrible to appear to human eyes. ‘Babylon the great’ was ‘drunken with the blood of the saints.’ The mangled forms of millions of martyrs cried to God for vengeance upon that apostate power.” (GC 59-60)

This “horn” had to be broken to fit prophecy. This is how it occurred at the end of the Dark Ages. The book of Revelation calls this the wound of the beast. (13:14)

February 10, 1798, Pope Pius VI was asked by the French General Berthier to give up his secular authority. He refused. He was taken prisoner and later died.



Pope Pius IX refused to cede the papal states to the newly formed Italian government. They were taken by force in 1870. The Pope became a prisoner in a few buildings.

All that history was the “little horn” story of Daniel 7. Looking at the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter, we note regarding the rough, male goat horn:

*“Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.”* (Dan. 8:22)

When Alexander the Great died, four of his generals took over the Greek Empire. But, in an end-time metaphor, another discovery must be made!

What end-time prophetic picture reveals four powers supporting Satan? Let's analyze.

During the seventh vial, **Babylon** (later also called the harlot) comes to its end. When it does, it is divided into **three parts**. Today these are called the “false trinity.”

They are the (Rev. 16:19):

1. Dragon – representing spiritualism
2. Beast – papacy – the antichrist
3. False prophet – earth beast – apostate Protestantism

The Beast is seen by other names  
elsewhere in the Bible:

Man of sin (II Thess. 2:3)

Little horn (Dan. 8:9-12)

Vile person (Dan. 11:21)

King of the north (Dan. 11:40)

But – what is that forth end-time power?



During the Dark Ages the Crusades represented horrible conflict between the Christian world and the Islamic peoples. That is described in Daniel 11:25. Islam was referred to as the “king of the south.”

At the end of time there will be another conflict which Daniel describes once again in military terms as a true war between the Christian world, called the “king of the north,” and another rise of the “king of the south.” (Dan. 11:40-45)





The weight of evidence suggests that radical Islam is this fourth power, which is anti-Christian/God.

With this you can see that there will be two conflicts at the end:

1. Christians against radical Islam,  
and then:
2. Apostate Christianity against the final remnant church from the “east.”  
Looking at the second one:



*“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.”*

(Dan. 8:7)

“come close” – means there is contact between God’s people and Satan’s people – persecution.

“choler” – means bitterness, likely because the wicked sense the guilt from rejecting earth’s final appeals. We know this from clues Daniel gives in chapter 11.

*“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Rev. 12:17)*

*“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.” (Dan. 8:7)*

It might seem that there is nothing bright in this final scene. But remember – the two witnesses finished their task. About that work Daniel says:

*“And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.”*

(Dan. 11:33)

- “They that understand” are God’s people.
- They are persecuted.

But God is with them. What they are doing in the final work to warn the world brings alarm to Satan’s agents. This is how Daniel finishes that chapter:

*“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.”* (Dan. 11:44)

That is when God's people are delivered. The next verse tells us that the "king of the north," the papacy, and all its minions, come to their end.

Then Michael – Jesus – "stands up." His work is done, and, as earth's worst tribulation begins, we are told that God's people will be delivered.

# What have we learned?

## Ram

- It came from the east.
- Cyrus was the general.
- He represented Christ.
- Its two horns, at the end, are the 144,000 and the great multitude.

## Hairy Goat

- Represents Satan as a deceiver
- Its horn was Alexander the Great, who became a symbol for the papacy (in the Dark Ages and at the very end). It will be broken.



Thoughts  
from this lesson:

The Ram and the hairy he-goat  
represent the “generals” in the final  
battle of planet earth.

On whose side will you be a warrior,  
right at the end?

Christ's or Satan's?



Jesus hopes it will  
be His side, and you  
will be able to say:



*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because  
He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel  
to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the  
broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to  
the captives, and recovering of sight to the  
blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”*  
(Luke 4:18)

**The End**

Next Lesson:

**How Daniel Describes  
The Time of the End**



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