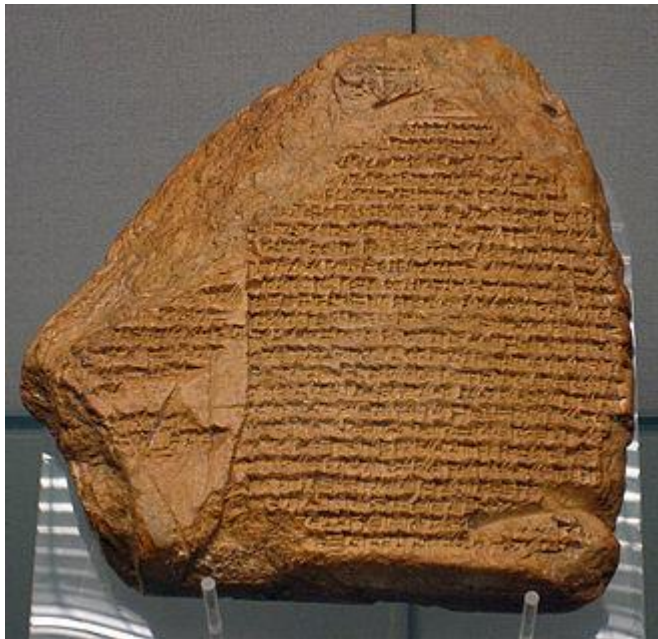


Daniel Chapter 8 - Ram and He-Goat

Chapter 8:1 *In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first.*



Belshazzar was the son and crown prince of Nabonidus, and given the regency of Babylon, while his father went into self-imposed exile. He was also a grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. This ancient text chronicles the reign of Belshazzar's father and also documents the period during which Belshazzar was regent in Babylon.

