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## Daniel 7.

(2014)

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## Daniel 7.

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### Topics.

- Daniel has a dream and visions in his head.
- The first world kingdom (a lion with eagle wings).
- The second world kingdom (a bear with three ribs).
- The third world kingdom (a leopard with four wings).
- The fourth world kingdom (a beast with iron teeth and ten horns).
- Constantine the great.
- The little horn and the abomination of desolation.
- The ten horn/kings and ten persecutions of the Roman Empire.
- The lion, the bear, the leopard and the fourth beast.
- Times, times, and half a time.
- The Vatican, the Catholic Church, Rome and the dragon.
- The return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**INTRODUCTION:** this amazing chapter presents in vision form the world history beginning from Babylon and continuing through Medes/Persians, Greece and to the rise of the Roman Empire. It then proceeds to paint a picture of the final ungodly world empire lead by an ungodly little horn. These are pictured as rising up out of Rome and developing over time and history to the powerful ten kings of Europe and their final powerful leader in the latter days. This final ungodly world empire is seen as an extension of Rome extending through the legs of the metal man of king Nebuchadnezzars amazing dream in Daniel chapter two that ultimately become the ungodly beast nations of the earth dwellers.

**NOTE:** for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### Daniel has a Dream and Visions.

Daniel 7:1 ----- <sup>1</sup>In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter.

**Notice:** this is the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Belshazzar reign.

### Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon died and was followed by:-

- Amel-Marduk.
- The Evil-Merodach.
- Nergal-Shar-usar (Neriglissar).
- Labashi-Marduk (who reigned only a few months).
- Nabonidus.
- Belshazzar.

Belshazzar means, may Bel protect the king he is sometimes referred to as the son of Nebuchadnezzar when in actual fact his father was Nabonidus the last true king of Babylon. Referring to Belshazzar as the son of Nebuchadnezzar is not an error of translation but is in conformity to general Semitic usage where one's descendant is frequently referred to as his son.

**As Daniel lay on his bed he saw a dream and visions in his head:** visions can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. In most cases God gives the picture or vision then the prophet speaks or writes it in their own words. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind).

A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to. The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet who then proceeds to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision.

### **Daniel's Vision.**

Daniel 7:2-3 ----- <sup>2</sup>Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. <sup>3</sup>And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

**Four winds of heaven:** refers to four angels.

**The great sea:** refers to the population of the world.

**Stirring up:** carries the idea of bringing to the surface.

**Four great beasts:** refers to four great kings and their nations.

**Up out of the sea:** refers to the four kings arising up from the masses of people on planet earth.

**Different from one another:** refers to each king and nation being separate and different from each other.

Putting it all together Daniel sees in vision form four angels bringing up out of the world's population four great kings and their nations which are separate kingdoms from each other and in various ways are different to each other (v17-18). This is the same vision that Nebuchadnezzar had in Daniel chapter two, but in this vision of Daniel's it is showing the character of the four kingdoms (beasts) depicted by wild and fiercely ferocious animals.

**NOTE:** Daniel chapter two presents these Kingdoms as precious metals this is because they are seen from man's view whereas in Daniel chapter seven the same kingdoms look like wild and fiercely ferocious animals this is because it is God's view of the same kingdoms.

Following are the four kingdoms of Nebuchadnezzars vision: -

#### **1<sup>st</sup> world kingdom.**

Babylon (head of gold) (Dan. 2:32a) interpretation (Dan. 2:37).

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> world kingdom.**

Media Persia (silver chest and arms) (Dan. 2:32a) interpretation (Dan. 2:39a).

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> world kingdom.**

Greece (bronze middle and thighs) (Dan. 2:32a) interpretation (Dan. 2:39b).

#### 4<sup>th</sup> world kingdom.

Rome legs, feet and toes (Dan. 2:33) interpretation (Dan. 2:40-41) (Dan. 2:42-43).

#### The First World Kingdom (A Lion with Eagle Wings).

Daniel 7:4 ----- 4<sup>th</sup> The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.

**The first king and his kingdom:** is pictured as a lion that had eagle wings, but the wings were torn off, meaning it could not fly or stand up, to arise up again on its feet it had be lifted up by others and once it was standing again it was given the mind of a man (v17-18). The lion with eagle wings is *the head made of gold* that Daniel saw in his vision in Daniel chapter two which was Babylon the first world power of this vision (Dan. 2:32a) (Dan. 2:37).

**Like a lion and had eagles' wings:** is Babylon in full glory, power and influence symbolised by the wings.

**Its wings were plucked off:** means Babylon will have its glory, power and influence taken.

**Lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man:** means that even though Babylon will have its glory, power and influence taken as a kingdom it will remain.

**The mind of a man was given to it:** carries the idea that a man who treats humans with decency and compassion will become the king of Babylon, contrasted to the oppression and cruelty of its king at this time.

**The history:** Cyrus the king of Media Persia invaded and defeated Babylon and took the throne. Upon Babylon's defeat Cyrus liberated the enslaved populations and gave Israel written permission to return to their homeland and rebuild their beloved city Jerusalem and the temple of God. The LORD not only called Cyrus the king of Persia His anointed shepherd and called him by name, but also equipped Cyrus for the battle (Isaiah 45:1, 28). Added to this the LORD says, even though Cyrus (a secular king) does not know Him, He calls Cyrus by name and will go before him (Isaiah 45:2-3).

#### The Second World Kingdom (A Bear with Three Ribs).

Daniel 7:5 ----- 5<sup>th</sup> And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'

**Like a bear:** means strong and powerful.

**Raised up on one side:** means one side is stronger than the other.

**Three ribs in its mouth between its teeth:** means it defeats and conquerors three nations.

**Arise, devour much flesh:** means it continues to conquer many nations.

**The second king and his kingdom:** is pictured as a ferocious bear that was standing on one side with three ribs between its teeth destroying and conquering multitudes of nations (v17-18), the bear with three ribs in its mouth is *the chest and arms made of silver* that Daniel saw in his vision in Daniel chapter two which was Media Persia the second world power of this vision (Dan. 2:32a) (Dan. 2:39a).

**The history:** Media existed as a kingdom in its own right prior to Persia, but Cyrus the Great king of Persia toppled the Median rulers and turned Media into the Kingdom of Persia. He then conquered the Empire of Babylon in 539 B.C., and established the Persian Empire as the pre-eminent power of the region. In the 6th century BC, the Persian Empire was the largest empire in the world. Media was the weaker with Persia being the stronger (Darius 1 continued what Cyrus had done).

The bear lifted up on one side with three ribs in its mouth between its teeth was Persia who conquered three great nations in its rise to power.

### **The Third World Kingdom (a Leopard with Four Wings).**

Daniel 7:6 ----- <sup>6</sup>After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

**Like a leopard:** refers to Greece.

**Four wings of a bird on its back:** refer to four kingdoms.

**Four heads:** refers to the four kings of the four kingdoms.

**The third king and His kingdom:** is pictured like a leopard with four heads and four wings on its back with enormous governing authority and ruling power, influence and control (v17-18). The leopard with four wings and a bird on its back is the *middle and thighs made of bronze* that Daniel saw in his vision in Daniel chapter two which was Greece the third world kingdom (Dan. 2:32a) (Dan. 2:39b).

**The History:** the Media Persian Empire fell to Alexander the Great he was the king of Macedonia, and though not officially the king of Greece he conquered and subdued the surrounding nations and the empire of Greece became firmly under his Macedonian control, furthermore he demand that all Greek cities worship him as a god (the demand, though not well received, became the standard mode thereafter for imposing royal authority on nominally free cities.).

Even though the Persian king, Darius III armies had advanced to take up a position on the eastern bank of the River Granicus and the Persian army contained about 20,000 cavalry Alexander had spectacular success and defeated the Persian forces.

Macedonian officials were installed in place of the Persians. Cities and the nations under Persian rule welcomed Alexander as a liberator, thus Alexander could call himself master of the Persian Empire. (Alexander had become ruler of Persia by right of conquest). Alexander founded as many as twenty or more cities in the course of his campaigns, and the city of Alexandria grew into one of the greatest cities of the ancient world. He arranged a mass marriage of ninety-two Macedonian officers (including himself) to Persian women as a measure for effective cooperation between Macedonians and Persians.

**Alexander's death:** created enormous problems because there were no plans for a succession. On Alexander's deathbed he had been asked: "To whom do you leave your kingdom?" and had replied, unhelpfully, "To the strongest".

### **The Four Strongest Generals were: -**

1. **Ptolemy 1 the King of Egypt:** (the first of the four strongest generals who arose after Alexander's death). Ptolemy I (c. 367-283 BC), called Ptolemy Soter (preserver), king of Egypt (323-285 BC), founder of the Ptolemaic dynasty. The son of Lagus, a Macedonian of common birth, Ptolemy was a general in the army of Alexander the Great and took a leading part in Alexander's later campaigns in Asia Minor. On the death of Alexander in 323 BC, his empire was divided among the Diadochi (successors) by the imperial regent Perdiccas and Ptolemy was appointed satrap (governor) of Egypt and Libya.

He was from the first an independent ruler, engaging in long wars with other Macedonian rulers in order to secure and extend his power. Ptolemy was prevented from holding Cyprus and parts of Greece, but he resisted invasions of Egypt and Rhodes and occupied Palestine and Cyrenaica. In 305 BC he assumed the title of king. Alexandria was his capital, and he founded the Library of Alexandria. He was the author of a lost history of the campaigns of Alexander. In 285 BC Ptolemy I abdicated in favour of one of his younger sons, who became Ptolemy II. (See Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Antigonos).

2. **Cassander King of Macedonia:** (the second of the four strongest generals who arose after Alexander's death). Cassander (305-297 BC) was the son of the Macedonian general Antipater. After the death of Alexander the Great in 323, Antipater took control of Macedonia and was made regent in 321. Upon Antipater's death in 319, the regency was handed to his colleague Polyperchon, leaving a subordinate position for his son Cassander. Cassander waged war against Polyperchon, successfully gaining control of Athens in 317. He governed Athens for a decade through the statesman and orator Demetrius of Phaleron.

In 316 Cassander had Alexander's mother, Olympias, killed and in the same year married Alexander's half-sister Thessalonica. Not long after, he slew Roxana, Alexander's Persian wife, and their son, Alexander IV, thus ending Alexander's dynasty. Under Cassander, Greece was ruled by a small, elite group backed by the military. He re-founded Cassandria as his capital on the site of Potidaea, and in honour of his wife Thessalonica he founded Salonica (Thessaloníki) nearby.

In 305, despite the ongoing warfare, Cassander proclaimed himself king of Macedonia. His rivals did not recognize this title, however, until after the Battle of Ipsus in 301, in which Cassander joined with Lysimachus, king of Thrace, and Seleucus I of Babylonia to defeat and kill Antigonos I, their strongest rival to gain control over the empire conquered by Alexander. After his death in 297, Cassander was succeeded by his brother-in-law Demetrius I, son of Antigonos. (See Ptolemy above and Lysimachus, Seleucus and Antigonos in the following notes).

3. **Lysimachus King of Thrace** (the third of the four strongest generals who arose after Alexander's death). Lysimachus (306-281 BC), king of Thrace (306-281 BC). He was a general in the army of Alexander the Great, but after the latter's death in 323 BC and the disintegration of his empire, Lysimachus was appointed satrap of Thrace. Involving himself at first in the subjugation of the region and strengthening his own grip on power, he was later forced to ally himself with Ptolemy I, Cassander, and Seleucus I, other *diadochi* (successors) of Alexander, to curtail the expansionist intentions of Antigonos I of Macedonia, whom they defeated at the Battle of Ipsus in 301 BC. Lysimachus then instigated aggressive policies of his own, taking over the kingdom of Thrace and assuming the title of king.

Following the defeat of Antigonos, his territory extended across western Asia Minor, from Hellespont to Phrygia. He gained political ties with Egypt by marrying Arsinoë II, daughter of Ptolemy I, in about 300 BC, and formed a coalition with Ptolemy, Seleucus, and Pyrrhus of Epirus against Demetrius I (son of Antigonos), who had invaded Macedonia in 294 BC; Demetrius surrendered to Seleucus nine years later and Lysimachus became king of Macedonia.

Arsinoë II was involved in a power struggle at court to ensure that her sons would be recognized as Lysimachus's heirs. She persuaded her husband to kill Agathocles, his son by another wife. However, Agathocles's widow appealed to Seleucus for retribution, and Lysimachus was killed in the ensuing battle of Corupedium in Lydia in 281 BC. (See Ptolemy, Cassander, Seleucus and Antigonos).

4. **Seleucus I, King of Syria** (the fourth of the four strongest generals who arose after Alexander's death). Seleucus I, called Nicator in Greek (in means the conqueror) (c. 358-280 BC), king of Syria (301-280 BC). The founder of the Seleucid dynasty, he was a Macedonian general who served under Alexander the Great, and in the second partition of Alexander's empire in 321 BC was made satrap (governor) of Babylon, becoming king of Babylonia in 312 BC.

In 302 BC he joined the confederacy against Macedonia and in 301, upon the defeat and death of King Antigonos I of Macedonia, obtained the largest share of the spoils, including the whole of Syria and a great part of Asia Minor. He built numerous cities, including Antioch and several named after him, including Seleucia on the Tigris, Seleucia Pieria, and Seleucia Tracheotis.

He proclaimed himself king of Macedonia but was assassinated soon after. (See Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus and Antigonus).

#### NOTE.

**Antigonus 1 took control of Asia Minor.** Some scholars have Antigonus a general in Alexander's army as one of the four, because he almost became the sole successor to Alexander's empire after Alexander's death, but Lysimachus, king of Thrace, and Seleucus I, king of Babylonia, in alliance with other generals, killed him in battle.

