

This chapter deals with the earlier Babylonian visions and dreams of its rulers of the golden head which precede the Medo-Persian chest and arms of silver.

The vision was revealed whilst the young King was at the palace at Shushan which is in the east in the province of Elam, which was to be part of the Persian homeland captured from them by the Chaldeans.

The vision was of a Ram, which did according to his will, so one of the autocrats of scripture, the second such power. The two uneven horns are representative of the lopsided division between the two elements of the empire with the initial success of the Medes, a cavalry nation which invented trousers, who were subsequently eclipsed by the wealthy Persians.

When first seen the Ram was pushing in three of the four directions of the compass, the east was missed out. This makes the identification easier as the first Great Persian leader Cyrus expanded the empire particularly to the East into Bactria and to the Indus River. It was the later Xerxes who expanded into the Black Sea areas to the north, continental Europe to the west and Africa to the south. This later expansion was to ultimately backfire as they did not stop on the eastern side of the Aegean but threatened the Greco Macedonian areas of control. These powers were not yet united but rallied against a common foe and the famous battles of Thermopylae Marathon, Salamis and Plataea were written in the blood of fallen Persians. Classic Greek history about 400 BCE onwards.

The uni-horn Goat was the power which crashed head long into the Ram. Normally the sheer size of a mature Ram would intimidate the smaller Goat, but the single horn could out position the two horns of the ram and thus it proved to be. The single horn was representative of when the Macedonian Greek power was united under one horn, initially Philip of Macedon a capable and highly successful general who conquered the Greek city states and was only eclipsed by his son Alexander, often called the great. Upon the death of his father, he took on his plans for invading the Persia Empire across the sea and won several famous battles against them: Granicus, Issus and Gaugamela all of which were crushing and decisive victories. The new combined arms approach of the smaller western armies, demonstrating that numbers alone, never wins battles. Granicus the first of these took place in 334 BCE 2300 years before 1967 CE when Jerusalem was liberated from the Moslem power. Permitting after so many centuries the possibility of the final cleansing of the sanctuary.

After his premature death at 33, he was allegedly poisoned or perhaps died from a drugs overdose, he was followed by the division of the new Empire into four under some of his generals namely Ptolemy Seleucid, Cassander and Antigones. The details of this are so accurate that most contemporary writers insist that it must have been written after these events. We know otherwise and can have every confidence that the rest of the details of his prophecies will likewise come to pass in great detail.

This vision made the Prophet Daniel ill. He had "*fainted and sick certain days*". The prospect of learning that his people the Jews would be downtrodden for such a long

period of time, well over two millennia was enough to make him unwell! It was certainly true that it was for many days!

From one of the four horns which arose after the great horn a little horn arose. The political power of this horn was not large, but it still wielded great power because of the ecclesiastical element. The papist Roman system is represented by the little horn. "*It cast down truth to the ground and prospered and practised*" (priestcraft). This power would also claim to "*understand dark sentences*" but its ability was corrupt by its apostasy from the true gospel into a lie. The political power of the Catholic church waxed and waned, but it was never a full empire but the image of one a counterfeit in many respects!

The prophet was shown something of the time of the end, verse 17, this would be about the time of his resurrection hence after a "*deep sleep*" he was to be "*set upright*". The time of this resurrection is now fast approaching so we should pay even more attention to the words of this prophet in this day and generation!

A Voice from the Altar

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