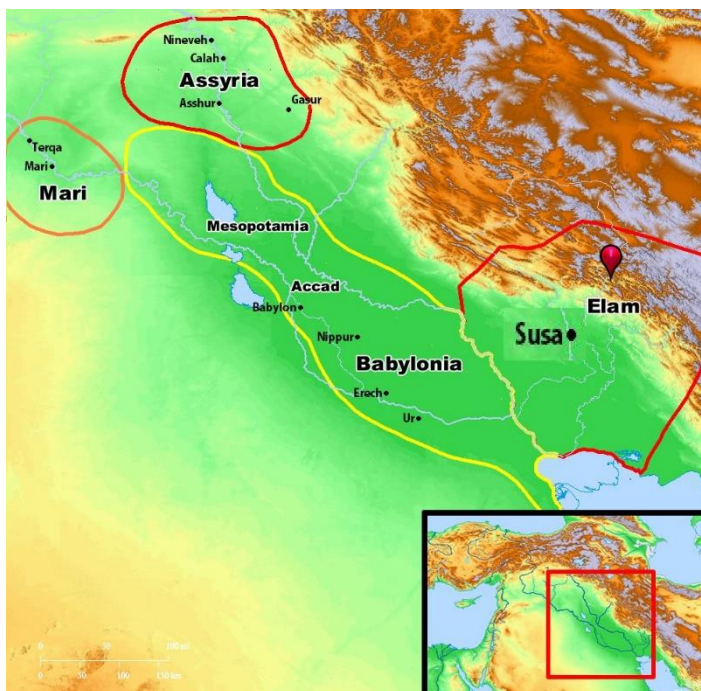
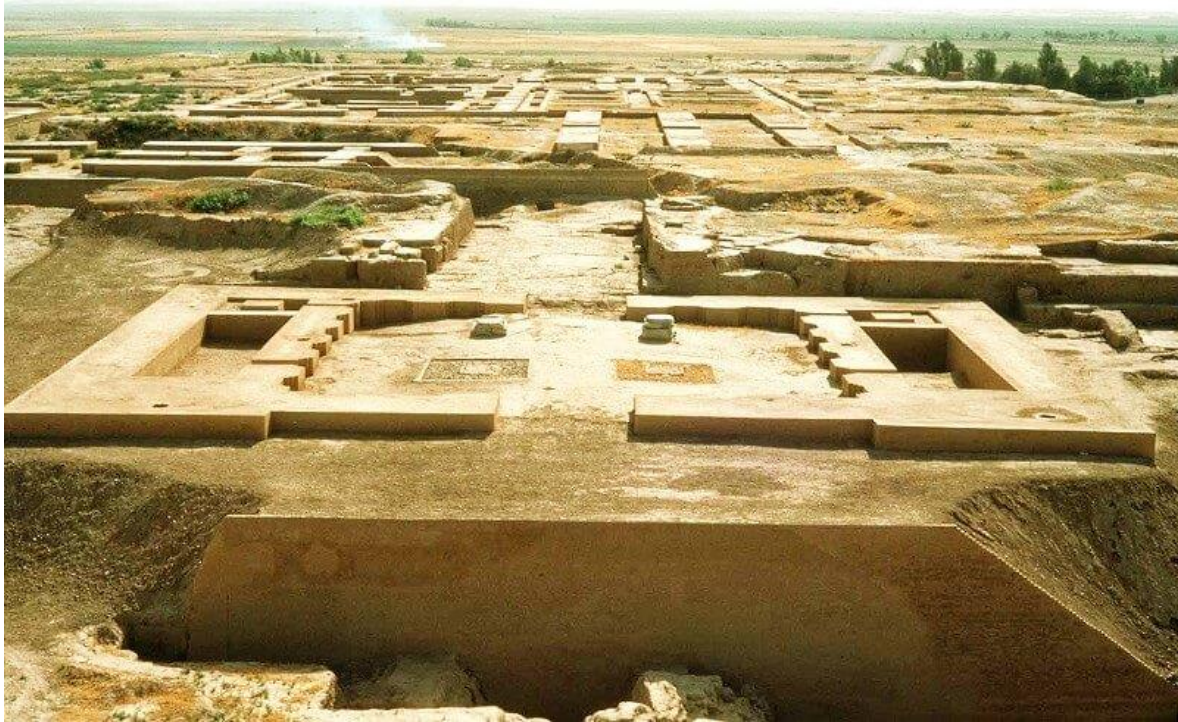
Daniel describes how he has another vision from God, connected to the first dream which he had two years earlier. We recall the first dream was the one we looked at in our last Daniel Bible Class and related to a series of Beasts which came up out of the sea, and each one, overthrowing the empire before, and one after the other overthrowing the land of Judea, Israel. Babylon, Medo- Persia, Greece and Rome were depicted. From Rome came a little horn power which became larger and larger turning into a great corrupt religious type empire. These visions Daniel describes were connected to each other...*a vision appeared unto me... after that which appeared unto me at the first.* He is being shown a series of visions or revelations. Let us reconsider the chart we looked at last time.

DANIEL 2		DANIEL 7	DANIEL 8	DANIEL 11, 12
GOLD	BABYLON	LION	NONE	NONE
SILVER	MEDOPERSIA	BEAR	RAM WITH TWO HORNS	FOUR KINGS (Verse 2)
BRASS	GREECE	LEOPARD	THE GOAT	MIGHTY KING (Verses 3-13)
IRON	ROME	FIERCE BEAST	LITTLE HORN FROM FOUR HORNS	KING OF THE NORTH (Verses 14-35)
IRON AND CLAY	DIVIDED KINGDOMS 1260 YEARS	TEN HORNS LITTLE HORN	LITTLE HORN GREAT WAXED	KING OF THE NORTH (Verses 30-39)
STONE CUT OUT WITHOUT MAN'S HANDS	INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT	JUDGMENT SCENE	CLEANSING OF HEAVENLY SANCTUARY	TIME OF THE END (Verses 40-45)
STONE FILLS WHOLE EARTH	CHRIST'S KINGDOM	KINGDOM GIVEN TO SAINTS	EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT	MICHAEL STANDS UP (Chapter 12:1-3)

This chart shows how the various visions revealed in the book of Daniel are parallel to each other, but each vision gives a different aspect and additional information to build a bigger picture of the whole. The first column depicts Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image. The second column identifies what each stage of the visions represents. The third column depicts the visions described in Chapter 7, the fourth column depicts the vision of chapter 8 – what we are looking at now, and the last column depicts the vision of chapter 11/12.