**The history of Antigonus:** Antigonus I, called Monophthalmus (Greek, "one-eyed") or Cyclops (382-301 BC), king of Macedon (306-301 BC). *He was a general in the army of Alexander the Great.* After Alexander's death (323 BC), Antigonus I secured a large part of Asia Minor as a result of the breakup of Alexander's empire. In the ensuing wars with the other successors, or *diadochi*, to the empire, he claimed at various times Syria, Persia, and Greece, as well as Macedonia, and, aided by his son Demetrius I, he also attacked Egypt.

Antigonus almost realized the ambition of all Hellenistic monarchs to become the sole successor to Alexander's empire, but Lysimachus, king of Thrace, and Seleucus I, king of Babylonia, in alliance with other generals, finally defeated and killed him at the Battle of Ipsus, in Phrygia (now in Turkey). Demetrius retained the Macedonia kingdom and its dependent Greek cities for the Antigonid dynasty. (See Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus and Seleucus).

#### **Alexander, the Great Horn between the He-Goat's Eyes (Daniel 8).**

Although Alexander is not named in the Bible, he is described prophetically in Daniel chapter Eight.

- As I (Daniel) 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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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: 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. <sup>8</sup>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. 8:5-8).
- As for the ram that you (Daniel) saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. <sup>21</sup>And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king. <sup>22</sup>As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power (Dan. 8:20-22).

The prophecy identifies the ram as the kings of Media and Persia, the he-goat as Greece and the great horn being the Great ruler of Greece. Alexander as the great horn between the eyes of the he goat (Greece) came from the west against the ram with two horns (Media Persia) which was standing before the river He defeated the ram, and became very great until the great horn (Alexander) was broken (died) and four of his notable ones (Generals) arose in his place (Dan 8:18-22).

**The historical fulfilment is breathtaking in its strikingly accurate detail:** Alexander (the horn) led the Greek armies (the he-goat) across the Hellespont into Asia Minor in 334 B.C. and defeated the Persian forces (the ram) at the river Granicus. Moving with amazing rapidity the armies of Greece (the goat) lead by Alexander (the horn) touched not the ground (Dan. 8:5) he again met and defeated the Persians (the ram) at Issus. Turning south, he moved down the Syrian coast, advancing to Egypt, which fell to him without a blow.

Turning again to the east, he met the armies of Darius or Persia for the last time, defeating them (the ram) in the battle of Arbela, E of the Tigris River. Rapidly he occupied Babylon, then Susa the Persepolis, the capitals of Persia.

The next years were spent in consolidating the new empire. Alexander took Persians into his army, encouraged his soldiers to marry Asians and began to Hellenize Asia through the establishment of Greek cities in the eastern Empire. He marched his armies eastward as far as India where they won a great battle at the Hydaspes River.

**Alexander the great horn is broken:** the army however, refused to advance farther, and Alexander was forced to return to Persepolis. While still making plans for further conquests, he contracted a fever. Weakened by the strenuous campaign and increasing dissipation, he was unable to throw off the fever and died in Babylon in 323 BC., at the age of 32.

**The death of Alexander** (the broken horn) following the death of Alexander, the Macedonian generals began to partition his vast empire among themselves. The empire was eventually divided among four Macedonian generals (Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus and Seleucus) nevertheless the disagreements arising from this division resulted in a series of wars from 322 to 275 BC, many of which took place in Greece. Because of these disagreements and divisions one of the characteristics of the Hellenistic period, that lasted from the death of Alexander until the acquisition of Greece as it became a Roman province (the fourth Beast) in 146 BC, was the deterioration of the Greek city-states as political entities and the gradual decline of Greek political independence as a whole.

#### **The Fourth World Kingdom (A Beast with Iron Teeth and Ten Horns).**

Daniel 7:7 ----- 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

**The fourth king and his kingdom:** is pictured as being different from the previous kings and their kingdoms, this king appears terrifying and exceedingly strong, it had ten horns, iron teeth and anything it didn't destroy with its teeth it crushed with its feet. The beast with iron teeth and ten horns is the, *legs, feet and toes* that Daniel saw in his vision in Daniel chapter two which was Rome the fourth world kingdom (Dan. 2:40-41) (Dan. 2:42-43). The legs of iron continue on down to the feet and ten toes mixed with iron and clay.

**The final beast:** is Rome with all its affiliated nations extending on through history until in the last days it rises once again as the final world power of the Word.

**The History:** the early history of the small but powerful city-state of Rome began with its gradual domination of Mediterranean powers, especially many of the states and nations of Greece. They built up their empire between the 3rd century BC and the 3rd century AD., and at Rome's height the Empire stretched from North-Western Europe to the Near East and encompassed all the lands of the Mediterranean.

**Rome and Religion:** the Romans made a fundamental distinction between state religion and Roman religion. Roman state religion was considered the formal link between men and the gods. Their religion was seen as a type of contract between Rome and the highest god amongst all their gods. They held that their highest god would look after Rome's security and progress, providing the state looked after the god's needs by supplying the proper sacrifices and worship.

**Rome and the Christian Titles:** Lord, the Son of God and Saviour.

These titles were not pious terms in the first century, but titles of Caesar, when Christians were saying Jesus is Lord, Son of God and Saviour. Rome understood them to be taking the titles of Caesar and giving them to Jesus and so challenging the divine authority of the emperor.

**Many of the Caesars of Rome wanted to be known as a god:** Roman Caesar Caligula AD 40 demanded grovelling worship and set himself up in the Jewish temple at Jerusalem, he was prepared to sacrifice the entire Jewish Nation for this worship.



When Agrippa left Rome to rule his own country where to his subjects' surprise he presented himself as king and put on a garment of woven silver and entered the theatre at day break, then when the sun's first rays touched his wondrous web of silver, Agrippa's flatterers immediately raised their voices addressing him as a god

**Constantine the Great:** was the first emperor of Rome to adopt Christianity. During his reign, Christians, previously persecuted, were granted freedom of worship. Constantine also gave huge estates and other gifts to the Christian Church. He also established a capital in the eastern provinces, naming it Constantinople (now Istanbul). It later became the capital of the Byzantine Empire.

**Eastern and Western Rome:** (the iron legs of Daniel's vision in chapter 2 and 7). Major reorganization of the empire was undertaken by Diocletian (ruled 284-305), who formally divided Roman territory into a western Empire and an eastern Empire. The twin empires were again united by Constantine (ruled 306-337), who adopted Christianity (formerly a relatively unimportant religion) and who moved the centre of imperial government from Rome to the new city of Constantinople, in Asia Minor, but on Constantine's death the empire was again divided formally into eastern and western, between his sons Constans and Constantius II.

Over the following centuries the western Empire fell steadily into hostile forces and its final end came in 476 with the death of its last emperor, Romulus Augustulus, but in the east the Empire of Rome continued in one form or another, for many centuries, nevertheless the days were over when the Empire could be called Roman.

The lands governed from Constantinople are usually referred to as the Byzantine Empire (it eventually fell to the Muslim Turks in 1453). The cause of the collapse of the mighty Roman Empire was not due solely to its failed military battles but mostly because the Empire had grown too big for its resources. Extended frontiers required a huge army, always a vast drain on revenues, and in turn generating an increasingly unwieldy bureaucracy, there were simply too many unproductive mouths to be fed by too few farmers and peasants.

**The real heir of the Roman Empire:** the papal church more than anything was the real heir of the Roman Empire. The papacy continued to be based in Rome and to exert enormous authority over most of Europe, keeping alive not only many of the ideas of the Roman world but also a sense of a wider community which looked to the ancient city for support and leadership.

**Rome and the Vatican City:** Rome today is the capital city of Italy and the Vatican City, the seat of the papacy of the Roman Catholic Church is located in an enclave within Rome and is recognized as an independent state by the Italian government. The majestic dome of St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City dominates the Roman skyline. The Vatican became recognised as an independent papal country that is culturally and politically distinct and different from its surrounding and larger neighbours.

A century ago, Rome was a quiet city; its people were living largely in the past, but today not only is it the capital and nerve centre of Italy, but the seat of the Roman Catholic Church and the headquarters of major international agencies and multinational corporations, Rome has assumed a place of worldwide importance and power. (See the title: "The Vatican, the Catholic Church, Rome and the Dragon," at the end of this study).

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### **The Ten Horns of Daniel chapter Seven.**

- I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns (Dan. 7:7).

Throughout history there have been three main thoughts regarding the ten horns of the fourth beast and the little horn (Daniel 7:7-8). Some have thought they are the ten kingdoms of the following three nations: -

- 1 Syria prior to Rome.
- 2 Rome during the time of the apostles.
- 3 Rome to arise in the latter days.

All three compliment the prophecy as each proceeding group of kings embraces a greater population and a greater area of land, added to this the fulfilment of the first two (Syria and Rome) acts as evidence that the final ten horn/kingsdoms of Rome to arise in the latter days will appear at the right time in God's eternal plan.

## Scenario One

### The Ten Horn/Kings of Syria.

**INTRODUCTION:** the following is the first scenario of the ten horns of the fourth beast spoken of in the following verse: -

- I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns (Dan. 7:7)

In this first scenario the beast is said to be the kingdom of Syria, the Empire of the Seleucid dynasty and the ten most significant kings of this dynasty who were enormously cruel and oppressive to the Jews. There are another two scenario's that appear later in history (i.e. the ten kingdoms of Rome that arose at the time of the apostles and the early church and of course the final ten kingdoms of Rome to arise in the latter days. We will look at these two scenarios after travelling through the Empire of the Seleucid dynasty and the ten most significant kingdoms that arose from it who persecuted the Jews.

The Syria, the Empire of the Seleucid dynasty was diverse from the kingdoms that went before it, because none of the preceding kingdoms compelled the Jews to renounce their religion, but the kings of Syria did, and used the Jews barbarously. Their armies and commanders were the great iron teeth of the fourth beast with which they devoured and broke in pieces the people of God, and they trampled upon the residue of them. The ten horns are then said to be ten most powerful and influential kings of the Seleucids, dynasty of Macedonian Kings that reigned in the Middle East from the fourth to the first century BC and was established when the Empire of Alexander the Great was divided among his followers. Their reigns spanned between 312 BC and 164 BC (with brief interruptions).

**The Empire of the Seleucid dynasty of Macedonian covered:** the Syrian Arab Republic in the Middle East, it was bordered to the north by Turkey, to the east by Iraq, to the south by Jordan and Israel, and to the west by Lebanon and the Mediterranean Sea, its capital and largest city was Damascus.

**Ten horn kingdoms that arise after the death of Alexander the Great:** the first of the ten horn/kings are the four strongest Generals that Alexander the Great kingdom was given to, making Seleucus I of the following Seleucid Empire the fourth horn/king and Antiochus IV Epiphanes of the Seleucid Empire the 11<sup>th</sup> (i.e. the little horn that arose out of the ten). On Alexander deathbed he had been asked: "To whom do you leave your kingdom?" and he replied, "To the strongest".

The Four Strongest Generals that took Alexander's Place.

1. **The first horn king and the first strongest general:** Ptolemy 1 king of Egypt (323-285 BC) Ptolemy I Soter (meaning preserver) had been a Macedonian general in the army of Alexander the Great who after Alexander's death (323 BC) assumed the title king of Egypt and became the founder of the Ptolemaic dynasty.
2. **The second horn king and the second strongest general:** Cassander king of Macedonia (305-297 BC) Cassander who had been a Macedonian general in the army of Alexander the Great, proclaimed himself king of Macedonia after

the death of Alexander. He had Alexander's mother, Olympias, killed and in the same year married Alexander's half-sister Thessalonica, not long after, he slew Roxana, Alexander's Persian wife, and their son, Alexander IV, thus ending Alexander's dynasty.

3. **The third horn king and the third strongest general:** Lysimachus king of Thrace (306-281 BC) Lysimachus who had been a Macedonian general in the army of Alexander the Great, aggressively took over the kingdom of Thrace after the death of Alexander and assumed the title of king. His wife, Arsinoë II (daughter of Ptolemy I) to ensure that her sons would be recognized as Lysimachus' heirs persuaded her husband to kill Agathocles (his son by another wife). However, Agathocles's widow appealed to Seleucus for retribution, and Lysimachus was killed in battle.
4. **The fourth horn king and he fourth strongest general:** Seleucus I, Nicator (meaning the conqueror) king of Syria (301-280BC). Seleucus I, had been a Macedonian general in the army of Alexander the Great during which time he became king of Babylon. After the death of Alexander he also became king of Syria and the founder of the Seleucid dynasty. He built numerous cities, including Antioch and several others named after him, including Seleucia on the Tigris, Seleucia Pieria, and Seleucia Tracheotis. He proclaimed himself king of Macedonia.

Seleucus I, king of Syria and founder of the Seleucid dynasty was a Macedonian general who served under Alexander the Great, and in the second partition of Alexander's empire in 321 BC was made satrap (governor) of Babylon, becoming king of Babylonia in 312 BC. In 302 BC he joined the confederacy against Macedonia and in 301, upon the defeat and death of King Antigonus I of Macedonia, Seleucus I obtained the largest share of the spoils, including the whole of Syria and a great part of Asia Minor. Seleucus I built numerous cities, including Antioch and several named after him, including Seleucia on the Tigris, Seleucia Pieria, and Seleucia Tracheotis. He proclaimed himself king of Macedonia but was assassinated soon after.

- 5 **The fifth horn king:** Antiochus I called Soter (281-261 BC) Soter in Greek means, the preserver he reigned 19 years. He was the second of the Seleucids and the son of Seleucus I, one of the generals and successors of Alexander the Great. In 275 BC Antiochus 1 won a victory over the Galatians in Asia Minor but lost considerable territory to Ptolemy 11. Antiochus 1 was killed in battle during a war (263-261 BC) against Eumenes 1 (reigned 263-241 BC), ruler of the kingdom of Pergamum in Asia Minor.
- 6 **The sixth horn king:** Antiochus II called Theos (261-246 BC) he reigned 15 years over the Seleucid Empire. Theos in Greek means, the divine he was the younger son and successor of Antiochus I. The citizens of Miletus, in Asia Minor, called him Theos after he freed them from the tyrant Timarchus in 258 BC. After a long and costly war (260-255 BC) against Ptolemy II, king of Egypt, Antiochus 11 regained most of the territories his father had lost only to be defeated in 250 BC by his own satrap, or provincial governor, Diodotus I Soter (reigned c. 256-235 BC), who seized the Syrian province of Bactria.

