

Afghanistan was long ruled by Greek kings who emphasized Greek customs and culture.

These facts were predicted by statements in verse 22 that the new kingdoms "will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power." Although the territory included in most of these kingdoms consisted entirely of land that had been ruled by the Persians, and only one of them included any sizable amount of land that had been Greek or Macedonian before Alexander's conquest, the leadership of all of them was Greek or Macedonian, and the political and social culture of the whole area underwent great modification.

The statement "but will not have the same power" (v. 22) is a good summary of what would occur when Alexander's generals began to fight among themselves. The various generals seized each other's territory and fought back and forth, one after another assuming supremacy for a brief time. Although they were able generals and powerful men, no one of them displayed more than a fraction of the ability, leadership and power that Alexander exercised during his brief life. As the Persians had thoroughly organized the vast area that Cyrus had conquered, and its people were now accustomed to being governed by foreigners, the change to Greek domination was easily made. In most portions of this immense region the local people took little part in the many conflicts during the 40 years that followed Alexander's death.

Up to this point the material in chapter 8 has closely paralleled the brief statements in chapters 2 and 7 about the second and third kingdoms. Some important historical details about these kingdoms have been added and the identity of the two kingdoms has been definitely established.

In Nebuchadnezzar's vision in chapter 2 it was rather obvious that an important part of the purpose for telling about the four kingdoms was to lead up to the second phase of the fourth kingdom and the following destruction of the statue and establishment of a new universal regime. In chapter 7 an important part of the purpose of the survey of the four kingdoms was to lead up to the activity of the