

Daniel 7:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

Analysis

The angel interprets: "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings." The "ten kings" has generated extensive interpretation—possibly ten historical rulers, symbolic completeness, or future confederacy. The emphasis falls on the eleventh figure who "shall be diverse from the first," indicating qualitatively different character from previous rulers.

The phrase "he shall subdue three kings" matches the earlier observation of three horns plucked up (v. 8), indicating political consolidation through force. This ruler rises to power by overthrowing rivals, demonstrating ruthless ambition. The pattern appears throughout history: tyrants consolidating power by eliminating competitors. Yet this figure represents unique evil—"diverse" suggests not merely political ambition but spiritual wickedness opposing God directly.

This description points to antichrist who will arise from a confederation of powers, seize control through deception and force, and establish unprecedented tyranny (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Revelation 13:1-8). The historical pattern (Antiochus and others) finds ultimate fulfillment in the eschatological man of lawlessness. Believers must discern the difference between normal political evil (common throughout history) and qualitatively unique opposition to Christ. Christ will destroy this figure at His coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

Historical Context

Various rulers have exhibited patterns matching this description: Antiochus IV Epiphanes rising to power through intrigue, Roman emperors consolidating authority, medieval and modern tyrants eliminating rivals. Each provides partial fulfillment, but the definite article ("the little horn") and connection to final judgment suggest primary reference to eschatological antichrist. The pattern recurs until ultimate fulfillment.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the little horn's political consolidation through eliminating rivals warn about tyrannical patterns recurring throughout history?
2. What does being "diverse from the first" teach about distinguishing unique eschatological evil from normal political corruption?
3. How should recognizing partial historical fulfillments prepare believers to identify eschatological fulfillment when it occurs?

Interlinear Text

יִקְוּ וַיִּשָּׂא	עֲשֹׂבָה הִיא	מִן	מַלְכוּתָהּ הַזֶּה	עֲשֹׂבָה הִיא	מְלָכֵי יִן	וַיִּשָּׂא
horns	And the ten	from	this kingdom	And the ten	kings	shall rise
H7162	H6236	H4481	H4437	H6236	H4430	H6966
וְאֲחֵרָהּ	יִקְוּ וַיִּשָּׂא	אַחֲרֶיהָ	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	מִן
and another	shall rise	after	H1932	them and he shall be diverse		from
H321	H6966	H311		H8133		H4481
אֶת־הָרִאשִׁית	וְשְׁלֹשָׁה	מְלָכֵי יִן	וְהָשָׁפַל:			
the first	three	kings	and he shall subdue			
H6933	H8532	H4430	H8214			

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 7:20 (Parallel theme): 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.

Revelation 13:1 (Resurrection): And 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.

Daniel 11:36 (Kingdom): And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.