Subsequently, Antiochus 11 also lost the province of Parthia to the Parthian dynasty of the Arsacids. Antiochus II had left Berenice and her infant son in Antioch so he could live again with Laodice in Asia Minor, but Laodice took the occasion to poison Antiochus II while her partisans at Antioch murdered Berenice and her infant son she then proclaimed her own son Seleucus II Callinicus king.

**NOTE:** Diodotus I Soter was Seleucid satrap of Bactria who rebelled against Seleucid rule soon after the death of Antiochus II. Diodotus defected and proclaimed independence from the Seleucid Empire and was therefore not a Seleucid king. After the death of the Seleucid ruler Antiochus II Diodotus wrested for independence for his territory and proclaimed himself king and all the other people of the Orient followed his example and withdraw from their alliance from the Seleucid Empire. Diodotus the new king married a daughter of Antiochus II Theos and his wife Laodice I and had two children. (He died in 239 BC).

- 7 **The seventh horn king:** Seleucus II called Callinicus (246-226 BC) he reigned 20 years over the Seleucid Empire,. Callinicus in Greek means, beautiful victor. Seleucus II (the son of Antiochus II Theos) was unable to prevent Ptolemy III of Egypt from invading Syria and Mesopotamia during the Third Syrian War (246-241 BC). He allowed the Bactrians and Parthians to establish their independence in the east and lost his possessions in Asia Minor to his brother Antiochus Hierax. Seleucus II after the death of his father, Antiochus II, was proclaimed king by his mother, Laodice in Ephesos, while her partisans at Antioch murdered Berenice and her son. Seleucus II was killed by a fall from his horse. Seleucus III Ceraunus his elder son succeeded him and later his younger son Antiochus III the Great. Both of these were sons of his wife Laodice.
- 8 **The eighth horn king:** Seleucus III Soter called Seleucus Ceraunus (226-223 BC) he reigned 3 years) over the Seleucid Empire). He was the eldest son of Seleucus II Callinicus. Soter in Greek means, saviour, while his nickname Ceraunus means thunder. Seleucus III was the older brother of Antiochus III. After a brief reign of three years Seleucus III was assassinated in Asia Minor by members of his army while on campaign against Attalus I of Pergamon.
- 9 **The ninth horn king:** Antiochus III called the Great (223-187 BC) he reigned 36 years over the Seleucid Empire. Antiochus III was the younger son of Seleucus II Callinicus and the brother of Seleucus III sons of Seleucus II. Antiochus III succeeded his brother Seleucus III to the throne and became the 6th ruler of the Seleucid Empire as a youth of about eighteen in 223 BC. Ascending the throne at young age, Antiochus III was an ambitious ruler and proved himself as the most successful Seleucid King after Seleucus I himself. Antiochus III was the most distinguished of the Seleucids. He made vassal states out of Parthia and Bactria, and fought against the Egyptian king Ptolemy V, gaining possession of all of Palestine and Lebanon in 198 BC.

Antiochus III later became involved in a conflict with the Romans, who defeated him at Thermopylae (Greece) in 191 BC and at Magnesia (now Manisa, Turkey) in 190 BC. As the price of peace, he was forced to surrender all his dominions west of the Taurus Mountains and to pay costly tribute. By his failing to recognize the growing power of Rome Antiochus III, who early in his reign had restored the Seleucid Empire was finally forced to forfeit the Seleucid Empire's influence in the eastern Mediterranean.

- 10 **The tenth horn king:** Seleucus IV Philopator (187-175 BC) he reigned 12 years over the Seleucid Empire. Philopator in Greek means, father-loving. He reigned over a realm consisting of Syria (now including Cilicia and Judea), Mesopotamia, Babylonia and Nearer Iran (Media and Persia). He was compelled by financial necessities, created in part by the heavy war-indemnity exacted by Rome, to pursue an ambitious policy. In an effort to collect money to pay the Romans, so he sent his minister Heliodorus to Jerusalem to seize the temple treasury, but on his return, Heliodorus assassinated Seleucus IV and seized the throne for himself. Demetrius I the true heir to the throne and son of Seleucus IV was at this time being held as a hostage in Rome.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes managed to oust Heliodorus and seize the throne for himself, proclaiming himself co-regent for another infant son of Seleucus IV, (also named Antiochus) who was formal head of state until Antiochus IV Epiphanes (the younger brother of Seleucus IV) had him murdered and seized the kingdom for himself.

**NOTE:** Heliodorus (around 175 BC) (reigned a few years), but he was not the true heir to the throne neither was he a true king of the Seleucid Empire as he took the throne by murdering the king. Heliodorus was an infant son of Seleucus (also named Antiochus). Seleucus IV in an effort to collect money to pay the Romans, sent his minister Heliodorus to Jerusalem to seize the temple treasury, but on his return, Heliodorus assassinated Seleucus IV and seized the throne for himself, he was formal head of state for a few years until Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the brother of the late king (Seleucus IV) had him murdered. Demetrius I the son of Seleucus IV and the true heir to the throne was at this time being held as a hostage in Rome.

## **The Little Horn and Antiochus IV Epiphanes.**

Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 BC) is seen by many as a forerunner of the ultimate little horn yet to come. He was ruler of the Seleucid Empire and reigned eleven years. Epiphanes in Greek means the illustrious he was the king of Syria (175-164 BC) and the son of Antiochus III. From 171 to 168 BC he was a political hostage of Rome while his older brother Seleucus IV took the throne. In 175 BC Seleucus IV was assassinated by Heliodorus a usurper who took the throne.

Later Antiochus IV Epiphanes was exchanged for his nephew Demetrius I Soter (the son and heir of Seleucus) and on his return ousted Heliodorus the usurper. Since Seleucus' true heir, Demetrius I was still a hostage in Rome. Antiochus IV Epiphanes seized the throne for himself, proclaiming himself co-regent for another son of Seleucus, an infant also named Antiochus (whom he then murdered a few years later). On the death of Antiochus IV Epiphanes his son Antiochus V Eupator, succeeded to the Syrian throne, but in 163 BC, Demetrius I escaped and killed his cousin, Antiochus V Eupator, and took the throne himself.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes was involved in a war against Egypt, defeating two Egyptian kings, Ptolemy VI and Ptolemy VII. He captured Jerusalem, prohibited Judaism, and tried to establish the worship of Greek gods. Under the leadership of the Jewish priest Mattathias (died 167 BC) and his sons, the Maccabees, the Jews revolted (168-160 BC) and drove Antiochus IV from Jerusalem. Later Antiochus IV Epiphanes won victories over the Armenians and Persians. (Daniel 11:21-35).

**Anti-christ and Antiochus Epiphanes:** writers of history record that Antiochus IV Epiphanes serves as a foreshadowing of the Anti-christ to come in the days ahead. The little horn is pictured as a vile person who will come peaceably and seize the kingdom by secret and deceptive schemes and underhanded methods, which Antiochus IV Epiphanes King of Syria did, by pretending peace, he got possession of the city by treachery and broke the league he had made with the Jews. With the aid of treacherous Jews he sent a body of troops to Jerusalem and they took the city by assault on the Sabbath and slaughtered some of the inhabitants of the city.

His armies carried about ten thousand wives and their children away captive and pillaged the temple of its silver, gold and sacred items stripping it bare. Determined to bring Jerusalem into the Hellenistic (Greek culture) he tried to destroy the Jewish faith and with the aid of some Jews attempted to turn the temple of God into a Greek temple. Not only were Jews compelled under the penalty of death to depart from the laws of their fathers, and cease living by the laws of God, but the temple of God was to be polluted and called: Jupiter Olympius. Epiphanes.

Added to this the Jews were forbidden to offer their daily sacrifices and the finest buildings in Jerusalem were burnt down throwing the Jews into great lamentation. It is interesting to notice that the Roman God Jupiter corresponds to the Greek god Zeus this is because in Greek mythology Zeus was the god of the sky and ruler of the gods of Mount Olympus.

## **The Little Horn and the Abomination of Desolation.**

In this first scenario the abomination spoken of in the following prophetic words of Daniel: -

- Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate (Dan. 11:31) (Dan. 12:11).

Are believed by many scholars to apply to Antiochus IV Epiphanes for the following reasons, not only did Epiphanes build an idol altar upon God's altar in the temple and slew swine upon it offering a sacrifice totally against Jewish religious worship, he also compelled the Jews to forsake the worship of their own God and to adore his gods in every city and village of Israel.

He made the Jewish people build temples, and raise idol altars and offer swine upon them every day, added to all these abominations he commanded the Jews not to circumcise their sons. The rule of Antiochus IV Epiphanes king of the Seleucid Empire lead to disaster and horror for the Jewish people, an example of

his terror is Jewish women who were arrested for having circumcised their children he had them publicly paraded about the city with their babies hanging at their breasts and then thrown down from the top of the city wall. Others, who had assembled in nearby caves to observe the Sabbath in secret, were betrayed and all burned to death.

**He shall do what his fathers and forefathers had not done:** earlier Bible scholars who studied Bible history teach that in this first scenario of the beast and its ten horns the practice the little horns fathers and forefathers had not done, spoken of in the following prophetic words of Daniel: -

- Without warning he shall come into the richest parts of the province, and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds, but only for a time (Dan. 11:24).

Refer to the following five abominations Antiochus IV Epiphanes the King of Syria (a foreshadow of the little horn to come) committed: -

- 1 He robbed the richest nations in his kingdom and used the money to buy alliances and secure his kingdom through loyalty purchased with money, deception and false promises (Dan. 11:24).
- 2 He set up an idol of Zeus on the altar in the temple of God and sacrificed swine on it polluting the House of God (the abomination that makes desolate spoken of in Daniel 11:31)
- 3 He stopped the Jews from circumcising their sons.
- 4 He forced Israel to deny their faith by worshipping Greek gods and building temples in all their cities to the gods of Greece.
- 5 He added divine titles to his name such as "Theos Epiphanes" meaning god manifest and after his defeat of Egypt he gave himself the title: "Nikephoros" meaning bearer of victory, but his often eccentric behavior and sudden changes in mood swings and even insanity led some of his contemporaries to call him Epimanes meaning the mad one.

All five abominations were practices that the fathers and forefathers of the little horn had not done. After 250 BC the Seleucids gradually lost control of their lands and the last remaining part of Syria's kingdom, was annexed by Rome in 64 BC.

**Hellenist:** (hellenism) means to speak or make Greek, the term designates a person, not of Greek blood, but who adopted the Greek language and culture. Paul uses it in (Acts 6:1) and (Acts 11:20) to contrast Hellenists (Grecians) with Hebrews (i.e. Jews who resisted the hellenistic Greek culture and its influences).

**For further detail of Antiochus IV Epiphanes see: -**

- Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

In, Map Locations and People of the Bible (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## Scenario Two

### The Ten Horn/Kings of the Roman Empire.

**INTRODUCTION:** the following is the third scenario of the ten horns of the fourth beast spoken of in the following verse: -

- I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns (Dan. 7:7)

In this scenario the beast is said to be the ten kingdoms of the Roman Empire during the time of the apostles that were enormously cruel and oppressive to those who confessed Jesus as their King and Saviour. There is of course a third scenario of this fourth beast and its ten horns that will appear in the latter days which we will cover after we have looked at the history of Rome and the ten most significant Roman kings who persecuted Christians during the growth of the early church. The Roman Empire in its glory embraced the following ten kingdoms: -

1. Italy.
2. France.
3. Spain.
4. Germany.
5. Britain.
6. Sarmatia.
7. Pannonia.
8. Asia.
9. Greece.
10. Egypt.

The little horn spoken of in the following verse: -

- I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things (Dan. 7:8)

Is said to be the Turkish Empire which rose in place of the last three kingdom of the previous ten kingdoms of the Roman Empire (i.e., Asia, Greece and Egypt).

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### **Ten Persecutions under Ten Roman Emperors.**

The Roman emperors viewed themselves as gods, and everyone in the Roman Empire was expected to sacrifice to the emperor as a god. Those who refused to sacrifice, such as Jews and Christians, were viewed with suspicion due to their seeming lack of patriotism and loyalty, but on the most part Jews and Christians were tolerated. The ten most significant persecutions were under the following Roman Emperors were under the following ten kings: -

1. Nero.
2. Domitian.
3. Trajan.
4. Marcus Aurelius.
5. Septimius Severus.
6. Maximinus the Thracian.
7. Decius.
8. Valerian.
9. Aurelian.
10. Diocletian.

These were the most active Roman kings that promoted Christian persecution. At the end of Diocletian's reign he appointed Galerius to reign over the Eastern Half of the Roman Empire and appointed Constantius 1 to rule over the Western Half. Constantius I was the father of Constantine the Great and initiator of the Constantinian dynasty. Though surrounded with Christian persecution Constantius 1 (unlike his counterpart Galerius ruling in the Eastern province of Rome) behaved with greater humanity than the previous Roman Emperors and did not take part in Christian persecution, their suffering or their execution. After Constantius 1 reign his son Constantine the Great ruled the entire Roman Empire and banned the persecution of Christians throughout the Rome.

**Following is a brief overview of each of these ten Roman Emperors: -**

1. **Nero:** a Roman Emperor, he reigned 54-68 AD (14 years) and was the last of the Julio-Claudian Line. Following the death of Claudius (54 AD), the praetorian guards, under their prefect Sextus Afranius Burrus, Agrippina's agent, declared Nero emperor at the age of 17. Nero had his rival Britannicus poisoned. In 59 AD he had his mother murdered for her criticism of his mistress (Poppaea Sabina). In 62 AD he divorced and later executed Octavia his wife and married Poppaea. His counsellor Burrus died (possibly poisoned) and Seneca his philosopher retired. Poppaea later died as a result of Nero's violence towards her, and he married Statilia Messalina after executing her husband. In July 64 AD, two-thirds of Rome burned while Nero was at Antium.

