



**Nebuchadnezzar
and Babylon**



**Cyrus and
Medo-Persia**



**Alexander
and Macedonia**



**Antiochus IV
and Seleucid
Empire**



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Nebuchadnezzar's Image and Daniel's Vision of the Beasts

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DREAMS AND VISIONS IN DANIEL

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The future historical situation of God’s people is communicated in prophetic visions of an image (Ch. 2), four beasts (Ch. 7), and two beasts (Ch. 8). The dream of the image in chapter 2 and the vision of the four beasts in chapter 7 both refer to four successive gentile empires under which God’s people would live: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

The vision in chapter 8 deals with the experiences of God’s people under the rule of the Medes and Persians, represented by the ram, and under the Greeks, represented by the goat. The “large horn” of 8:8 symbolizes Alexander the Great, who died at age 33 and whose kingdom was split into four parts ruled by four Greek generals—the “four notable horns” of 8:8. The “little horn” of 8:9 may represent Antiochus IV Epiphanes who desecrated the temple in Jerusalem.

	Image Chapter 2	Beasts Chapter 7	Beasts Chapter 8	Kingdoms Represented
 The Times of The Gentiles	Head of fine gold	Like a lion with eagle’s wings		Babylon
	Chest and arms of silver	Like a bear	Ram with two horns	Medo-Persia
	Belly and thighs of bronze	Like a leopard with four wings and four heads	Male goat with one great horn, four horns and little horn	Greece
	Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay	Incomparable beast with ten horns and little horn		Rome
	Stone that becomes a great mountain	Messiah and saints receive the kingdom		Kingdom of God

The Little Horns in Daniel

Although somewhat similar in description, the little horn of 7:8 is different from the little horn of 8:9. The little horn of 7:8 occurs in the context of the fourth kingdom (Rome), while the little horn of 8:9 appears in the context of the third kingdom (Greece). It is generally agreed that this second little horn refers to Antiochus IV Epiphanes who ruled Syria from 175 to 163 B.C. and who attacked Jerusalem and desecrated the temple.

The identity of the little horn of 7:8 is disputed. Many interpreters view this as a reference to the Antichrist who rules over a resurgent Roman empire of the future. Others interpret this as a reference to one of the ancient Roman Caesars.

It is important to note that the little horns of chapters 7 and 8 are two distinct persons. Several factors make this distinction clear:	
Little Horn of Chapter 7	Little Horn of Chapter 8
Would come from Rome (fourth kingdom)	Would come from Greece (third kingdom).
Would be eleventh horn, rooting up three of ten horns.	Would be fifth horn, coming out of one of four horns.
Would persecute God's people for 42 months or 3½ years.	Would persecute God's people for 2,300 days or over 6 years.