

Daniel 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

After the fourth beast's description (v. 7), Daniel observes the "little horn" emerging among ten horns. This enigmatic figure has generated extensive interpretation. The phrase "before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots" indicates the little horn overthrows three of the ten, suggesting political intrigue and violent consolidation of power. The description "eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things" combines human intelligence with presumptuous blasphemy.

The "little horn" receives more attention than other beasts, indicating unique significance. Historically, some see Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 BC) who persecuted Jews, desecrated the temple, and spoke blasphemies. Prophetically, many identify this with the eschatological antichrist who will arise from a revived Roman system, speaking against God and persecuting saints (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Revelation 13:5-7). The dual fulfillment pattern allows both historical and future application.

The "eyes of man" suggest cunning intelligence—unlike previous beasts representing brute force, this figure uses sophisticated deception. The "mouth speaking great things" indicates arrogant blasphemy against God (v. 25, Revelation

13:5). This warns believers that final opposition combines intellectual sophistication with spiritual deception, requiring discernment beyond mere physical resistance. Christ, the true King, will destroy this presumptuous power at His coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

Historical Context

Antiochus IV Epiphanes provided initial fulfillment: rising to power through intrigue, displacing rivals, and persecuting Jews (167-164 BC). He stopped temple sacrifices, erected Zeus's altar in the temple, and enforced Hellenization, triggering the Maccabean revolt. His arrogant assumption of divine titles ("Epiphanes" = "God Manifest") fulfilled "speaking great things."

Yet Christ's reference to future "abomination of desolation" (Matthew 24:15) and Paul's "man of sin" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4) indicate ongoing prophetic relevance. The pattern established by Antiochus prefigures eschatological antichrist who will similarly combine political power, intellectual sophistication, and blasphemous opposition to God.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the little horn's combination of intelligence ("eyes of man") and blasphemy ("mouth speaking great things") warn about sophisticated spiritual deception?
2. What does dual fulfillment (Antiochus and future antichrist) teach about how biblical prophecy often has both near and far applications?
3. How should recognizing that Christ will destroy all blasphemous opposition encourage perseverance during sophisticated persecution?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁתַּכֵּ ל	הֵו ית	בְּקֶרֶן	וְאַל ו	בְּקֶרֶן	אֲחֵר י
H7920	I considered H1934	horn H7162	and behold H431	horn H7162	them another H317
זַעִיכָה	סִלַּק ת	בִּינִיה ון	וּתֵל ת	בְּקֶרֶן מן	
little H2192	there came up H5559	among H997	whom there were three H8532	of H4481	horn H7162
קִדְמָ יֵת א	אֶתְעַק כו	מן	קִדְמָ יֵה	וְאַל ו	כְּעֵינֵי י
the first H6933	plucked up by the roots H6132	of H4481	before H6925	and behold H431	like the eyes H5870
כְּעֵינֵי י	אִנְשָׁא	בְּקֶרֶן	יֵת א	וּפִּי מ	מִמֶּלֶל ל
like the eyes H5870	of man H606	horn H7162	in this H1668	and a mouth H6433	speaking H4449
					גְּדֹלָה:
					great things H7260

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 13:1 (Parallel theme): 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.

Psalms 12:3 (Parallel theme): The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:

Revelation 9:7 (Parallel theme): And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

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.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (Parallel theme): Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org