In ancient times he was thought to have been responsible, but most modern scholars doubt the truth of that accusation. According to some accounts (now considered spurious), he laid the blame on the Christians and was the first Roman Emperor to persecute Christians. In 68 AD the Gallic and Spanish legions, together with the Praetorian Guards, rebelled against Nero, forcing him to flee Rome. Declared a public enemy by the Senate, he committed suicide on 9<sup>th</sup> June 68 A.D.

**Nero and Christian persecution:** Nero, a man desperate to be popular looked for scapegoats on whom the fires of Rome could be blamed. He found it in an obscure new religious sect, the Christians, so many Christians were arrested and thrown to the wild beasts in the circus, or they were crucified. Many of them were also burned to death at night, serving as lighting in Nero's gardens, while Nero mingled among the watching crowds. It is this brutal persecution which immortalized Nero as the *first Antichrist* in the eyes of the Christian church.

2. **Domitian:** a Roman Emperor, he reigned 81-96 AD (15 years). Although popular with the army, Domitian was hated by the senators and the Roman aristocracy who resented his attempts to dominate them and were especially angered by his adoption of the title dominus et deus (master and god). In 85 AD he made himself censor for life, which gave him the official right to supervise the Senate's behaviour. After Saturninus's revolt, and especially in the last three years of his reign, Domitian terrorized the aristocracy, executing many of them for supposed acts of treason and confiscating their property to help pay for his increasing expenses. On 16<sup>th</sup> September 96 AD, at the instigation of court officials Domitian and his wife Domita were murdered.

**Domitian and Christian persecution:** Domitian made a law that no Christian, once brought before the tribunal, would be exempted from punishment without renouncing his or her religion. If famine, pestilence, or earthquakes afflicted any of the Roman provinces, it was laid upon the Christians. To be connected to the church was generally recognized as a capital crime. It was the custom to put an accused Christian to the test by requiring him or her to sacrifice to the image of the emperor. During the reign of Domitian Jews and Christians were tortured or executed for refusing to adore the godhead of Domitian and offer a sacrifice before his image.

3. **Trajan:** a Roman Emperor, he reigned 98-117 AD (19 years) he conquered Dacia and Mesopotamia. Trajan was trained as a youth in the Roman army and took an active part in campaigns in Spain, Syria, and Germany during the reigns of the emperors Titus and Domitian. Trajan achieved distinction as a general of outstanding ability, and in 91 AD he was elected a consul. In 97 AD he was adopted by Emperor Nerva as his colleague and successor.



On the death of Nerva Trajan became the sole ruler of the empire. He celebrated his accession by gratuities to his soldiers and also made provisions for the maintenance of the children of poor freemen in Rome and other Italian cities. Trajan, in failing health, set sail for Italy, but died en route at Selinus in the Roman province of Cilicia (in present-day Turkey). Although the greater part of Trajan's reign was spent in military campaigns, the government of Rome was carefully guided.

**Under Trajan the following administrative reforms were made: -**

- New roads, canals, and bridges were built.
- The Appian Way was restored.
- The Pontine Marshes were partly drained.
- The magnificent forum of Trajan was erected at Rome.
- In Italy the harbour of Centum Cellae (modern Civitavecchia) was built.
- In the Roman province of Numidia in north Africa Timgad was founded.

Even under emperors interested in stamping out Christianity, popular sentiment rather than imperial command was often responsible for the death of Christians. For example, Pliny the governor of Bithynia wrote to the emperor Trajan in 112 AD complaining that the local populace kept bringing forward large numbers of cases against Christians, even though these Christians seemed to have done nothing wrong besides being Christian.

From his letter, it is apparent that local pagans used Christianity as a means of taking vengeance upon their fellow citizens for small slights or as a way of getting political or economic advantage, but the actual Roman authorities were much less interested in seeking out the Christians. In his reply to Pliny, Trajan explicitly states that the authorities should not actively hunt down the Christians. Nevertheless, both Pliny and Trajan agreed that once a Christian had been convicted, the Christian should be executed unless he or she denied the faith.

**Trajan and Christian persecution:** during the reign of Trajan Christian growth was phenomenal this concerned him deeply since they met in homes and had a "different King." For fear of political opposition Trajan banned any group including the Christian movement that appeared to be a secret society. As the enforced new laws were complied with Christians were forced to deny Christ or be put to death or feed to lions. Although Nero had practiced the persecution of Christians Trajan was the first Emperor to officially sanction it and in fact authorize the persecution of Christians.

4. **Marcus Aurelius:** a Roman Emperor, he reigned 161-180 AD) (19 years) and was a stoic philosopher). Marcus Aurelius became the Roman Emperor in 161, and throughout his reign he was engaged in defensive wars on the northern and eastern frontiers of the Roman Empire. His legions succeeded in repelling the Parthian invasion of Syria 166. He was particularly concerned with public welfare and even sold his personal possessions to alleviate the effects of famine and plague within the Empire.

In his domestic policy Marcus Aurelius was a champion of the poor, and even sold his personal possessions to alleviate the effects of famine and plague within the Roman Empire. He founded schools for the poor, orphanages, and hospitals and alleviated the burden of taxes. He also tried to humanize criminal laws and the treatment of slaves by their masters. But he ruthlessly persecuted the Christians, believing them a threat to the imperial system of Rome. As a philosopher he is remembered for his *Meditations*, a compendium of twelve books of moral precepts written in Greek while on his various campaigns. The work is an important formulation of the philosophy of Stoicism and reveals his belief that the moral life leads to tranquillity. It stresses the virtues of wisdom, justice, fortitude, and moderation. Marcus died of the plague in Vindobona (now Vienna) on 17<sup>th</sup> March 180 AD.

**Marcus Aurelius and Christian persecution:** Marcus Aurelius's peaceful reputation is shadowed by his persecution of Christians. Being a devout adherent of the Roman religion he considered the Christians fanatics and had little sympathy for followers of the Christian faith. To him Christians seemed fanatical martyrs, who stubbornly refused to have any part in the greater community which was the Roman Empire.

Marcus Aurelius saw in his Empire the union of the people of the civilized world and viewed the Christians as dangerous extremists who sought to undermine this union for the sake of their own religious beliefs. For such people Marcus Aurelius had no time and no sympathy, he cruelly persecuted Christians in Gaul during his reign. It was under Marcus Aurelius that it was made legal to hunt Christians on account of them being a danger to the security of the state.

5. **Septimius Severus:** a Roman Emperor, he reigned 193-211 AD (18years). Severus accentuated the military and despotic character of the imperial office of Rome. After receiving an education of law in Rome, Severus held a number of military and political titles he became the Roman Emperor after the murder of Didius Severus Julianus, who had succeeded Pertinax by purchasing the throne from the Praetorian Guard. Severus punished the murderers of Pertinax and disbanded the praetorian troops, reorganizing the guard on entirely new principles.

In 194 AD he defeated the Roman governor of Syria, Gaius Pescennius Niger, a rival for the throne he captured the ancient city of Byzantium and had brilliant success against the Parthians of Persia who had invaded Mesopotamia in Asia. Severus's reign marks a period of both juridical and military reform. He allowed ex-officers to hold civil service jobs, improved the soldiers' conditions, created a new imperial treasury, and reduced the power of the Senate and the Italian aristocracy. Severus died at York on 4<sup>th</sup> February 211 AD.

**Septimius Severus and Christian persecution:** under Septimius Severus, Christian persecution is evident and sometimes violent, but always local and not on the scale that we see earlier and especially later. He allowed the enforcement of policies already long-established, which meant that Roman authorities did not intentionally seek out Christians, but when people were accused of being Christians they could either curse Jesus and make an offering to Roman gods, or be executed.

Whereas under Marcus Aurelius it was made legal to hunt Christians on account of his belief they were a danger to the security of the state. Severus, wishing to strengthen the peace by encouraging religious harmony through a combination of different beliefs, tried to limit the spread of the two quarrelsome groups who refused to merge or yield to different belief systems by outlawing conversion to Christianity or Judaism thus individual officials availed themselves of the laws to proceed with rigor against the Christians.

6. **Maximinus the Thracian:** a Roman Emperor, he reigned 235-238 AD (3years). He was noted for his cruelty, greed and unscrupulous destructive, violent nature and his willingness to pillage harm or destroy anything or anyone to further his power and enlarge the Roman Empire. Despite his humble origins he rose to command the Roman army under the Emperor Alexander Severus. During a campaign against the Germans, Maximinus led a conspiracy in which Alexander was murdered and Maximinus was then proclaimed emperor. He and his son were killed by their own soldiers in Italy.

**Maximinus the Thracian and Christian persecution:** Maximinus Thrax reversed Alexander's policy of clemency towards the Christians, he viewed them as unsupportive enemies of the state and ruthlessly persecuted them. Though his persecutions primarily focused on the clergy, he ordered that Christians were to be hunted down and killed. It is said that during his reign Christians were slain without a trial and buried indiscriminately in a pit without the least decency.

7. **Decius:** a Roman Emperor, he reigned 249-251 AD (8years). Decius was best known as the instigator of the first thorough ongoing persecutions of the Christians.

Decius was in command of troops along the Danube in 249 AD, when his soldiers, against his will, proclaimed him emperor. The reigning emperor, Philip, subsequently led an army against him, but was defeated at Verona and killed in action. Decius was then accepted as emperor by the Roman Senate.

**Decius and Christian persecution:** the first year of Decius' reign was taken up by re-organizing the Roman Empire, particular effort being made toward a restoration of the Empire's official cults and rites. This reaffirmation of traditional Roman beliefs however was also responsible for what Decius' rule is most remembered for which was the persecution of the Christians. The religious edicts of Decius did not actually discriminate against Christians in particular, because it was demanded that every citizen of the Roman Empire was to make a sacrifice to the Emperor and the state gods.

Nevertheless it impacted most heavily on the Christian community as it was a tremendous offense for them to sacrifice to anyone other than God. Those who did sacrificed obtained a certificate recording the fact that they had complied with Decius' Edict, but anyone who refused faced execution.

Obviously a number of prominent Christians did refuse to offer a pagan sacrifice for the Emperor and the Empire's well-being and were tortured or killed for it. Among the victims of this persecution were Pope Fabian, who was martyred; Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, who was forced into exile; and Origen, the church father, who was imprisoned and tortured. The Christian church was long divided on the question of the proper treatment of those Christians (called lapsi) who publicly accepted the orders of Decius but afterwards returned to the church. Decius was killed, reputedly through the treason of Gaius who then became the Emperor of Rome.

8. **Valerian 1** a Roman Emperor, he reigned 253-260 AD) (7years). Upon the murder of Emperor Gaius and the death of Gallus's rival, Valerian was proclaimed Emperor of Rome by his troops. Valerian was an able ruler, but throughout his reign invading armies threatened every frontier of the empire. He left Gallienus in charge of the European wars in order to concentrate on the invasions of his eastern boundaries by the Goths and the Persians. The latter destroyed the Roman army and took Valerian prisoner at Edessa (now Sanliurfa, Turkey) in 260 AD. He died in Persian captivity.

**Valerian and Christian persecution:** Valerian is remembered by history for the Valerian persecution. According to historians, he was manipulated by the ambitious general, Macrianus, to issue anti-Christian edicts calculated to create civil unrest from which Macrianus planned to benefit. In 257 AD, Valerian forbade Christians from holding assemblies, entering subterranean places of burial, and sent clergy into exile and in the following year, an edict ordered instant death for anyone identified as a bishop, priest or deacon.

If Christians were of a senatorial or knightly rank, they were first given the opportunity to recant and prove their loyalty by sacrificing to the pagan gods, but if they refused to recant those in the imperial household were sent in chains to perform forced labor. High ranking Christian women were banished and all property belonging to Christians was confiscated.

Valerian became such a despiser and oppressor of the Christian faith that Christians old and young, men and women were treated cruelly. The martyrdoms were many Christians were thrown to wild animals, beaten, wounded, killed with the sword, burned in flames and in oil, tortured and torn limb from limb etc.

**It is interesting to notice:** that the special provision for Christians of high rank shows that Christianity was no longer only attracting the poor, but was also gaining converts from the highest ranks of society. Christians were penetrating further into the upper ranks of prominent people until by the end of the century they were in prominent positions in the palace and in the army. Valerian to his downfall failed to recognize that the tide of history was running in Christianity's favor. Despite his persecutions and confiscations of Christian property, Christianity continued to grow.

9. **Aurelian:** a Roman Emperor, he reigned 270-275 AD) (5years). Aurelian was a common soldier who attained high military office under the Roman Emperors Valerian and Claudius II. After the death of Claudius in 270 AD, Aurelian was elected Roman Emperor by the army. Aurelian did much to restore the discipline of the army and to advance the general welfare and unity of the empire; he was awarded the title: "Restitutor Orbis" (Restorer of the Empire) by the Senate. Aurelian was assassinated by some of his officers while he was on an expedition against the Persians.

**Aurelian and Christian persecution:** by nature Aurelian was a stern, cruel, and bloodthirsty Roman Emperor, who at first had a good opinion of the Christians, but turned against them no doubt after having heard false accusations from his officials. The principal sufferers to Aurelian's ill temper were Felix, bishop of Rome who was beheaded and a Christian man named Agapetus who was tortured and then beheaded. Because Aurelian was murdered by his own domestics at Byzantium before he could sign the edict which would have furthered Roman persecution of Christians during his reign, Felix and Agapetus are the last two martyrs on record.

