

Asia during a number of centuries, as it conquered nation after nation. The second and third kingdoms made great conquests in their early years, but very few in later times, while the Roman state carried on for several centuries a successful career of continuing conquest.

Verse 7 ends with the statement: "it had ten horns." We know of no distinctive feature of Rome, "the city on seven hills," that would normally be typified by ten horns. Later statements strongly suggest that these ten horns⁴ do not represent an original characteristic of this fourth kingdom, but a changed situation that would occur during its second phase.

The Second Part of the Vision

(8) "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully."

This brief account of the second phase of the fourth kingdom is amplified later in the chapter. Here attention is directed not so much to the general nature of the fourth kingdom at this period as to a striking development within it - the rise of the little horn.

The picture of the little horn is not developed very fully at this point. This first account of the vision says only that three of the ten horns were uprooted before it, and that it "had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully." In the context there is no doubt that boasts and blasphemies are involved, though the Aramaic words simply mean "great words" or "great things." Further accounts of the evil activity of the little horn are found in verses 20-21 and 24-25.