The vision of chapter 8 however does not start in Babylon. By the time Daniel saw this vision in the third year of Belshazzar in power, Babylon had so greatly waned in power, it was ready for being taken

over by Medo Persia. So in vision Daniel saw himself in the palace of Shushan known as Susa today, it was the capital of Elam and was the winter residence of the Persian kings at that time. The ruins have been discovered:



And the place is now a UNESCO World Heritage site

Verse 2: And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai.

The Ulai was in fact a man made canal, called the Eulaeus, which connected two rivers together, and

aided and assisted trade and transport around the city, as well as adding defence.

See diagram below. Daniel was not there in person but in vision.



His location was at the heart of the administration centre of the Medo Persian empire. In his dream he saw *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.*

Note the parallel of the symbols in the dreams:



The bear had one side higher than the other. The ram also representing Medo Persian had one horn higher than the other. The Persians came to power later within the empire but eventually dominated their Median allies. This detail is shown in both animal symbols to give a key to the understanding.

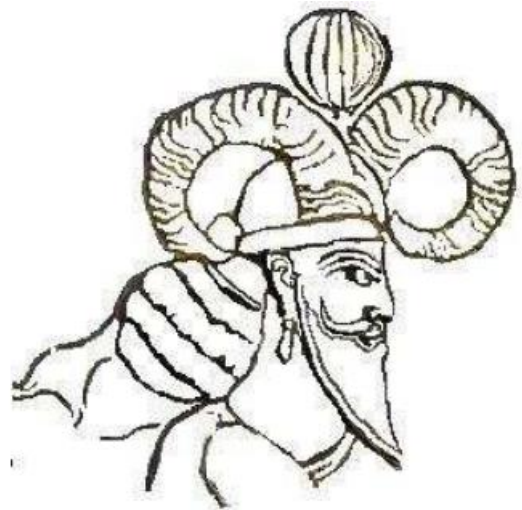
Recalling the significance of the use of animals to depict powers in the Bible, it was to denote characteristics of the empire like wild animals, Ecclesiastes 3:18 *I said in mine heart concerning the estate*

of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

Proverbs 28:15 As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.

This chapter interprets itself as Daniel was revealed the meaning. Verse 20: *The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia...*

Horns in scripture are nearly always a symbol of power. It was well known at the time, that the Persians used the Ram as one of their symbols. Indeed, on websites selling ancient Persian rugs, they explain why the Rams horn is so often a feature in Persian rugs: *The ram has always been the symbol of the Persian Empire (Achaemenid Dynasty that started in the 6th century BC during the age of Aries) and the kings and army often wore helmets with ram's horns on.* Museum collections hold many items which depict this symbology linked to the Persian empire:



