

In verses 24-25 the second phase of this kingdom is described. It is explained that the ten horns represent ten kings. Those holding the Maccabean view wish to take them as representing ten successive kings, but the statement that the new king will overcome three others militates against that idea.

In this second explanation the bystander gives new information about the boastful horn, an individual who had no counterpart in the dream described in Daniel 2. He was first introduced in Daniel 7:8 and additional information was given in Daniel's enlarged account of the latter part of the vision in verses 20-22 and also here in the bystander's explanation in verses 24-26.

These various statements show the importance of the predicted crisis. The horn will almost destroy God's people, but they will be delivered by the coming of the Ancient of Days.

Young says of this little horn: "It is, I believe, that one of whom Paul spoke, 'Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there be a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God' (2 Thes. 2:3, 4). This one is the Anti-Christ."¹⁰

There would seem to be little doubt that the figure called the little horn represents a great enemy of God who has not yet appeared. It is somewhat unfortunate that the name Antichrist has come to be generally applied to this individual since that term is applied in the New Testament to any important enemy of our Saviour. In 1 John 2:18 the apostle declared that even in his day there were many antichrists. Yet the word has come to be rather generally used by interpreters of widely varying viewpoints as a designation for the individual predicted by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 and it is convenient to use it in this limited sense.

In the bystander's explanation two new facts about the little horn are mentioned. The first of these is that the king