

Coming soon - the Kingdom of God on Earth - 12

Two years after Daniel received his prophetic vision of a series of wild beasts, which represented the kingdom of men, Daniel received another vision from God to fill in more details of what was to transpire during some of that time.

“I saw in the vision...a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last” - Daniel 8:3. A ram was the symbol of the Medes and the Persians. The Persian kings wore ram's heads made of gold instead of a crown. The divine explanation in v.20 was “The ram which you saw, having the two horns - they are the kings of Media and Persia.” The two horns on the ram represent the dual monarchy of the Medo-Persian kingdom.

Media (now western Iran) was signified by the shorter horn and was the more ancient of the two kingdoms. Persia (now eastern Iran), the higher horn, was of little political consequence until the time of Cyrus, but during his reign and his immediate successors, Persia attained a political power greatly superior to that of Media. Median kings reigned for only two years whereas Persian kings reigned for 209 years.

There has been uncovered in the ruins of Persepolis, the old capital city of Persia, several ram's heads with two horns one higher than the other. Also a ram's head is found stamped on some ancient Persian coins.

In his vision, Daniel also 4 “saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no beast could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.” The principle theatre of their wars was against the Scythians northward, against the Egyptians, southward - Rollin, *The Ancient History*, Vol.3, p.211.

Daniel continues, 5 “And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.”

This refers to Greece, in the west of Persia, under the leadership of Alexander the Great. The goat was a very appropriate symbol of the Grecian or Macedonian people. The Latin historian Justin cited a Macedonian historian concerning the legend of Karanus, their first king. Going with a multitude of Greeks to seek a new habitation in Macedonia, he was advised by an oracle to take the goats for his guides. Afterwards, seeing a herd of goats, he followed them to Edessa, and there fixed the seat of his empire, and made the goats his ensigns or standards, and called the place Agea, the goat's town and the people Aegeadoc, the goat's people - Wikiped. - this is also the derivative of the Aegean sea.

By the time Alexander was thirty years of age he had conquered all Asia. The rapidity of his conquests: this speed of conquest is aptly represented by the goat arriving “without touching the ground”. The same idea of speed is seen in the Leopard with four wings in the Daniel 7 vision.

Daniel 8:21 clearly explains v.5, “And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king” who was Alexander. The male goat's goal in his eastward progress was to attack the ram.