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The Third Beast of Dani'el:
A Leopard with Thighs of Bronze
Dani'el 2:32c, 2:39b, 7:6, 8:5-8, 21-22, and 11:3-35

The third beast of Dani'el: a leopard with thighs of bronze DIG: What three ways is Greece pictured here? What made this leopard different from other leopards? Why did it have four wings and four heads? What did the goat represent? Why did it have one prominent horn? Why didn't the goat's feet touch the ground? Why did the goat attack the ram with great rage? Why was the large horn broken off? What grew in its place? Would they have the same power?

The belly of bronze represented Alexander the Great, and **the thighs** represented his **kingdom**, **Greece** in the east and Macedonia in the west. **Nebuchadnezzar's** image of the statue was top heavy and *decreased,* or got weaker, as you went down because of the density of the metals. Gold has a specific gravity of 19, silver 11, bronze 8.5, and iron 7.8. But the strength of the metals *increased,* or got stronger in each successive empire. **Bronze** is stronger than silver and **the Greek Empire** was stronger than the Medo-Persian Empire. So **the belly and thighs of bronze** represented the third Gentile **kingdom**, which was **the Greek Empire (2:32c)**. Pictured as two **thighs**, it occupied territory in both the east and the west. It was the third of four Gentile empires to dominate Jerusalem.

Nearly two hundred years before Alexander was born, **Dani'el** received this prophecy that predicted **the Greek Empire** would not be divided among Alexander's children, but between four others. When **Dani'el** interpreted **King Nebuchadnezzar's** dream **he** saw **a third kingdom, one of bronze,** which would **rule over the whole earth (Dani'el 2:39b).** Then later, when **he** received **his** own vision **he** gave more detail, **he** said: **After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard.** That **third beast,** like **the belly and thighs of bronze**, represented **the Greek Empire**. The **leopard** is less majestic than the lion and less grand than the bear, but it is swifter and faster than both. With **leopard**-like swiftness Alexander the Great conquered the Medo-Persian Empire and greatly extended **Greek** culture and influence. The **leopard** was also used as a motif for **the Greek Empire (Jer 5:6; Hos 13:7).** What made this **leopard**-like creature different from the rest was that **it had four wings like those of a bird on its back.** Alexander's Empire had four divisions like the **four wings**: the first **wing** was Thrace, the second **wing** was **Greece**, the third **wing** was Egypt, and the fourth **wing** was Mesopotamia. **This beast** also **had four heads**, or rulers **(Dan 7:6a). And it was given authority to rule (Dan 7:6b)**. This **kingdom** was larger than the previous two.

In **Dani'el's** same **vision** where **he** was transported to the palace at **Susa**, **beside the Ulai Canal (Daniel 8:1-2)**, **suddenly** he saw **a goat**, literally, *the buck of the goats,* **with a prominent horn**, literally *the horn of vision,* **between his eyes.** This is the zodiac sign for **Greece**, which is the Capricorn. See my commentary on **Genesis, to see link click Mb – Capricorn (The Goat)**. This **shaggy goat** was **the first king of Greece,** Alexander the Great, and when he conquered the Medes

and the Persians, **he came from the west.** This **goat** was so fast that **he** crossed the **earth without touching the ground**, and like a **leopard**, Alexander was known of the speed in which **his** armies moved **(Daniel 8:5).** This empire was also **given authority to rule** over all **the earth**, just as **God** gave to **King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 7:6b)**. But like Babylon, it did not take all that it was allowed.

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for **You** are Almighty and all powerful! Praise **You** that **You** know exactly what will happen in the future and that it is **You** who give the authority to rule over the earth-to the kingdoms which you choose. It is so comforting to know that **You** call those who choose to love and follow **You** – Your children, But **whoever did receive Him, those trusting in His name, to these He gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12).** And that **You** are always with **Your children, for God Himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you,".** We love to worship and obey **You**, our wise, powerful and wonderful **Father**! In the name of **Your** holy **Son** and the power of **His** resurrection. Amen*

Alexander was born in 356 BC, his father was king Phillip of Macedon. Alexander had a famous tutor, Aristotle, who taught him **Greek** philosophy. But although Alexander was Macedonian and not **Greek**, he became fascinated with the **Greek** culture. As a result, he had a desire to spread the **Greek** philosophy, culture and language throughout **the whole world**. Phillip, united the two **kingdoms** of **Greece** and Macedonia and was preparing to conquer Persia when he was murdered. So Alexander became king in 336 BC when he was only 20 years old, and two years later began to move against Persia.

