

Coming soon - the Kingdom of God on Earth - 13

Daniel described his vision in Daniel 8:5 “And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west”. Verse 21 clearly explains, “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, which we earlier saw was the emblem which the Persians chose for their nation.

Daniel continued in v.6 “Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.” These words well describe the severe battles between the Greeks and the Persians. Alexander first defeated the generals of Darius at the river Granicus in Phrygia (district in Turkey). He next attacked and totally routed Darius at the straits of Issus in Cilicia (south Turkey). After that, at the plains of Arbela in Assyria (Iraq).

In that first victory won by Alexander, the Persians, numbering perhaps 40,000, occupied the far bank of the Granicus River, doubtless expecting to bring the Greek invasion to a grinding halt. However a detachment of Alexander's troops, warding off a shower of javelins, forded the stream and clambered up the opposite bank. Alexander followed and charged the Persian line. He killed two relatives king, Darius, who himself narrowly escaped death. Alexander's biographer recorded that the Macedonians lost only 115 men.

Daniel continued in v.7 “And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.”

Such was the savagery of the strife, that the Greeks sacked and burned the royal city of Persepolis, the capital of the Persian Empire. This ferocity came after Darius III had attempted to buy off Alexander’s captains with bribes and endeavoured to persuade some of his friends to assassinate him. As a result, Alexander, was determined never to rest till he had destroyed Darius and his whole empire. In the end Darius suffered the fate he had planned for Alexander when he was assassinated by the treacherous provincial governor of Bactria (Afghanistan).

Daniel continued in v.8 “Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.” 22 “As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.” Alexander, while in Babylon, was taken ill after a prolonged banquet and drinking bout. He died ten days later, being only 33 years old after a reign of only 12 years and eight months.

After this the army generals announced plans to prepare one of Alexander’s sons to reign in his father’s place. This was strictly cosmetic, to allow the generals to carve up the empire among themselves. Within fifteen years all of Alexander's family who might have reigned were murdered, and in this way the great horn of the Macedonian kingdom was broken.

The historian mentions the names of 17 generals who ruled over various territories at that time and states that there were additional territories ruled by unnamed generals. There followed 22 years of conflict among these generals, until 301 BC at the battle of Ipsus (west-central Turkey).