Silverdish Boar Hunt of Kusansah Bahrahm II
State Heritage Museum

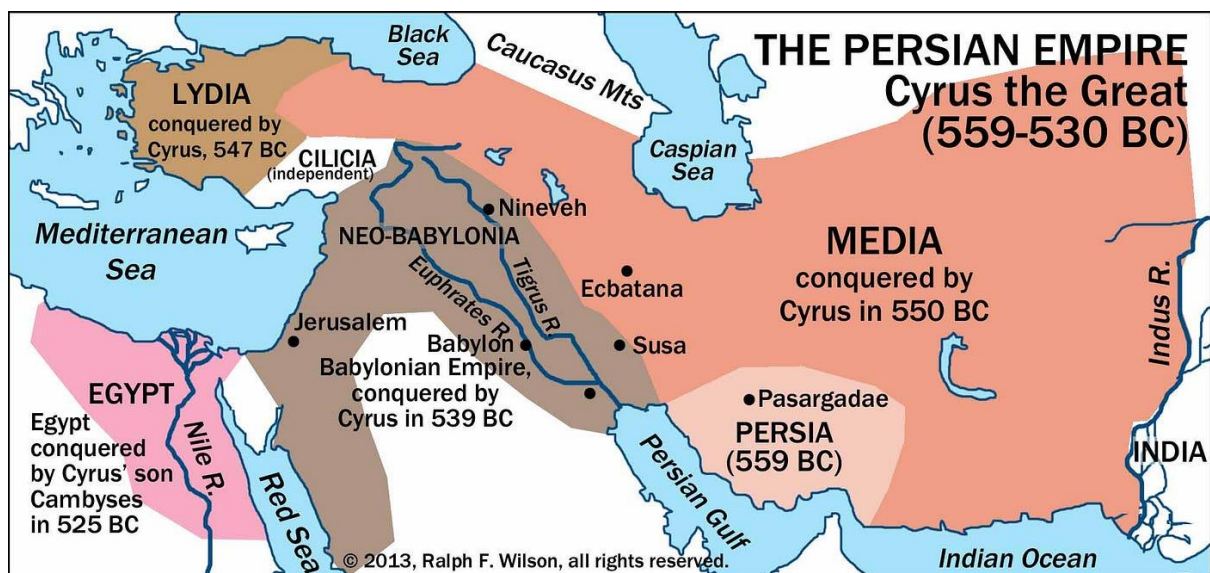
Thus the Holy Spirit was using familiar symbols used at the time, this adds of course to the fidelity and reliability of Scripture, another indicator of Divine Inspiration. If these prophecies were written much later than the event how would the authors have known about

such small details, which have only recently been discovered and understood by modern historians?



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

Expanding in all directions; But God sets the boundaries: Psalms 65:6-7 and Daniel 4:17



5 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.

Again Daniel the prophet was revealed the meaning: Verse 21: *And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.*

At the time of Daniel the prophet the realm of Grecia was not a threat, being just a loose collection of city states known for trading, on the boundary of the empire. – To put the historical perspective:

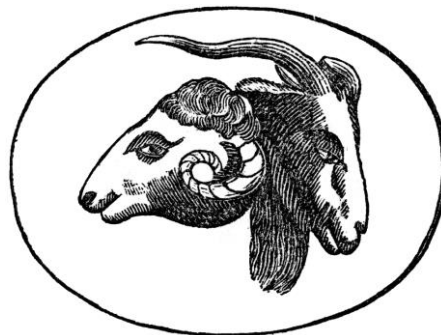
The great and famous battles of Thermopylae and Salamis where the Greek city states under Leonidas and Themistocles against King Xerxes of Persia with a million soldiers was still 70 years in the future when Daniel received this vision.

This proves that this vision was not for the benefit of Daniel, but for the generations of faithful believers following: John 14:29: *And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.*

Again, the symbology of Macedonia being represented by a one horned goat is very ancient.



A Macedonian Stater Coin dated 485 BC



A stone carving depicting the Macedonian goat and Persian reputed to have been carved at the time of Alexander the Great



Goats horned helmets. Note the small one in centre.

Persepolitan emblem of Macedon



Persepolitan emblem of Macedon.

