

Daniel 7:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

Analysis

Daniel's continued inquiry focuses on "the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows." The little horn receives disproportionate attention, indicating its unique significance. The phrase "whose look was more stout" (literally "appearance greater") suggests this figure's presumptuous arrogance exceeding normal human pride.

The "eyes" signify intelligence and perception—this isn't mere brute force but sophisticated cunning. The "mouth that spake very great things" emphasizes blasphemous speech against God (v. 25). The combination warns that final opposition combines intellectual sophistication, political cunning, and spiritual blasphemy. Modern believers face increasingly sophisticated attacks on Christian truth through academic, media, and governmental channels—patterns prefiguring the little horn's comprehensive opposition.

The detail that this horn appeared greater than its fellows despite starting small illustrates how pride and blasphemy magnify themselves beyond actual status. Antichrist will present himself as humanity's savior and ultimate authority, demanding worship (2 Thessalonians 2:4, Revelation 13:4). Yet despite impressive appearance, this figure faces certain destruction (v. 11). Christ, truly great though

appearing humble, will destroy all false greatness at His return (Philippians 2:5-11).

Historical Context

Antiochus IV Epiphanes' arrogant self-designation ("Epiphanes" = "God Manifest") and persecution of Jews provided initial fulfillment. However, the detailed attention and connection to final judgment (v. 11) indicate primary reference to eschatological antichrist. The pattern shows historical figures foreshadowing greater future fulfillment—Antiochus typed the coming man of lawlessness.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the little horn's combination of intelligence and blasphemy warn about sophisticated modern opposition to Christian truth?
2. What does the emphasis on presumptuous speech teach about recognizing and resisting claims to authority that belong only to God?
3. How should knowing that apparent greatness will be destroyed encourage resistance to cultural pressure to acknowledge false authorities?

Interlinear Text

וְאַחֲרֵי	בְּרַאשׁ	הַ	עָשָׂר	יָקְרָבָן	אַ	וְעַל	וְעַל
And of	even of that horn	the ten	H1768	that were in his head	and of the other		
H5922	H7162	H6236		H7217			H317
וְ	תִּזְמַח	תְּ	סָלַק	תְּ	מִן	וְתַפְּלֵן	תְּ
H1768	which came up	fell	and before	H6925	whom three		H8532
	H5559	H5308	H4481				
וְאַחֲרֵי	תְּ	וְעֵינֵי	וְ	לְ	וְפִם	וְמַמְלֵלָה	
even of that horn	that	had eyes	H0	and a mouth	that spake		
H7162	H1797	H5870		H6433	H4449		
וְ	בְּ	וְ	וְ	מִן	וְ	חֲבָרָתָה	
very great things	whose look	was more stout	and before	his fellows			H2273
H7260	H2376	H7229	H4481				

Additional Cross-References

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

Daniel 7:23 (Parallel theme): Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.