10. **Diocletian:** a Roman Emperor, he reigned 284-305 AD) (21years). Diocletian's reformed the administrative machinery of the Roman Empire, introducing the two-tiered system of Augusti and Caesars. Augusti (Augustus) and Caesar were titles given to Roman officers, Augustus being the superior rank. Diocletian's troops proclaimed him Emperor of Rome. He was immediately faced with uprisings in many parts of the vast Roman Empire and selected as his colleague a Pannonian officer, Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maximianus, (better known as Maximian), giving him the title of Caesar in 285 AD and of Augustus in 286 AD.

Diocletian in order to obtain more assistance in defending and administering the Roman Empire and in to assure a peaceful succession to the throne, selected as his officer, Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maximianus, (better known as Maximian), and gave him the title of Caesar in 285 AD and the higher title of Augustus in 286 AD. Also in order to assure a peaceful succession to the throne Diocletian, adopted Gaius Galerius Valerius Maximianus (who became better known as Galerius, Diocletian son) and Maximian adopted Constantius 1, both Galerius and Constantius 1 were given the title Caesar.

The Roman Empire was divided into one-hundred and one provinces, grouped into twelve larger divisions, each called a diocese, and into four major parts, over each of which a Caesar or Augustus was placed.

All edicts were signed jointly by the four rulers, but the superior rank of the Augusti and the supremacy of Diocletian over the others were retained. The fourfold division facilitated the maintenance of order over Rome's extended boundaries and the enemies of Rome who had been subdued in Africa and in Persia, while the administrative reorganization of the Roman Empire resulted in the centralization of control, on an equal basis, over all its vast territories, and at the same time ended forever the pre-eminence of Italy.

Despite the fourfold division, organization became increasingly autocratic. Diocletian introduced eastern ceremonies into his court and adopted the appellation of the god Jupiter.

His regulations were rigid and oppressive he made civil officials responsible for collecting tax monies. The greediest of citizens became the collectors of taxes, which laid the basis for a debt-repayment system in which a debtor was forced to work for a creditor until a debt was paid and a farmworker could be bought and sold with his land to pay his debt.

Diocletian's reign is especially remembered however, for the renewed persecution of Christians, which he authorized beginning in the year 302 AD. Three years later he abdicated his power and forced Maximian to follow suit, leaving the succession, as he had planned, to Galerius (who ruled the East) and Constantius 1 (who ruled the West), while Diocletian retired to his country estate in Dalmatia.

**Diocletian and Christian persecution:** the Diocletianic persecution (known as the great persecution) was the last and most severe in Roman history, his reign began the most universal and widespread persecution of Christians in Roman Empire. He purged the army of all Christians and surrounded himself with public opponents of Christianity.

The persecution of Christians during his reign resulted in the death of multitudes of Christians, and the torture, imprisonment, or dislocation of many more. He supported the previous Roman Emperors edicts that rescinded the legal rights of Christians and demanded they comply with traditional Roman religious practices that ordered all citizens of the Roman Empire to sacrifice to the Roman gods.

Under this legislation, Christians were compelled to sacrifice to pagan gods or face imprisonment and execution. Most Christians avoided Roman persecution, but it did cause many churches to split between those who had complied with imperial authority and those who it was believed had remained pure, nevertheless the persecution failed to stop the rise and increase of the church.

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### **Eastern Half of the Roman Empire**

**Galerius:** Diocletian abdicated his power and forced Maximian to follow suit, leaving the succession, as Diocletian had planned, to Galerius and Constantius 1, while Diocletian retired to his country estate in Dalmatia. Constantius 1 ruled the Western Half of the Roman Empire while Galerius ruled the Eastern Half. Galerius reigned 308-313 AD) (5 years) and is said to have been a bitter persecutor of Christians.

**Galerius and Christian persecution:** Diocletian appointed Galerius as his Caesar (junior emperor) in the Eastern province of the Roman Empire and Constantius 1 as his Caesar in the Western province of the Roman Empire. Galerius' had a bitter hatred of the Christians and was a fierce advocate of the old ways of Rome and their old gods, he encouraged his co-rulers in the persecution of the Christians and had them hunted down like wild beasts. Historians have claimed that Galerius influenced Diocletian who was not anti-Christian during the first part of his reign into persecuting Christians by secretly burning the Imperial Palace and blaming it on Christian saboteurs, nevertheless regardless of who was at fault for the fire, Diocletian's rage was aroused and he began one of the last and greatest Christian persecutions in the history of the Roman Empire.

It was at the insistence of Galerius that the last edicts of Christian persecution against the Christians were published throughout the Roman Empire as a result of this Christian houses of assembly were destroyed, for fear of sedition in secret gatherings against the Roman Empire. Later Galerius suffering from an agonizing illness, admitted that the policy of trying to eradicate Christianity had failed, he issued an edict ending the Christian persecution (311 AD) and died very shortly afterwards.

### **Western Half of the Roman Empire**

**Constantius 1:** a Roman Emperor (reigned 305-306 AD) (1 year) over the West half of the Roman Empire. Constantius 1 was a general and administrator under Emperor Maximian, who adopted him and gave him the government of Gaul and the rank of Caesar in 293 AD. When his co-emperors, Maximian and Diocletian, abdicated in 305 AD, Constantius 1 became Roman Emperor in the West of Rome and prepared to conquer the Picts of Scotland. He died at Eboracum (modern York, England) during the campaign, after proclaiming his son Constantine (the Great) his successor as emperor.

**Constantius 1 and Christian Persecution:** Constantius I, was the father of Constantine the Great and initiator of the Constantinian dynasty, though surrounded with Christian persecution Constantius 1 (unlike his counterpart Galerius ruling in the Eastern province of Rome) behaved with greater humanity than the previous Roman Emperors.

Constantius I did not take part in Christian persecution, their suffering or their execution unlike those who rigidly enforced the persecution and execution of Christians.

## **The Roman Empire United**

**Constantine the Great:** reigned 306-337AD (31yrs). He was Roman Emperor and the sole holder of that office from 324 until his death in 337 AD. Constantine the Great came to the throne and was the sole ruler of the Roman Empire. He favoured Christianity and promulgated the Edict of Milan (313) throughout the Roman Empire which officially legalised in the Roman Empire Christianity and marked the end of Christian persecution giving Christians full freedom of religion and allowed them to take high-ranking government positions.

Perhaps a faint echo of Christ who during the reign of the final ten horned beast nations and their one horned world leader will return as King of kings and Lord of lords and be the sole ruler of not only Rome, but the entire world.

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### **SUMMARY: The Ten most significant Roman Horn/Kings.**

The following dates do not refer to the Emperor's birth, death or even the exact beginning of their reign to its end, but the approximate peak years of the Roman persecution of Christians.

- 1 **Nero** (64 to 68 AD) (4 years) ordered the first mass persecution and is remembered as the person who set fire to Rome and then set the blame on Christians.
- 2 **Domitian** (94 to 96 AD) (2 years) mainly persecuted Christians of the nobility, but blamed all natural disasters like earthquakes and famines on Christians and put them to death.
- 3 **Trajan** (98 to 117 AD) (19 years) considered Christianity a threat to the Roman Empire and during his reign over ten thousand Christians were put to death.
- 4 **Marcus Aurelius** (166 to 180 AD) (14 years) confiscated the property of Christians and had them tortured.
- 5 **Septimius Severus** (202 to 211 AD) (9 years) had Christians burned, beheaded and savaged by wild animals.
- 6 **Maximinus Thrax** (235 to 238 AD) (3 years) persecuted the clergy, had Christians slain with no trial and buried together in mass graves (pits)
- 7 **Decius** (249 to 251 AD) (2 years) began one of the cruelest persecutions in which Fabian, the bishop of Rome was the most prominent person martyred.
- 8 **Valerian** (247 to 259 AD) (12 years) persecuted the clergy and nobility, during his rule Christians were mocked for their beliefs and used for the entertainment of the rulers and their guests.
- 9 **Aurelian** (275 AD) (1 year) persecution under Aurelian started with the persecution of Felix who was the bishop of Rome.
- 10 **Diocletian** (303 to 305 AD) (2 years) this period is commonly called the Era of the Martyr's, it was the bloodiest persecution as it was mostly carried out with swords, daggers and poisons. Since the rule of Diocletian until the edict of Milan in 313 AD (which protected Christians) there were more than 20,000 Christians put to death.

### **SUMMARY.**

There were literally thousands of Christian men, woman and children, imprisoned, robbed of their homes and land, tortured, and martyred under the persecutions of these ten horn/kings of the Roman Empire. The Empire of Rome and Papal Rome combined with Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Britain, Sarmatia, Pannonia, Asia,

Greece and Egypt and their allied partners lead by a powerful and ruthless king was a forerunner of the final kingdom of resurrected Rome and its united nations that will be ruling the world when the Lord Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

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### Scenario Three

#### The Ten Horn/Kings of the Roman Empire in the latter days.

**INTRODUCTION:** the following is the third scenario of the ten horns of the fourth beast spoken of in the following verse: -

- I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns (Dan. 7:7)

In this third scenario the beast is said to be the final ten nations of the Roman Empire and their affiliated nations that will appear in the latter days when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords. These final ten kingdoms and their affiliated nations will rise up out of Rome when the Lord returns in glory and attempt to destroy Christ and his Kingdom.

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### The Little Horn.

#### A Little Horn came up Amongst the Ten Horns.

Daniel 7:8 ----- <sup>8</sup>I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

The Roman Empire (the iron Kingdom Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream) (Dan. 2:33-35) (Dan. 2:40-44) (Dan. 2:7:7) during the time of the early church had ten kings), these ten kings correspond to the ten toes of the image Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream and to the ten horn/kings of the beast John sees in his vision in the book of Revelation (Rev 17:12). They correspond because Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar dream is looking ahead in time whereas John is looking back.

As Daniel considers this vision of the ten kings, there rises up amongst them a little horn (king), who subdues three of the ten kings. Seven kings of the ten are left, and the little horn. This means to discover who the little horn is he must be searched for among the ten horns/kings. The first clue is that he begins as a little horn at first, but later becomes greater than all the others. We are also told that the little horn is a king who will: -

- Be of fierce countenance (typified by that other king of fierce countenance (i.e., Antiochus Epiphanes the Syrian king) (Dan. 8:23-25).
- Be a prince who will do as he wills and not only exalt himself above every god, but also speak astonishing things against God (Dan. 9:26, 27) (Dan. 11:36-37).
- Prosper and honour the god of fortresses (i.e., power and might) and make rulers of those who honour him (Dan. 11:38-39).
- Come in peaceably, has a mouth that speaks great things and by it obtains the kingdom by flatteries and corrupts people by flatteries (Dan. 7:8) (Dan. 11:21) (Dan. 11:32) (Dan. 11:34). Flatteries, comes from the Hebrew word (*chalaqlaqqah*) and from Strong's Concordance refers to something very smooth and slippery (i.e. treacherous) it carries the idea of sweet talk.
- Set up the abomination of desolation and bring great destruction and ruin (Daniel 11:40-45) (Dan. 12:11) (Matt. 24:15).

- Be given the title: the man of sin of and the beast and is thrown into the lake of fire (2 Thess. 2:4-8) (Rev. 13:4-10). (Rev. 19:20).

**From this list we see that the character and persona of the little horn will be: -**

- Atheistic, blasphemous, anti-God, anti-Christian and anti all other faiths.
- Hyper confident, self-willed, self-assured, egotistic and self-seeking.
- Narcissistic, proud, independent, unreasonable, but a great orator and flatterer.
- Anti-establishment, greedy for power and a war monger.
- Successful, secure and prosperous, but ultimately no one will come to his aid and he will be destroyed (Dan. 11:36-45).

### **The little Horn.**

Some believe that Popery is the fulfilment of the little horn because the Popes claim to be God's supreme priest on earth and claim to be above all earthly dominions; but the little horn is a secular leader who is against all forms of God, the Christian God the Moslem God and all other forms of religious worship. The harlot woman of Revelation (popery or false religious system) is pictured sitting or riding on the beast with seven heads and ten horns, which means that popery is a separate identity to the little horn who is pictured as arising out of the ten horned beast, in fact little horn destroys the false religious system, the harlot woman of (Rev. 17:1-4) (Rev. 17:16-18).

The little horn will most likely come with a message that speaks against religion, proclaiming (justifiably in many cases) to the world that religion causes all forms of war and divisions and until the world is rid of religion there will never be unity and peace on earth. His message will be that self is god the answer to unity and peace one earth is contained within the individual.

The problem with this idea is that it is peace on his terms, which of course not everyone will agree to so he is driven to war to bring about his illusional peace. The Vatican and Jerusalem known world-wide as the Holy City will it seems eventually become the little horn's target.

**The eyes of the little horn:** Daniel says that the little horns eyes were like the eyes of a man (Dan. 7:8). Eyes in this context are an expression of intelligence. Right back in the beginning of Genesis the serpent's promise to Eve was that the "eyes would be opened to make one wise" (Gen. 3:4-6) if she obeyed the serpent and disobeyed God. The little horn will complete the serpents rebellion and supposed transformation of a human being into a deity independent of God which begun with the serpents lie at the fall.

It is interesting to notice: -

- The first kingdom was the Eastern Empire of Babylon.
- The second kingdom was the Eastern Empire of Median and Persian.
- The third kingdom was the Western Empire of Alexander the Great four generals.
- The fourth kingdom was the Western Empire of Rome and the final world empire.

The two Eastern Empires are marked by nobler metals, while the two Western Empire are marked by baser metals and it is these western nations that produce the little horn. For further information concerning the little horn see Daniel chapter eleven in Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).



### Three Horns Plucked Up by the Roots.

- I saw a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots (Dan. 7:7-8)

This fourth beast is pictured as being more fierce and formidable than any of the previous beasts so much so that there is not a wild animal to which it can be compared. Amongst Bible Scholars there are two main thoughts concerning past history and the identity of the three horns that were plucked up by the roots (Dan. 7:8) and a third future scenario that is still to be fulfilled.

