

Daniel 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.

Analysis

The goat's total victory over the ram depicts Greece's complete military triumph. "Smote the ram, and brake his two horns" represents shattering Medo-Persian power—both Media and Persia thoroughly defeated. The phrase "there was no power in the ram to stand before him" emphasizes absolute military helplessness. Persia's vast armies, superior numbers, and extensive resources couldn't withstand Greek phalanx tactics and Alexander's genius.

"Cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him" uses vivid imagery of utter humiliation—not mere defeat but total subjugation. "There was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand" stresses that no nation could rescue Persia; former allies and subjects abandoned the failing empire. This language mirrors verse 4's description of Persian invincibility, showing how quickly divine judgment transfers power between kingdoms.

Theologically, this demonstrates that God judges prideful empires. Persia had conquered brutally; now divine justice repays through Greek conquest. The reversal of fortunes warns that earthly power is temporary—nations rising by violence often fall by violence. Only Christ's kingdom, established through self-

sacrificial love rather than military conquest, endures eternally. This points to His ultimate victory over all powers opposed to God.

Historical Context

After Gaugamela (331 BC), Persian resistance collapsed entirely. Alexander occupied Babylon without resistance, captured Susa and its treasures, and burned Persepolis (330 BC) symbolically ending Persian dominion. Darius III fled eastward but was murdered by his own officials (330 BC). Former Persian territories—Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor—submitted to Greek rule. The 220-year Persian Empire ended decisively within three years of Alexander's invasion, exactly as Daniel's vision predicted.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does Persia's rapid collapse after apparent invincibility teach us about false security in earthly power?
2. How does God's use of one prideful empire to judge another demonstrate His sovereignty in executing justice?
3. In what ways does Alexander's complete victory foreshadow Christ's ultimate triumph over all opposing powers?

Interlinear Text

וּרְאִיתִי יוֹ	מִגַּע יָעַן	אֶצֶל	לֹא יֵלֶךְ	וַיִּתְּמַרְםָּ רֶ	אֵלָיו
And I saw	him come	close	in the ram	and he was moved with choler	
H7200	H5060	H681	H352	H4843	H413
וַיִּגַּע בּוֹ	אֶת	לֹא יֵלֶךְ	וַיִּשְׁבֵּר	אֶת	שְׁתֵּי יוֹ
against him and smote		in the ram	and brake	his two	horns
H5221	H853	H352	H7665	H8147	H7161
וְהָיָה	כִּי	לֹא יֵלֶךְ	לִעֲמֹד	לִפְנֵי יוֹ	
	and there was no power	in the ram	to stand	before	
H1961	H3581	H352	H5975	H6440	
וַיִּשְׁלִיכֵהוּ	אֶל הָאָרֶץ	וַיִּדְמֹס הוּא	וְלֹא	הָיָה	
him but he cast him down	to the ground	and stamped			
H7993	H776	H7429	H3808	H1961	
וְעַל יוֹ	לֹא יֵלֶךְ	מִיָּדוֹ			
upon him and there was none that could deliver	in the ram	out of his hand			
H5337	H352	H3027			

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 11:11 (Parallel theme): And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand.

Daniel 7:7 (Parallel theme): After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.