The vision of **the goat with the prominent horn** is a further development of the **belly and thighs of bronze** in the statue in **King Nebuchadnezzar's** dream **(Dani'el 2:32)**, and the **leopard with four wings on its back and four heads (Dani'el 7:6).** Each vision gave more specific detail. So here, the **four wings** and **four heads** of the **leopard** are given more detail with the **four horns** of **the goat**.

In **his** vision, **Dani'el** saw the destruction of the Medo-Persian Empire by Alexander the Great. **The prophet** described it in stages. When Alexander began he had only 35,000 troops. **The goat** charged **the two horned ram**, that he **had seen standing beside the canal**, **with great rage.** With these Macedonian and **Greek** troops he crossed the Hellespont, and attacked them **with great rage** because of previous Persian invasions against the **Greeks**. This was especially true of the

Persian king who ruled between 486 BC to 465 BC. The **Greeks** called him Xerxes, but the Jews called him Ahasuerus (see my commentary on **Esther Ac – The Book of Esther From a Jewish Perspective**: **King Ahasuerus**). He invaded **Greece** twice without success, but the **Greeks** remembered **his** invasions more than a century later. The Persian king at the time of Alexander's invasion was Darius III, who ruled from 336 to 331. Alexander won the first battle at the Granicus River in May 334 BC. As a result, he freed all the Greek cities of Asia Minor from Persian control.

The second battle was at village of Issus, in November 334 BC. **The goat attacked the ram furiously, striking** him **and shattering his two horns.** The invading troops led by the young Alexander of Macedonia, outnumbered more than 2 to 1, defeated the army personally led by Darius III of Persia. **The ram was powerless to stand against him.** Darius fled the battlefield with Alexander in hot pursuit.

The final battle was at Gaugamela, which was near ancient Nineveh near the Tigris River in October 331 BC. Darius was building up a massive army, drawing men from the far reaches of his empire. He planned to use numbers to crush Alexander, and according to some contemporary historians he gathered around 100,000 men. Darius also picked a flat plain for a battlefield so Alexander would have no advantages in terrain, and allowing Darius to use his vast horde more effectively. On the eve of battle Alexander's generals were of the opinion that to counter the overwhelming advantage in numbers of the Persians a night attack should be launched. Alexander is said to have dismissed the notion explaining that as he was no ordinary general he would not act like one. As it turned out Alexander's timing of battle was right. Darius, fearing a night attack, kept his army awake and on alert for the whole night, while Alexander's men slept and were rested. Alexander planned to hold his forces of cavalry on the right flank, while his trained infantry went left, forcing Darius to go through a river. He then planned to attack after Darius was thoroughly stuck. **The goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him.** After this battle Alexander destroyed three major cities in Persia. **And none could rescue the ram from his power.** At that point Alexander kept moving east all the way to the Indus River in India, south to the Indian Ocean and then back to Babylon. **The Greeks** ruled by force, and the conquest of Medo-Persia was complete.

The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off. Alexander died an untimely death at the age of 32. **And in its place four prominent horns grew toward the four winds of heaven**, or in other words, in four different directions **(Dani'el 8:6-8).** It took twenty years of civil

war, but **the four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that** would **emerge from his nation (Dani’el 8:22a). The four horns** represent **the four** generals and **four** nations that divided **the kingdom** among themselves: Iysimachus ruled Asia Minor in the north, Cassander ruled **Greece** in the west, Ptolemy ruled Egypt in the south and Selecucus ruled Mesopotamia in the east, **but** none would **have the same power** as Alexander did **(Dani’el 8:22b).** The ensuing battle between the Ptolemies of Egypt and the Seleucids of Syria is described in **Dani’el 11:5-35**. The details of this prophecy are so historically accurate that literary critics have attacked the book, saying that it must have been written after these events took place. But we worship an omniscient **God** who is outside of time. He can predict the past and the future. In fact, **He** causes the future to happen.

So in **his** first vision **(Dan 7:2-6)**, **Dani’el** saw the first three Gentile **kingdoms**, with animalistic form that **he** was familiar with, a lion, a bear and a **leopard**. But, in the second vision **(Dan 7:7-8)**, it changed somewhat.