

**8:5-7 – The Goat from the West with 1 Horn**

As I was considering, a male goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth without touching the ground. The goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. <sup>6</sup> He came to the ram with the 2 horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the canal, and he ran at him in his powerful wrath. <sup>7</sup> I saw him come close to the ram; he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his 2 horns. The ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled on him. There was no one who could rescue the ram from his power.

David Jeremiah: “One of the most amazing passages I’ve ever read in the prophetic word.” The 1st Greek colony was established by an oracle (a wise man who spoke for the gods). The oracle sent a *goat* to determine where to build the city (the original capital of Macedon). The goat stopped along the shore of the land we call Greece, which was very beautiful.

In gratitude for the goat leading them to this place, they named it Aegae (the goat city). They named the sea Aegean (the goat sea), and the goat was their *national symbol*. Alexander even named his son (with Roxana) “Aegus” – son of the goat.

5 amazing prophecies in 4 verses were fulfilled 200 years later, down to the last detail:

1. Speed of the Conquest, 2. Reputation of the King, 3. The Fall of Medo-Persia,
4. Death of the King, 5. Division of the Kingdom in 4 Parts

*Speed of Conquest:* The male goat represents the king of Greece; the prominent horn is the 1st king. Dan.8:21. 200 years after Daniel’s vision, Alexander the Great became that 1st king.

1 Maccabees 1:1 (NRSV Catholic) After Alexander, son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came from the land of Kittim, had defeated King Darius of the Persians and the Medes, he succeeded him as king. (He had previously become king of Greece.)

The Grecian Empire was larger than any previous kingdom, yet it was the fastest built.

Alexander came from the west, conquering every land with tremendous speed.

In 12 years, the Greek army conquered the entire civilized world *without losing a battle*.

*Reputation:* Alexander’s mother taught him that he descended from Achilles & Hercules.

As a boy, Alexander broke a wild horse after everyone else in the family had tried and failed.

This was the horse Alexander rode as he led the Greek army in their conquest of the world.

Alexander’s father, Philip of Macedon, was a successful military leader.

Alexander feared there would be nothing left for him to conquer when dad was done.

After one significant victory, Philip encouraged and inspired his son by saying:

“Alexander, seek a kingdom worthy of yourself. Macedonia is too small for you.”

Alexander realized he could *build* on dad’s local success. He decided to conquer the *world*.

Alexander conquered the greatest amount of territory of any king in history.

Imagine 1 acre of land (4840 square yards). 1 square mile = 640 acres.

Alexander conquered 1,500,000 square *miles* by marching 11,000 miles to India and back.

*Fall of Medo-Persia:* The goat attacked “in great rage,” furiously striking & shattering both ram horns. There was an element of revenge; “bad blood” existed between Greece and Persia.

Persia had conquered Greece 150 years before Alexander, causing much destruction.

In retaliation, Alexander wiped out the leadership of Medo-Persia 334-331 BC.

These verses were fulfilled in history, starting in May 334 BC.

At age 22, Alexander first defeated the Persians at the Granicus River in Asia Minor.

His complete conquest of the Persian Empire took just over 3 years.

The Persian army was finally broken in October, 331 at Gaugemela near Nineveh.

This was the last large-scale attempt in history by the East to conquer the West.

The Greek army of 35,000 was *outnumbered 10 to 1*, yet they *crushed* the Persian army.

The ram without horns was powerless, at the mercy of the goat – but there was no mercy.

Daniel adds with humor that this time, “none could rescue the ram”. Dan.8:7 vs. 8:4

When Alexander was on his way to conquer Jerusalem, a Jewish priest met him.

The priest showed Alexander the prophecies in the book of Daniel.

Alexander was impressed with the description of himself, written 200 years earlier.

Instead of destroying Jerusalem, he entered in peace and worshiped at the temple.

The prophecy corresponds to later history with amazing accuracy. See Daniel 11

The fit is so precise, liberal critics can only argue it must have been written in 165 BC.

### 8:8 – The Goat Horn is Broken

**Dan.8:8** Then the goat became exceedingly great, but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up 4 conspicuous horns toward the 4 winds of heaven.

#### *Death of the King / Division of the Kingdom*

Alexander began to push into India, but his exhausted army demanded rest at Babylon.

Unexpectedly, the great horn would be broken at the peak of the goat’s strength.

This prophecy was fulfilled in June 323 BC with the death of Alexander at age 32.

Alexander died after a drunken party at Babylon, *just like Belshazzar*.

He had conquered the world, but he was unable to conquer his own sinful excesses.

The Grecian empire was divided in 301 BC into 4 pieces as Daniel predicted. Dan.7:6, 8:8, 22

Alexander believed that he deserved all the credit for his empire, just like Nebuchadnezzar.

Alexander didn’t realize he was an instrument in God’s hand, doing what God sent him to do.

Alexander didn't know, but he had to finish these conquests before Christ could come.

Secular historians fail to notice Alexander’s 2 greatest contributions to history.

He built vast highways throughout the world – roads on which *missionaries would travel*.

He established the language in which the *Gospel would be written and preached*.

He never knew he was being used of God to prepare the world for the coming of Christ.

Alexander taught the Greek language and culture to everyone he conquered.

For 300 years before and 300 years after Christ, Greek was the *universal language*.

Think of writing a memo in shorthand, or a doctor writing a prescription for a pharmacy.

The Greek language is extremely precise & efficient (fewer words, 20% shorter than English).

The New Testament was written in Greek so that it could be widely understood.

The absence of language barriers facilitated the explosive growth of the early church.

Greek was the best language ever devised for communicating Christ’s rich message.