

Daniel 8:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.

Analysis

Gabriel explains the great horn's breaking: "Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power." This predicts Alexander's empire's division among his four generals after his death. The phrase "not in his power" indicates these successor kingdoms wouldn't match Alexander's dominance. Indeed, while each Hellenistic kingdom was significant (Cassander's Macedonia, Lysimachus's Thrace/Asia Minor, Seleucus's Syria/Mesopotamia, Ptolemy's Egypt), none approached Alexander's empire in size or power.

This fragmentation demonstrates human achievement's fragility. Alexander's genius couldn't guarantee his legacy's preservation. His half-brother and son were murdered; his generals fought brutal wars for forty years; the unified empire he built dissolved immediately. Human glory, no matter how impressive, proves temporary without divine blessing. Even history's greatest conqueror couldn't establish a lasting dynasty. This warns against pride in human accomplishment—only what God builds endures.

Conversely, this points to Christ's eternal kingdom. Unlike Alexander's fragmented legacy, Christ's death and resurrection established an eternal kingdom that grows continuously. His power increases rather than diminishes; His empire expands rather than fragments. Where Alexander's generals fought over spoils, Christ's apostles spread His gospel in unity. The contrast teaches that only the kingdom

established through self-sacrificial love rather than military conquest can endure forever.

Historical Context

After Alexander's death (323 BC), his generals (Diadochi) fought the Wars of Succession (322-281 BC). By 301 BC (Battle of Ipsus), four main kingdoms emerged exactly as Daniel predicted 270 years earlier: Cassander ruled Macedonia and Greece; Lysimachus held Thrace and Asia Minor (later absorbed by Seleucids); Seleucus controlled Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia; Ptolemy governed Egypt. These kingdoms dominated the Hellenistic period until Roman conquest. The precise fulfillment—four kingdoms from one empire—validates Daniel's prophetic authority and Scripture's divine inspiration.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does Alexander's empire's immediate fragmentation teach us about human achievement's fragility apart from God's blessing?
2. How does the contrast between Alexander's fragmented legacy and Christ's growing eternal kingdom demonstrate different foundations of power?
3. In what ways should the precisely fulfilled four-kingdom division strengthen our confidence in unfulfilled biblical prophecies?

Interlinear Text

וְהַ נִשְׁבַּר כֵּת	יַעֲמֹד דָּנָה	אַרְבַּע ע	תַּחַת יָהּ	אַרְבַּע ע	מַלְכֵי אוֹת
Now that being broken	shall stand up	for it four	H8478	for it four	kingdoms
H7665	H5975	H702		H702	H4438
מִגּוֹי	יַעֲמֹד דָּנָה	וְלֹא	בְּכֹחוֹ:		
out of the nation	shall stand up	H3808	but not in his power		
H1471	H5975		H3581		

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org