- 1 In the first scenario some make the fourth beast to be the kingdom of Syria, the family of the Seleucidae, which was very cruel and oppressive to the people of the Jews. Syria was diverse from the kingdoms that went before it, because none of the preceding kingdoms compelled the Jews to renounce their religion, but the kings of Syria did, and used and treated the Jews barbarously. For this reason the Syrian armies and commanders were seen to be the great iron teeth with which they devoured and broke in pieces the people of God and trampled upon the residue of them while the ten horns are then seen to be the ten Kings that reigned successively in Syria.

**The little horn:** is believed to be Antiochus Epiphanes, the last of the ten horns who by deceit, corruption and other means undermined three of the kings and gained the power of the government. He was a man of great ingenuity, and therefore is said to have eyes like the eyes of a man; and he was very bold and daring, had a mouth speaking great things.

**Coins during the era of Antiochus IV Epiphanes:** the inscription around the throne on the face of the silver coin reads: "Basileos Antiochou, Theou Epiphaniou Nikephorou meaning, "of king Antiochus, God manifest, victory bearer." The inscription on the face of the bronze coin portrays a bearded Antiochus as Zeus laureate himself, wearing the victor's wreath while the reverse side identifies the image of king Antiochus, God manifest." (We will see more of Antiochus IV Epiphanes in the following chapters).

- 2 In the second scenario many scholars believe the fourth beast which was more fierce, and formidable, than any of the previous beasts was the Roman Empire, which, when it was in its glory, comprehended the following ten Kingdoms: -

- 1 Italy.
- 2 France.
- 3 Spain.
- 4 Germany.
- 5 Britain.
- 6 Sarmatia.
- 7 Pannonia.
- 8 Asia.
- 9 Greece.
- 10 Egypt.

In this scenario the little horn which rose by the fall of three of the other ten horns (Dan 7:8) is the Turkish Empire, which rose in place of Asia, Greece and Egypt the last three of the ten horn/kingdoms. For further information concerning Rome see: "Rome" in, Map Locations and People of the Bible (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**NOTE:** scenario one and scenario two complement each other, they fit the prophecy beautifully with the ten horns being the Kings of Syria and the little horn being Antiochus IV Epiphanes King of Syria and his kingdom seen as the forerunner or the horns seen as the ten Kings of Rome and little horn being the king of Turkey and his kingdom following in greater power and land area, but preceding the ultimate and final ten horned Kingdoms that will arise again at the end of the age out of the ashes of Rome.

God in His eternal wisdom confirms to us that Daniel's prophecy will come to pass in the latter days by partly fulfilling the prophecy throughout history.

3 In the third scenario the fourth beast which was more fierce, and formidable, than any of the previous beasts refers to the final world kingdom still to arise at the end of our age. We know this because the angel said to Daniel: -

- Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end, behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end (Dan. 8:17-19).

These words of the angel shine a spotlight on the truth that the ultimate fulfilment of this vision is for the end of our age as we know it and refers to the appointed time of the end. The time of the ten kings of Syria and the time of the ten kings of Rome has set the example for the future.

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### **The Ancient of Days takes His Seat.**

Daniel 7:9-11 ----- <sup>9</sup>As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. <sup>10</sup>A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. <sup>11</sup>I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire.

Daniel sees in his vision thrones, (i.e. God the Fathers throne and Christ the Sons throne). God sitting upon a flaming throne and amongst burning fire are all symbols of judgment. It is interesting to notice that God rises up in judgment when the little horn arises from amongst the ten horns speaking great words (Dan 7:8). It appears that the abominable, but extremely deceptive speeches of the little horn cause God to rise up in judgment (For the interpretation of these verses go to Dan. 7:20-23).

The three most common thoughts concerning when this judgment will be are: -

- 1 Some believe this vision applies to Christ's present spiritual kingdom being established by faith in the hearts and minds of every faithful brother and sister who belongs to the Lord's global family. But though it is true this kingdom will go on forever howbeit in a different shape and form when the Lord returns in glory and we are all changed in a twinkling of the eye.
- 2 Many believe it refers to the return of Christ at the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) when the Ancient of Days spoken of in the following verses presents to Christ glory and an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and a kingdom in which all peoples, nations, and languages will serve him. For further information on the Resurrection, see the title: "Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- 3 Other believe it refers to the second death (Rev. 20:11-15) and the Great White Throne judgement to take place at the end of Christ's millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords when God Himself descends from heaven on a Great White Throne and judges all those raised from the dead, the sea and the grave.

For further information concerning the Great White Throne judgment, see the title: "The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment," in Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Since the appearing of Christ through the Virgin Mary changed the world forever and introduced a New Covenant of grace and a new spiritual and eternal Kingdom on earth and the following two events will completely change the world as we know it for the better and for eternity it is pointless to limit the vision to only one of them since each has a glorious truths contained in them and each one increases in eternal glory and wonder.

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### **The Lion, the Bear, the Leopard and the Fourth Beast.**

Daniel 7:12 ----- <sup>12</sup>As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

When God judges the beast with the iron teeth and the ten horns the other powerful world kingdoms symbolised by the lion, bear and leopard have their power and influence over the nations and peoples of earth taken away, but they are not completely destroyed as the beast with the iron teeth and ten horns is (to see the interpretation of this beast go to Dan 7:17-18).

### **One like the Son of Man Comes.**

Daniel 7:13-14 ----- <sup>13</sup>I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup>And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

At the time God judges the final beast kingdom with the iron teeth and the ten horns Daniel sees one like the Son of Man appearing and given great authority and ruling power to govern and influence all peoples and nations who have survived the judgment. The one with the appearance of the Son of Man then establishes a Kingdom on earth that will never be destroyed and those nations that were not completely destroyed by God's judgment serve him (to see the interpretation go to (Dan 7:17-18).

### **The Visions troubled Daniel.**

Daniel 7:15-16 ----- <sup>15</sup>As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. <sup>16</sup>I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things.

Daniel does not know what the visions meant, but he discerned enough to know that they were alarming. Notice this vision is taking place in Daniels head, no doubt much like a dream, but with God in total control of it.

### **Four Great Bests Arise Up Out of the Earth.**

Daniel 7:17-18 ----- <sup>17</sup>These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup>But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'

The verse links back to (Dan 7:12). These two verses are fantastic because they summarize the entire chapter in two verses. Christian's do not need to know every detail of the eternal Kingdom or every detail of how it will all come about, it is enough to know that the Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory and that those who have died in faith and those who are alive at the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be gathered to him and become the ruling government of the world during Christ's millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's visible Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. Paul wrote: -

- The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

In regards to the resurrection it is enough to know and believe these glorious and majestic and comforting words. This no doubt is one of the reasons why Paul ends these words by saying, "Therefore encourage one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:18).

It is interesting to notice: that after the death and resurrection of Jesus the main focus of the apostles and Paul in the New Testament writings concerning the resurrection is simply stated as being: "Resurrected to eternal Glory." There are many various ideas existing today that teach where that eternal glory will be. Daniel's vision clearly shows it being on earth with the Lord Jesus Christ, but the Bible gives very little detail of where ETERNITY will be at the end of Christ's glorious Kingdom age and after God descends to earth on a Great White Throne and is ALL in ALL when God.

Obviously understanding every aspect of the Bible correctly is the perfect ideal for everyone, but having such understanding is not important to be saved to eternal life.

God is not going to cast out of His Kingdom those who have lived faithfully and are full of passion patiently waiting in anticipated excitement for the return of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ simply because they had a misunderstanding of where eternal glory might be and any faithful Christian lacking a full understanding will certainly not be disappointed when they find out that they will be part of God's government over the nations of the world with Christ as their King. The excitement of every Christian I have ever known has not been where they are going to spend eternity, but who they are going to spend eternity with (i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ).

#### **The Lion, the Bear, the Leopard and the Fourth Beast of (Daniel 7:17-18).**

Daniel is in the seventh year of the Babylonian captivity when he has this vision. The angel tells him there will be four world rulers and their empires. The four kingdoms are:

1. **Babylon:** conquered by Cyrus king of Media Persia.
2. **Media Persia:** conquered by Alexander the Great king of Greece.
3. **Greece:** conquered by the ten kings of Rome.
4. **Rome:** conquered and diminished by war and unable to support its growth.

Though Rome diminished in power it has continued on through the ages and will once again rise from the ashes to be the final world Empire with all its allied nations, but Rome and all its allied nations will be destroyed by those who belong to God and they will then become the government of the world with Christ and establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

**The little horn:** arises from the secular nations of Rome and all its allied nations and becomes the final political leader of the world.

**The false prophet:** arises from world's false religious system (some believe this to be papal Rome while others believe it refers to the Moslem faith) and becomes the religious leader of the world, but God puts it in the heart of the world's secular political leader to turn against this false religious system and destroy the Harlot Woman that is pictured in the book of Revelation riding on the backs of the empires of the world throughout history.

John on the Isle of Patmos said the angel told him: -

- The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. <sup>16</sup>And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, <sup>17</sup>for God has put it into their (the ten horns) hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their (the ten horns) royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. <sup>18</sup>And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth (Revelation 17:15-18).

This does not mean that everyone who belongs to this harlot system throughout the world is an evil or wicked person or even that they are anti-Christ, in fact many in their hearts maybe faithful to God and Christ according to the limited understanding they have. It is the religious system and those who promote it for their own selfish gain and lust for power and importance that are primarily in focus, nevertheless when God's judgment falls even those that are deceived by its pomp; its majestic buildings; its religious customs and traditions; its deceptive messages; its wealth and whatever other deceptions it entices people by will suffer.

Should anyone who is following Papal Rome's religious pomp and ceremony and is exalting the Pope as a holy man above all others be reading this it is important to know that the Pope though he maybe a decent man, he is no more holy than you or I, we are all sinners saved only by faith and God's grace.

There is only one man that we should all be exalting and his name is the Lord Jesus Christ and only one mediator between us and God and that mediator is not a Pope or a human priest or minister of religion, but the Lamb of God without blemish who died for us on the bloodstained cross of Calvary and rose to his heavenly Fathers right hand side. He is the perfect and eternal High Priest of all who belong to God's Kingdom. It is through him we all have access to God and not through any human man on earth no matter how religious or exalted they might be.

### **The Fourth Beast, the Ten Horns and the Little Horn.**

Daniel 7:19-24 ----- <sup>19</sup>Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, <sup>20</sup>and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. <sup>21</sup>As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, <sup>22</sup>until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. <sup>23</sup>"Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. <sup>24</sup>As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.

#### **Daniel desires to know the truth about: -**

- The fourth beast.
- The ten horns.
- The other horn that came up.

The following verses show that the fourth Beast (kingdom) is Rome (the beast/kingdom of Daniel 2).

1. **The first kingdom:** was king Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon (the head of fine gold of Nebuchadnezzars dream. After this kingdom we are told another kingdom inferior to Nebuchadnezzar shall arise after him, and a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth (Dan. 2:39).
2. **The second kingdom:** was Cyrus and the kingdom of Media Persia the chest and arms of silver of Nebuchadnezzars dream.
3. **The third kingdom:** was Alexander the Great and the kingdom of Greece the middle and thighs of Bronze of Nebuchadnezzars dream. After this kingdom we are told there shall arise a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things and like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these kingdoms (Daniel 2:40).
4. **The fourth kingdom:** was the ten kings of Rome and the Roman Empire the legs of iron of Nebuchadnezzars dream.

5. **The fifth kingdom:** will be the final global Empire to rule the world, the feet, the toes and the mixture of iron and clay of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

**The ten kings of Rome:** (the legs of iron) the fourth beast (Rome) was diverse from the previous kingdoms in that it demanded Israel to worship the gods of the beast, (i.e. Rome) and pay homage to its Caesars as though they were gods. Added to this offence if the Jews or Christians refused they were brutally tortured, imprisoned or killed, whereas the nations prior to the fourth beast went to war against Israel primarily for power, the city of Jerusalem and Israel's land and were not so concerned or threatened by their religion as Rome was, in fact Darius king of Babylon added the God of Israel to Babylon's own god's calling Him the Most High God.

**The Roman Empire:** at Rome's height the Roman Empire stretched from north-western Europe to the near east and encompassed all the lands of the Mediterranean.

**Rome and religion:** Rome's religion was seen as a type of contract between Rome and the highest god amongst all their gods. They held that their highest god would look after Rome's security and progress, providing the state looked after the god's needs by supplying the proper sacrifices and worship.

**Rome and the Christian titles:** the title Lord, the Son of God and the Saviour were not pious terms in the first century, but titles of many of the Caesars. When Christians were saying Jesus is Lord, Son of God and Saviour, Rome understood them to be taking the titles of Caesar and giving them to Jesus and so challenging the divine authority of the emperor. Many of the Caesars of Rome wanted to be known as a god. The Roman Caesar Caligula AD 40 demanded grovelling worship and set himself in the Jewish temple at Jerusalem. His pride and ego was so great that he was prepared to sacrifice the entire Jewish Nation for this worship. When Agrippa left Rome to rule his own country where he presented himself as king he put on a garment of woven silver and entered the theatre at day break, when the sun's first rays touched his wondrous web of silver, Agrippa's flatterers immediately raised their voices addressing him as a god.

**Eastern and Western Rome:** (the iron legs of Daniel's vision in chapter two and chapter seven). Major reorganization of the Roman Empire was undertaken by Diocletian (ruled 284-305), who formally divided Roman territory into a Western Empire and an Eastern Empire. Later Constantine the Great re-united Rome and wrote into Roman law that the persecution of Christians was illegal.

**The fall of Rome:** the cause of the collapse of the mighty Roman Empire was not due solely to its failed military battles, but mostly because the empire had grown too big for its resources. Extended frontiers required a huge army, always a vast drain on revenues, and in turn generating an increasingly unwieldy bureaucracy, there were simply too many unproductive mouths to be fed by too few farmers and peasants.

**The real heir of the Roman Empire:** the Papal Church more than anything was the real heir of the Roman Empire. The papacy continued to be based in Rome and to exert enormous authority over most of Europe.

