

might be proper to bring it into connection with the recollection of the dream that Daniel had interpreted for Nebuchadnezzar 45 years earlier (though one should be extremely hesitant about doing the reverse). In that vision iron stood specifically for the fourth kingdom and bronze for the third. It is not impossible that this reference to bronze claws might involve a suggestion that the fourth beast would take over many of the qualities of the third kingdom and would even more effectively display them. The bronze claws that were able to reach out and seize large territories could be typical of Alexander's conquests, but would find even greater expression in the wide-ranging Roman conquests that continued during a much longer period of time.

Daniel also added further information about the little horn, saying that it "was waging war against the saints and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came." No indication is given as to how these facts were symbolized in the vision. Evidently Daniel's mind was so filled with the realization of the glory of the Ancient of Days that up to this point he failed to mention the previous difficulties of God's people. When the bystander said that the saints would receive the kingdom Daniel was reminded of what they had suffered, and therefore mentioned it in his recapitulation (cf. also v. 25 below).

There is no promise that the saints will prevail over the little horn before the Ancient of Days comes. Their deliverance will await His coming.

In verse 22 the phrase "until the Ancient of Days came" obviously refers to the coming of the Son of Man with the clouds of heaven to take possession of the kingdom to which the Father has already given him title (v. 14). Here the prophet uses the term Ancient of Days to refer to the Son of Man. The term represents God's character as the Eternal One who has always existed and it can properly be applied to the triune God or to any member of the God head. In verse 9 it is applied to the triune God as He exerts His supreme power; in verse 13 it is applied to God the Father as He gives the Son the right to possess the kingdom