

comes out of the Grecian kingdom, which is identified with the third kingdom of chapters 2 and 7.

It is reasonable to hold that in chapter 7 Daniel looks forward to a great crisis shortly before the end of the age, but that in chapter 8 he looks forward to a different crisis which would appear very distant from his viewpoint, since he lived more than three centuries before the time of Antiochus, though very far in the past from our present viewpoint. Thus God gave predictions of two different crises.

The first part of Daniel's vision (vv. 3-9) and the corresponding part Antiochus (v. 9) and of the corresponding part of the interpretation (v. 23) are closely tied to the verses that precede and in each case it is easy to see an exact correspondence between the following verses (vv. 9b-14 and vv. 23b-25) and the historical records that describe the career of Antiochus.

In view of these facts the present writer is convinced that Daniel 8 deals exclusively with the predicted crisis under Antiochus.

Yet there is evidence that as early as the fifth century after Christ there were interpreters who considered the chapter to deal primarily with the future Antichrist. At this point in his commentary Jerome said: "Most of our commentators refer this passage to the Antichrist, and hold that that which occurred under Antiochus was only by way of a type which shall be fulfilled under Antichrist."<sup>3</sup>

What Jerome said of the evangelical interpreters of his day is still largely true. Since most (probably all) of those who believe that the book was written by the prophet Daniel in the sixth century B.C. find Antichrist predicted in chapter 7 and in the latter part of chapter 11, many of them think that he must in some way be found in chapter 8, and only a few recognize that the entire chapter deals with the crisis produced by Antiochus.<sup>4</sup>

Jerome himself pointed out the remarkable agreement between the predictions in Daniel 8 and the events in the career of Antiochus. In the prologue of his Commentary (pp. 15-16) he said: