

existence. It should not be connected with Revelation 20 but with Revelation 5, where search was made for one who could open a book that was sealed with seven seals, and when the book was opened (Rev. 6ff.) the wrath of God was poured out upon the world. In the light of context the statement, "the books were opened," would seem to refer to the fulfillment of God's predicted judgment rather than to a search for facts in order to make a decision.

2. The Destruction of the Fourth Beast

(11) "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. (12) (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)"

We do not know whether Daniel, while watching the symbolic picture of the authority and power of the Ancient of Days, could still hear the boastful words the horn was speaking, or whether he was recalling the earthly scene. In either case he was greatly disturbed by these sounds and kept wondering what God would do about the horn. The latter part of the verse gives the answer. As he looked he saw the beast slain and its body destroyed and given to the blazing fire.

This corresponds to the picture in chapter 2 where the statue was hit by the stone and so completely demolished that all its parts were broken into small pieces and completely eradicated.

The verse makes no mention of the fate of the little horn, which is to be understood as included in the destruction of the beast.

The next verse (v. 12) states that the first three beasts had continued to live for a time, though they had been stripped of their authority. This means that Daniel had as yet seen no indication of the destruction of any one of these three