**Rome and the Vatican City:** Rome today is the capital city of Italy and the Vatican City, the seat of the papacy of the Roman Catholic Church is located in an enclave within Rome and is recognized as an independent state by the Italian government. The majestic dome of St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City dominates the Roman skyline. The Vatican became recognised as an independent papal country that is culturally and politically distinct and different from its surrounding and larger neighbours, today new residential developments extend far out into the countryside.

A century ago, Rome was a quiet city with its people living largely in the past. It is today not only the capital and nerve centre of Italy but, also the seat of the Roman Catholic Church and the headquarters of major international agencies and multinational corporations. Rome has assumed a place of worldwide importance. (See the title: "The Vatican, the Catholic Church, Rome and the Dragon," at the end of this study).

**The ten horn/nations of Rome:** were Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Britain, Sarmatia, Pannonia, Asia, Greece and Egypt. The other horn that came up and put down three was the Turkish Empire whose faith is Islam. The Turkish Empire rose in place of (or by the fall of) Asia, Greece and Egypt.

**Conclusion:** I do not profess to know the exact detail of how God's end game is going to work out, but going by past history it seems almost certain (to me at least) that the major nations that God will use to bring His eternal purposes to pass will be the nations of Rome, Papal Rome and the Moslem nations all at some stage going to war against Israel and the city of Jerusalem and as foolish as it sounds ultimately against the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

**The following is a possible scenario: -**

1. The Moslem nations in the Middle East surround Israel and attack the city of Jerusalem and its inhabitants.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords and saves Jerusalem and its inhabitants from total destruction.
3. The resurrection takes place and Christ gathers the faithful who belong to him to Jerusalem and they together with Christ as King become God's government over the world.
- 4 Christ brings peace to the Middle East and the following verses are fulfilled: -
  - In that day (the day Jerusalem becomes a terror to the Egyptians) there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. <sup>24</sup>In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, <sup>25</sup>whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance" (Isaiah 19:23-25).
- 5 Papal Rome for fear of losing their power, control and their kingdom just as the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes did when Jesus appeared the first time entice the nations of Rome and all its affiliated nations to send their armies to war against Christ at Jerusalem, but this time Jesus has not come as the Lamb to the slaughter, but the King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, prosperity and peace for all.
- 6 God supernaturally defeats the armies of Rome (by hail stones etc.), and puts in the heart of the nations of Rome to turn against Papal Rome and destroy the city on seven hills (i.e. Vatican City).

John on the Isle of Patmos wrote: -

- The angel said to me (John), "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. <sup>16</sup>And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, <sup>17</sup>for God has put it into their (the ten horns) hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their (the ten horns) royal power to the beast (Little Horn), until the words of God are fulfilled. <sup>18</sup>And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth (Rev. 17:15-18).

For those following the religious system of Papal Rome see notes following (Revelation 17:1-18) (above). It should be mentioned that though I believe is as accurate as it can be with the knowledge that I have it is by no means a dogmatic scenario, but simply a picture formed in my mind from my years of reading the Bible and continued study of prophecy and Bible history and my observation of how the world stage is forming in the age that we live in. Certainly there will be far more detail involved in the actual events (i.e. financial collapse of the global money system, outbreaks of diseases of epidemic proportions that spread rapidly through the populations of the world killing hundreds of millions and natural disasters in the climate, on the land and in the oceans etc.).

Now here is the comfort regardless of how the final events eventually unfold the faithful who belong to Christ can rest in the confidence that whether we understand all the detail or not does not matter because it is the Lord who gathers his sheep and he knows those who belong to him.

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### **Times, Times, and Half a Time.**

Daniel 7:25-27 ----- <sup>25</sup>He (the little horn that arises out of the ten kings) shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. <sup>26</sup>But the court shall sit in judgment, and his (the little horn) dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. <sup>27</sup>And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.'

The little horn will speak against God, change times and laws and wear out the faithful for a time, times, and half a time, but after this period of time judgment will take place and his kingdom will be destroyed.

**INTRODUCTION:** Interpreters are not agreed on the meaning of the expression, "time, times, and half a time," some say the historical time period it covers has all taken place, while others claim it refers to future events yet to come. If the expression is Googled it will be found that there are many well thought out interpretations, with some interpreters claiming that their interpretation is the only proven one? I cannot prove either interpreter to be wrong and neither is that my aim, since prophecies sometimes has various applications for different periods of time. I am willing to give Scripture its full latitude (in this as in many other controversies), and to accept that the expression, "time, times, and half a time," in some contexts relates to past historic events, while in others it refers to events yet to happen in the future.

My hope is that the information that I have gained will give the reader greater insight and aid them in expounding the meaning of the words, "time, times, and half a time," even further than I have been able to. As we approach the end of this world as we know it today the visions concerning events to take place in the latter days will become even clearer as they unfold. The expression, "A time, times, and half a time" is found in the following three verses (Daniel 7:25) (Daniel 12:7) (Revelation 12:14).

The English Standard Bible says: -

- A time, times, and half a time (Dan. 7:25).

Citing the same verse the King James Bible says: -

- A time and times and the dividing of time.

The English Standard Bible says: -

- A time, times, and half a time (Dan. 12:7).

Citing the same verse the King James Bible says: -

- A time, times, and an half (Dan. 12:7).

The English Standard Bible says: -

- A time, and times, and half a time (Rev. 12:14).

Citing the same verse the King James Bible says: -

- A time, and times, and half a time (Rev. 12:14).



Firstly before we can go anywhere with the expression, “a time, times, and half a time” we need to find out in what context it is being used in and what time period is being covered. The words: -

- The little horn will have the ability to change times and laws and the statement the people of God will be given into his power until God takes His throne and rises up in judgment and all kingdoms upon earth will be given to the people of the Most High and their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them (Daniel 7:25-27)

Show that the period covered by the expression “A time, and times, and half a time,” appears to continue from the time of the little horn until his kingdom is destroyed and the kingdoms of this world are given to the people of God for an everlasting kingdom and all nations obey them which means the expression, “A time, and times, and half a time,” continues until Christ returns.

The little horn could be: -

1. **The king of Islam and the Moslems:** the king of Islam, with the abomination of desolation being the Dome of the Rock, throughout history Jerusalem has constantly being troubled by the surrounding Moslem nations of the Middle East. It is most likely a final and powerful king will arise prior to the return of Christ and gather the Islamic nations of the Middle East together to attack Jerusalem.
- 2 **The Popes (Papal Rome) and the king of the United Nations of Rome:** the Vatican is an extension of ancient Rome therefore the title little horn fits the Popes, who throughout history have worn out the saints by their false teaching and influence throughout the world. After Christ's return it appears that Papal Rome entices the secular nations of the world to send their armies to war against Christ and his kingdom, but are destroyed and the remaining nations of this world become the nations of Christ and his Kingdom.

**My personal belief:** is both the Moslem people and Papal Rome and the nations of Rome will be involved in the final latter day scenario. I suspect the Middle East nations of ancient Syria now Iran will make a siege on Jerusalem (as they did in the days of Antiochus Epiphemes, only this time Christ will return and rescue the city and its inhabitants from total destruction. Christ then with the resurrected saints will bring peace to the Middle East, but Papal Rome (the woman of Rev 17) for fear of losing their power and control will entice Rome and all its allied nations to rise up against Christ (as they did the first time he came, only this time Jesus is coming as King of kings and Lord of lords and not as the Lamb to be slain.

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### **The Vatican, the Catholic Church, Rome and the Dragon.**

The following shows how the Vatican grew out of the Roman Empire and is identified with the dragon of Revelations chapter 12.

- There appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. <sup>4</sup> And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born (Revelation 12:3-4).
- The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him (Revelation 12:9).

The dragon the serpent, the devil and satan, are all symbols of nations, governments, cults, organisations, or individuals who withstand or opposes the plans and purposes of God or even God Himself. For further information see the title: Satan in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

In the first two verses of this chapter we are told: -

- A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup>She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth (Rev. 12:1-2).

Almost no Christian believes that there is a literal woman in heaven clothed in the sun and standing on the moon so why, should the following verses be taken literally? These verses are depicting a vision of the enormous power certain nations have and of amazing world changing events and are packed with figurative and symbolic language and are not to be taken literally.

**The woman:** is, Mary and the Nation of Israel.

**The child:** is Christ.

**Red:** symbolises blood.

A great dragon is seen standing before the nation of Israel ready to kill the child being born, but this dragon is not some winged creature with fire flaming out of its mouth as we would see in a Hollywood movie, but a human king on earth. The following verse shows us who this dragon king was: -

- When they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him (Matthew 2:13).

The dragon is a symbolic picture of Herod the Great who with the aid of Rome and their armies conquered Jerusalem God's Holy City and made himself king. Then in 37 B.C. he received the official title: "the King of Judea and Palestine" from the Roman Empire, but the vision of the dragon is not limited to Herod only, in the previous verse the dragon/beast is described as having seven heads, ten horns and seven crowns (Rev. 12:3).

The same dragon/beast is seen again by John in the following verse: -

- 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. <sup>2</sup>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).

Now the same dragon arises and gives its power to a Beast that appeared like a leopard, bear and lion, these beasts were Babylon, Greece and Media Persia in Daniel's visions (Dan. 2). It is the dragon with ten horns that gives this leopard, bear and lion creature its power. Herod king of Rome used the power of the ancient Roman Empire to attempt the murder of Jesus and his followers. The dragon is a symbol of Rome so in (Rev. 13:2) Rome can be substituted for the word dragon.

**NOTE:** the animals that are mentioned are a reference back to the book of Daniel. John the revelator was looking back in time and in sequence at the previous world Empires, to take us back to identify this sea beast in the stream of time.

- **The lion:** (Babylon) is pictured as the head of gold in (Dan 2).
- **The bear:** (Medo-Persia) is pictured as the chest of silver in (Dan 2).
- **The leopard:** (Greece) is pictured as the thighs of brass in (Dan 2).

Now there is also a fourth beast in (Dan 7) this fourth beast matches the legs of iron in (Dan 2). Daniel says of this fourth beast: -

- After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns (Daniel 7:7).

This fourth diverse beast with ten horns correlates to ancient pagan Rome. When Rome disintegrated it was followed by the divided kingdoms of Europe (a condition that exists today), represented by the feet and ten toes of clay and iron in (Dan 2) and by Papal Rome (the Vatican) which also continues to exist and influence the nations of the world today. The following shows how Papal Rome adopted the dragon as its symbol.

**The winged dragon and Rome:** in 312 A.D. Emperor Constantine before he entered into battle with his rival emperor Maxentius, saw a vision in the sky of a cross with the words, "In this Sign (the cross) you shall conquer". Constantine immediately adopted the cross as his emblem and had it put on the back and front of his troops clothing, their shields and banners. He defeated Maxentius in the battle of Milvian Bridge and then declared Christianity the state religion of Rome and was himself later baptized a Christian.

A painting in the Vatican, painted by Raffaello (1509-10 A.D.) depicts Emperor Constantine's vision of the cross with a winged serpent, or dragon depicting a pivotal moment in the conversion of Pagan Rome to Christianity, the dragon he painted being symbolic of ancient Pagan Rome. Pope Gregory XIII, (1572-1585 A.D.), who is most known for, dropping ten days from the calendar, and introducing a new system of leap years in (1582) which is the calendar we use today known as the Gregorian calendar adopted the winged serpent or dragon as his official symbol on his coat of arms.

Even today the coat of arms displaying the serpent/dragon of Pope Gregory XIII can be found above the doors in the Gallery of Maps in the Vatican. The papal medal of Pope Gregory XIII, marking the year of the Gregorian calendar reform has on one side a winged dragon/serpent encircling a ram's head. The serpent is called Ouroborus. The ram's head is frequently associated with the Egyptian deities, such as the god Amon, the king of all gods, who was also regarded as the sun god, and Khnum, who created mankind on his potter's wheel from the mud of the Nile.

**The intended symbolic meaning is undoubtedly:** that of Aries the ram, the first sign of the Zodiac, which symbolizes the Vernal/Spring Equinox. Pope Gregory XIII had modified the calendar specifically so that the Vernal Equinox would remain relatively constant, on or about March 21<sup>st</sup> which is the beginning of the Zodiacal year, when the Sun crosses the Equator and enters the astrological sign of Aries. This had the desired result of returning Easter to the time specified by the Nicene Council (325 A.D.). Near the base of the monument of Pope Gregory XIII tomb is a guardian serpent/dragon and at the top of the monument is a large picture of Pope Gregory official coat of arms which contains a winged dragon.

**Pope Paolo V (1605-1621):** also used a winged dragon on his coat of arms and in the Vatican Gardens there is a massive fountain called the "Fountain of Towers," bearing the inscription and papal shield of Pope Paolo V, in which the central figure of the fountain is a winged dragon centred in water spouts which has on either side fortress like towers topped by sculptures of winged dragons.

Revelation twelve clearly tells us that the dragon is symbolic of satan, a name that embraces all forms of evil and corruption and is given to every nation, government, organisation, group or individual who opposes or withstands the plans and purposes of God, so why did two major Popes use it as their symbols which are still revered in the Vatican even today?

**The continuation of the Roman world-Empire:** as earlier established with (Rev. 12:4), the dragon's agent in trying to kill Christ was ancient Rome (through Herod). With this relationship of dragon = Rome. It is easy to see that the beast from the sea of (Rev. 13) should get his power and seat and great authority from the Ancient Roman Empire, just like Herod did. With the move of the Roman capitol to Constantinople and after disappearance of Rome's Emperor's there was a political power vacuum that was quickly filled by the Bishop of Rome-who became the chief person. The Roman Church in this way took the place of the Roman world-Empire of which it is still the actual continuation of Rome. The Roman world-Empire has not perished, but has only undergone a transformation. The Church of Rome (the Vatican) still politically and religiously governs nations and it's Pope who calls himself "King" and "Pontifex Maximus," is Caesar's successor.