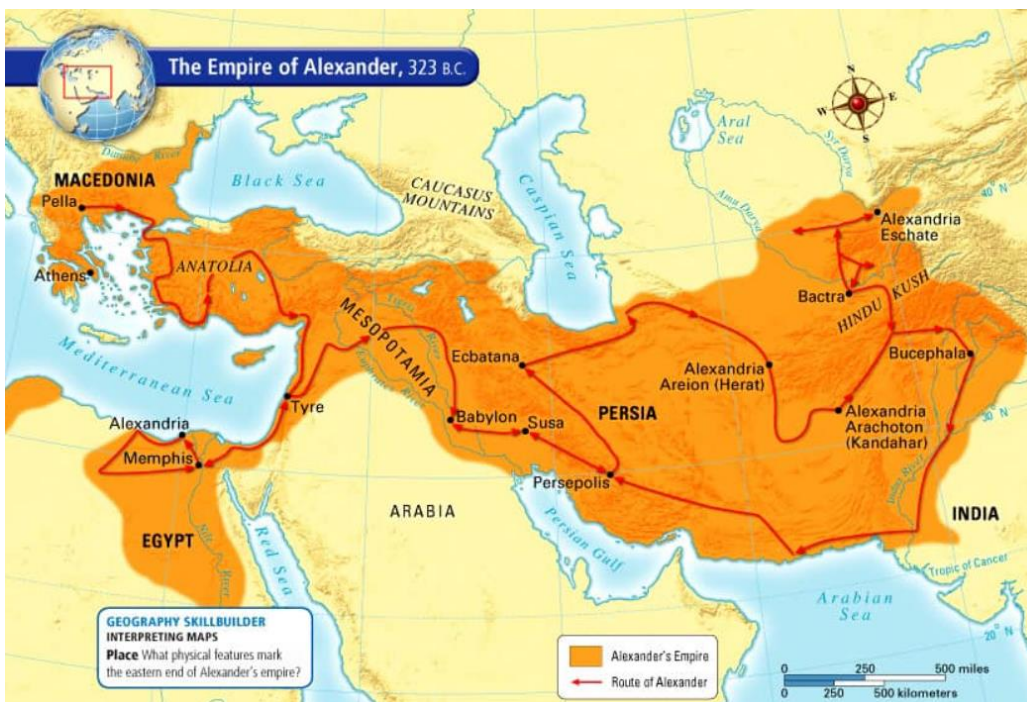
It is note worthy that Alexander the Great often referred to the mythological Zeus-Ammon as his true father, and after his death, coin currency depicted him adorned with the

Horns of Ammon as a symbol of his divinity. Greek mythology popular at the time of the prophet Daniel (who was by comparison being revealed TRUTH) described how baby Zeus was cared for and protected by a number of divine attendants, including the goat Amaltheia ("Nourishing Goddess"), who fed him with her milk. The suckling future king of the gods had unusual abilities and strength, and in playing with his nursemaid accidentally broke off one of her horns, which then had the divine power to provide unending nourishment, as the foster mother had to the god. This is where the word "cornucopia" or horn of abundance has its origin. Alexander the Great believed he had supernatural powers – certainly he was used by God as the prophet Daniel was shown!

6 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.

Daniel saw the goat full of anger smash into the ram and broke the two horns, and as the ram fell to the ground, the goat trampled it underfoot, and the ram was utterly helpless

Just as Daniel saw this conquest take place in symbol by the Persian canal Ulai, so it was that in 334 the precociously talented young general, the son of Philip of Macedon who was chosen to lead the Greek States against the Persians, this Alexander began his astonishing conquest by crossing the great river Granicus where the Persians had entrenched themselves. This began a sweeping series of victories, whereby Alexander deploying new and innovative tactics, destroyed the seemingly invincible troops. See below illustration.