**The title, Pontifex Maximus:** was the highest office in the state religion of ancient Rome and directed the college of Pontiffs. Pontiffs were permitted to hold the office of a magistrate and military command they were not simply a priest, but had both political and religious authority. The office of Pontifex Maximus was generally held by a member of a politically prominent family and was a coveted position because of the great prestige it confers on the holder.

**Julius Caesar:** became Pontifex in 73 BC and Pontifex Maximus in 63 BC. The duties of the Pontifex Maximus were: -

- Maintain the peace of the gods.
- Determine the manner and times of sacrifices.
- Oversee the supervision of religious monies.
- Have authority over all public and private religious institutions.
- Instruct the people in spiritual and burial rites.
- Pray for the dead.
- Regulate all ceremonials rites needed to deliver from disease, pestilence, lightning, storms etc.
- Consecrate all temples and other sacred objects dedicated to the gods.
- Regulate the calendar; both astronomically and in detailed application to the public life of the state.
- Administer the law relating to burials and burying-places, and the worship of dead ancestors.
- Oversee all marriages.
- Administrate the law of adoption regarding legal succession.
- Regulate public morals, and fining and punishing offending parties.

But the real power of a Pontifex Maximus was in the administration of divine law, because whatever a Pontifex Maximus decreed was law.

**Pontiff and the calendar:** the Pontifices were in charge of the Roman calendar and determined when intercalary days needed to be added to synchronize the calendar to the seasons. Under his authority as Pontifex Maximus, Julius Ceaser introduced the calendar reform that created the Julian calendar, with a fault of less than a day per century, and which remained the standard until the Pope Gregory XIII, changed it in the 16th century (the calendar we use today known as the Gregorian calendar).

### **Roman Catholic use of the title, Pontifex Maximus.**

After Julius Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, the title "Pontifex Maximus" became one of the many titles of the Roman Emperor who was also given the responsibility for the entire Roman state religion and in 380 AD in Constantinople Catholic Christianity was proclaimed the official religion for the entire Roman Empire, then in the in the fifteenth century "Pontifex Maximus" became a regular title of honour for Popes.

**On the gate to the Vatican it is inscribed:** Benedictus XVI Pontifex Maximus Anno Domini MMV Pontificatus I (Benedict XVI, Supreme Pontiff, in the year of Our Lord 2005, in the first year of his pontificate). It was in the fifteenth century that "Pontifex Maximus" became a regular title of honor for Popes. It is easy to see that the title "Pontifex Maximus", which is now applied to the pope, though not included in his official list of titles, has a very ancient history, dating back to the times of the Roman Republic.

**Popes descended from Rome:** it is clear that the model (or pattern) from which the Popes descend is that of the imperial Caesars. It is also interesting to notice that, the monarchical authority of the Pontiff has a charisma and a national power of attraction that no president of the republic has ever been able to claim. Daniel tells us he saw in his prophetic night vision: -

- A fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns (Dan. 7:7).

Rome is described as diverse, or different from previous beast powers or Empires. Out of Rome arose a little horn with tremendous political power and religious authority over nations and unlike the previous world Empires whose power and influence died, Rome through the Catholic Church and its Popes still continues to influence nations and their leaders throughout the world even today.

**NOTE:** each of the beasts in Daniel can be described as universal powers that dominated the world at the time. Ancient Rome also was a universal power, yet in time, the Roman Empire faded. Its clear successor is the universal Catholic Church again another universal power. Rome was the diverse fourth power because it evolved from a pagan political power, into a Christian religious and political power, though still dominated by pagan beliefs.

**Pope Pius IX gave the following remarkable testimony:** "It is, therefore, by a particular decree of divine providence that, at the fall of the Roman Empire and its partition into separate kingdoms, the Roman Pontiff, whom Christ made the head and center of his entire Church, acquired civil power." (Pius IX, Apostolic Letter, *Cum-Catholica-Ecclesia* March 26, 1860).

**Daniel had prophesied it!** The expression, "the little horn" indicates a little kingdom". This is one of the distinguishing characteristics of this entity, its small size geographically. The Vatican, the headquarters for the Catholic Church located in Rome, is today the smallest independent country in the world. The papal monarchy came up among the divided kingdoms (the ten horns of Rome), after the fall of the Rome Empire, and has even today influence greatly disproportionate to its geographical size.

#### **The End of the Matter.**

Daniel 7:28 ----- 28 Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my colour changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."

The fact that the visions greatly alarmed Daniel and his colour changed implies that during the time of this little horn until Christ returns there will be ever increasing trouble for the inhabitants of Jerusalem and by extension the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, but the Good News is: -

- The kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.' (Dan. 7:27)

**The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ:** when the Lord returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish.

The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

**For further information see titles: -**

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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**For the history of: -**

- Constantine the Great.
- Constantinople.
- Europe (Conversion of Europe Christianity).
- Rome and its Empire.
- Vatican City.

See Map Locations and People of the Bible (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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See diagram next page

The following four pages have diagrams of Daniel's visions in Daniel chapter seven and eight and of the beast and the feet and the ten toes that show the entire history of the world in illustrations that hopefully will help understand God's future prophecy in picture form.

## Diagram Daniel Seven and Eight.

### The Beast.

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**The following is a picture of Daniel's vision of the Feet and Toes**

**It is a picture of the entire history of the world as it affects Israel and God's future prophecy**

**NOTE:** John's vision in Revelation 17 is the same as Daniel's vision except John begins at Egypt

**Key This entire Beast system is the Great Red Dragon (Rev 12:3)**

The name of blasphemy is written on its head (Revelation 13:1)

**Egypt Fallen**

(Rev 17)

The name of blasphemy is written on its head (Revelation 13:1)

**Assyria Fallen**

(Rev 17)

**Four great Beasts (Kings) come out of the earth, but the saints of the Most High  
Will possess the Kingdom (Dan 7:3, 17)**

**First Beast Babylon**

**Like a Lion**

(Dan 7:4)

In Daniel (Dan 2:38) the first head is Babylon represented by Gold

**Second Beast Media Persia**

**Like a Bear**

(Dan 7:5)

In Daniel (Dan 2:39) the second head is Media Persia represented by Silver

**Third Beast Greece**

**Like a Leopard with four heads**

(Dan 7:6)

In Daniel (Dan 2:39) the third head is Greece represented by Brass

**The fourth beast (Rome) in the following diagram is the next kingdom to rise after Greece**

## **The Fourth Beast Rome With Iron Teeth and Ten Toes**

**Daniel 7**

The 4<sup>th</sup> beast destroys the final nations with its feet (the ten horns)

(Dan 7:7)

### **A Little Horn comes or appears among the Ten Horns**

(Dan 7:8)

#### **The Little Horn**

Plucks up three of the Ten Horns

(Dan 7:8)

Had a mouth speaking great things

(Dan 7:8)

Great words result in Gods judgment

(Dan 7:9-11)

The beast is slain and his body given to fire

(Dan 7:11)

The rest of the beasts had their dominion taken away, but their lives were prolonged

(Dan 7:11-13)

Christ comes with the clouds before the Ancient of days

The kingdoms of the world are given to Christ

(Dan 7:13-14)

All people, nations and languages serve Christ in an everlasting Kingdom

### **The interpretation of Daniel's vision in Daniel chapter Seven verse 15-28**

Daniel desires to know the truth of this 4<sup>th</sup> Beast

(Dan 7:19)

This 4<sup>th</sup> beast is the fourth kingdom on earth it shall devour the whole earth

(Dan 7:23)

Ten horns will arise out of this 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom

(Dan 7:24)

This beast has teeth of Iron and nails of Brass and ten toes

(Dan 7:19-20)

#### **The Little Horn**

Subdue or plucks up three of the ten kings

(Dan 7:20, 24)

Will speak great words against the Most High

(Dan 7:25)

Has eyes of a man

(Dan 7:20)

Is very bold or prideful

(Dan 7:20)

Will wear out the saints of the Most High

(Dan 7:25)

Will think to change times and laws

(Dan 7:25)

Will be given a time, times and a dividing of time

(Dan 7:25)

Makes war with the saints and prevails against them UNTIL the ancient of days comes and judgment is given to the saints of the Most High

(Dan 7:21-22)

Dominion will be destroyed at the judgment

(Dan 7:26)

All the kingdoms of the world will be given to the saints of the Most High

(Dan 7:22, 27)

All nations will serve and obey the Most High

(Dan 7:27)

In (Dan 2:41-43) the Fourth head is represented by Iron and seen as Rome with its feet and toes being partly Iron and partly soft clay

Daniel's vision of the Ten Toes is John's vision in Revelation chapter 17 of the Seventh Head with the Ten Horns

Daniel is looking from the feet up (future) While John is looking from the head down (past)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10
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**Ten horns or kings that have no power as yet but receive power as kings with the beast**

(Rev 17:12-13)

**The Little Horn dominion is destroyed and all the kingdoms of the world will be given to the saints of the Most High**

**The remaining nations will serve and obey the Most High** (Dan 7:26-27)

In Daniel (2:44-45) this event is pictured as a Stone Cut without Hands destroying all the little Horns kingdoms

In the days of these kings God will set up His kingdom and it shall destroy all the above kingdoms the iron, the brass the clay, the silver and the gold



## Daniel Chapters 7 and 8

### Interpretation of Daniel Dream

The entire history of the world as it affects Israel and God's future prophecy

Four great beasts that arise out of the earth from Daniel Chapters 7 & 8

#### First King Babylon

First beast is likened to a lion in (Dan 7:4)  
This beast is seen as an ungodly king (Dan 7:17)

#### Second King Media Persia

The second beast is likened to a bear in (Dan 7:5)  
This beast is seen as an ungodly worldly king in (Dan 7:17)

In Dan chapter 8:3 the same king is seen as a Ram with two horns having one higher than the other  
The rams two horns are the two kings of Media Persia (Dan 8:20)

#### Third King Greece

Third beast is likened to a leopard with four heads in (Dan 7:6)  
This original beast (Greece) is seen as an ungodly worldly king in (Dan 7:17)  
The leopard (Greece) has four heads (Dan 7:6)

In Dan 8:5 he is seen as a He Goat with a notable horn between its eyes (The king of Greece)

He Goat is the kingdom of Greece and the great horn between its eyes is the first king of Greece  
(Dan 8:21)

The notable horn or first King of Greece was broken and four other kingdoms came up (Dan 8:22)  
Four kingdoms arise from the leopard (Greece) (Dan 8:21)

#### 4 heads arise out of the first kingdom of Greece

##### First head

Arise out of Greece  
(Dan 7:6)

##### Second head

Arise out of Greece  
(Dan 7:6)

##### Third head

Arise out of  
Greece (Dan 7:6)

##### Fourth head

Arise out of  
Greece (Dan 7:6)

#### A Little horn arises out of one of the four heads of Greece

Out of one of these four kingdoms arises a little horn that grows exceedingly great toward the East the South and the glorious land (Dan 8:9)

#### Fourth beast with Iron Teeth Rome

The fourth beast has 10 horns (Dan 7:7, 20-24)  
A little horn comes up among the among the ten horns (Dan 7:8, 20)  
He plucks up 3 of the 10 horns (Dan 7:8, 20)  
From this fourth beast with iron teeth arises 10 horns  
These 10 horns give their power to the king of bold face (Dan 8:24)

## The little Horn

## Daniel 7

### The little horn or the king of bold face that arises among the Ten Horns

<b>The Little Horn</b>	Has the eyes of a man	(Dan 7:8)
	Has a mouth that speaks great things	(Dan 7:8, 11, 20, 25)
	Wears out the saints of the Most High	(Dan 7:25)
	Thinks to change times and laws	(Dan 7:25)
	His speaking results in God arising for judgment	(Dan 7:9)
	Makes war with the false saints of the Most High and prevails until judgment is given to the saints (Dan 7:21-25 (Rev 17:16-18)	
	Dominion is for a time and times and a dividing of time	
	Dominion is destroyed	(Dan 7:26)
	Jesus is seen coming and the Kingdom of God begins	(Dan 7:13)
	The kingdoms are given to the saints of the Most High	(Dan 7:27)

## The Beast

## Daniel 7

The 4 <sup>th</sup> beast with the ten horns is killed and its body is burned with fire (lake of fire)	(Dan 7:11)
The other 3 beasts dominion is taken away but their lives are prolonged for a time	(Dan 7:12)
The beast whose lives were prolonged is the first beast, the lion (Babylon)	
The second beast, the bear (Media Persia)	
The third beast, the leopard (Greece)	(Dan 7:4-8)

## The little Horn

## Daniel 8

### The little Horn or the king of fierce countenance that arise out of one of the four kingdoms that arise out of the first kingdom of Greece (Dan 8:22-23)

At the end of these four kingdoms that came out of Greece a Little Horn or a king of fierce countenance arises (Dan 8:8-9 (Dan 8:22-23)

### The Little Horn Grows exceedingly great toward:-

The South	
The East	
The pleasant land (North)	
Even to the host of heaven	(Dan 8:9-10)
Will cast down some of the host of stars and trampled on them	(Dan 8:10)
Will destroy wonderfully	(Dan 8:24)
Will practice and destroy the Holy people	(Dan 8:24)
Will prosper	(Dan 8:24)
Will magnify himself in his heart	(Dan 8:25)
Will magnify himself even to the prince of the Host	(Dan 8:11)
Will stand up against the Prince of princes	(Dan 8:25)
Will cause his policy, deceit and trade to prosper	(Dan 8:25)
Will by peace destroy many	(Dan 8:25)
Will take away the daily sacrifice	(Dan 8:11)
Will throw truth to the ground	(Dan 8:12)
Will practice and prosper	(Dan 8:12)

The place of his sanctuary was cast down and his transgression results in a host (dedicated followers) being given to him (Dan 8:11-12)

This vision is for the time of the end and for the last indignation and shall be broken without hand (Dan 8: 17-19, 25)