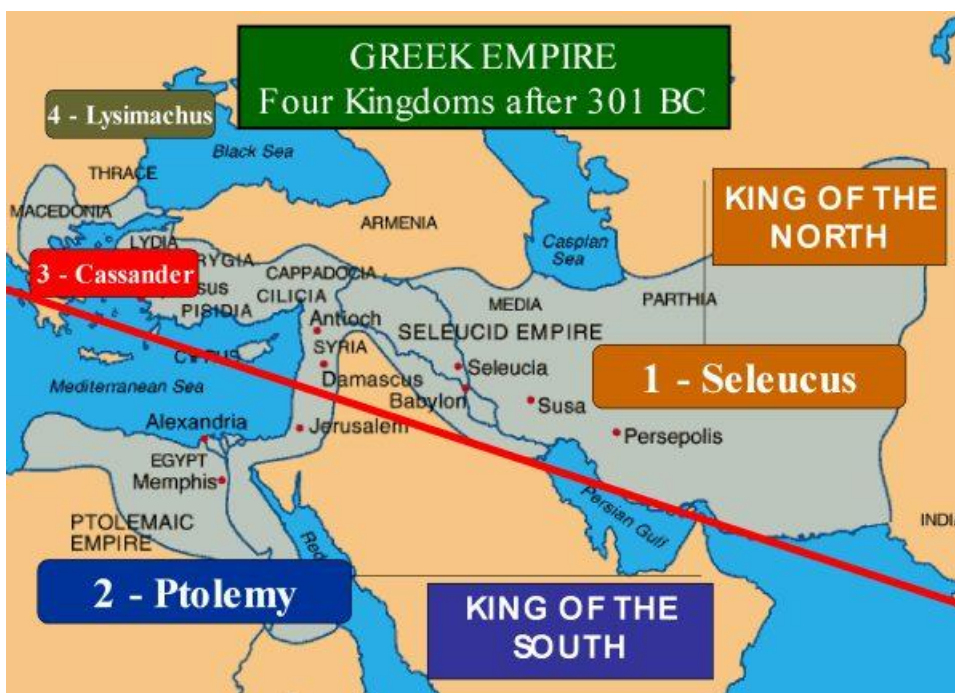


The extent of the one horned goat power achieved in a few short years

Daniel was then informed that at the peak of this expansion, the power of the one horn was broken. *8 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.*

Alexander at age 33 died in a drunken orgy, brought on by his overconfidence in himself, and belief in thinking himself a god. This is interpreted in the chapter: *22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.*

His empire was quickly divided between his four favourite generals. Ptolemy, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Cassander. It is noteworthy of course that the four horns correspond to the four heads of the leopard in the vision of Chapter 7



9 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.

This corresponds to the section on the chart: However there is an important difference. This little horn which grows in chapter 8 does



not have eyes or mouth. This is because it is not religious but a military power. It is the same power – the same horn, but a different aspect of it.

This little horn was the King of the North shown in the above map, it was known as the Selucid power, which was taken over by the power of the growing Roman empire. This included the *pleasant* land. In Jeremiah 3:19, and Zechariah 7:14, the land of Israel is described as the *pleasant* land. It actually means prominence, splendour and same word actually as a gazelle. But this beauty would be consumed by the Roman beast, battered by the little horn power. In BC 40 Herod was appointed by the Romans to rule as King over the Jews.

10 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.

The relevance of the prophecy is the connection to Daniel and his countrymen and generations of believers following, it relates to the history of the Jews. Thus, the *host of heaven* were the leaders of the Jews, the ruling class of the Sadducees, who had lifted themselves up against the Holy Child of God. These who had wanted a king like all the other nations, and rejected God from ruling over them, and who



killed the true King of the Jews were themselves stamped upon and oppressed.

11 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.

It was this Roman power who crucified the Prince of Peace, and who destroyed the place of the sanctuary, and left not one stone standing upon another. (Luke 19:44) Jerusalem, was besieged in AD 70, and those who survived the siege by eating one another, were slaughtered, or burnt alive as the city was destroyed or taken into captivity.

Daniel was shown how this little horn was given power and allowed to continue to oppress persecute and wax mighty against the “truth”. Why? He was told why – verse 12: *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.*

The Pagan Roman power persecuted the Jews, and in time the Christians. The Apostle Paul spoke of this time: 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 *...And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Daniel could see that there were unspeakable tragedies ahead for his people, where they would reject God, reject their King, despite being taught lessons by their exile in Babylon. He could see through these visions how mighty empires would crush his people, would destroy and make utterly desolate the Holy Sanctuary. So he hears himself in the vision asking a question of a “certain saint” This *certain saint* is the word *Palmoni* which means Wonderful Numberer. An angel had been appointed to reveal times and seasons to Daniel and

subsequent generations of believers to encourage and strengthen their faith.

The question he asks is how long? How long would this desolation and downtreading of the sanctuary and the host?

Jesus later gave the answer in Luke 21:24 *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

The continual occupation of Jerusalem and control of the place of the sanctuary by one empire after another would carry on until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Daniel was being shown the beginning of the Greek period of oppression of Jewry, and he wanted to know how long it would be before the sanctuary would stop being downtrodden by these nations. He was given the answer by the Wonderful Numberer.

14 *And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred evening-mornings[days]; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.* (The word Days is in brackets as it should read Evening-Mornings – a phrase which identifies it with the Greek period, a detailed explanation can be given if required)

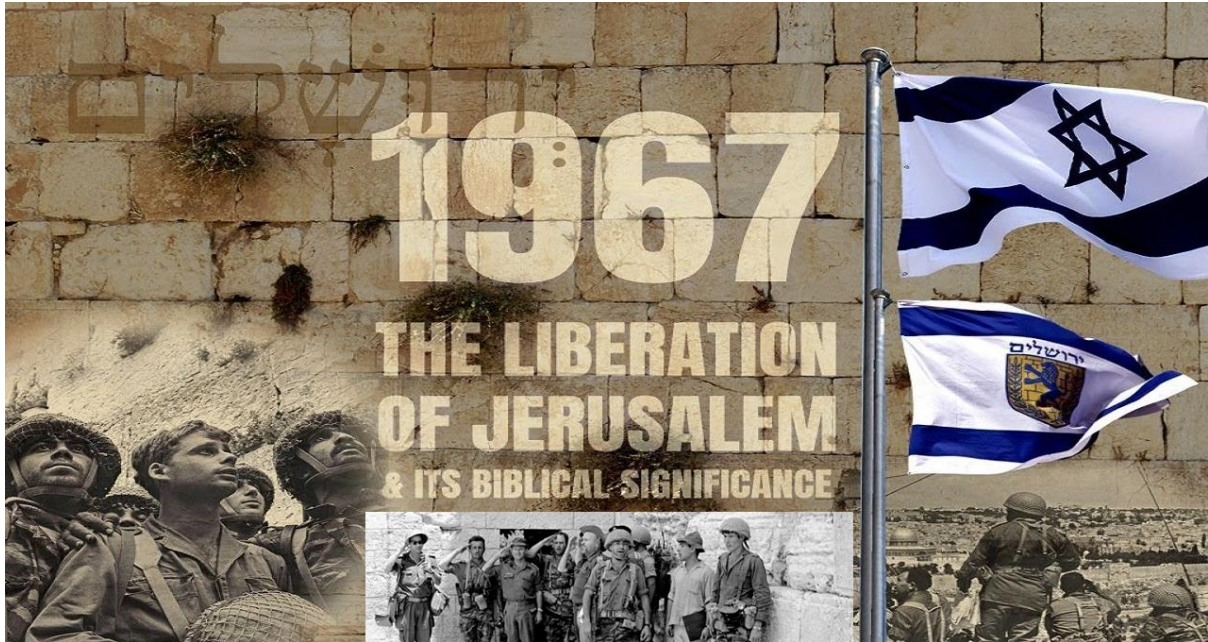
Looking at the time from the beginning of the Greek period of oppression, - from the time of the goat power taking away the daily, when Alexander the Great triumphed over the Persians and entered Jerusalem in BC 333, 2300 years would elapse before Jerusalem would be liberated again.

The Wonderful Numberer did not get it wrong, as the manifestation of the power of God. John 14:29: *And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.*

333 BC + 2300 = 1967 AD.

This was the momentous year when the fledgling Jewish state recently established just 19 years before through the over ruling

hand of the God of Daniel and all the saints, permitted the Jewish host to overthrow 6 powerful Arab armies – in just 6 days. This was the year that they wrested control of Jerusalem and liberated the city from the Gentiles.



26 And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.

Psalm 119:160 **Thy word is true from the beginning:** and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Such a Revelation was overwhelming to the prophet, such a wide sweeping arc of prophetic history revealed at a stroke in a short vision, the suffering of his own dear people, the suppression of Truth, the long night of the Gentiles, all left him feeling physically sick. Is this not an experience so many of the saints are familiar with, as they groan inwardly at the victory of King Sin, and yearn for the full liberation of the new man of the Spirit?

There is only one remedy. Let us rise up and get on with the King's business.

Brother Terry