

important than the Persians, but under Cyrus the Persians became predominant. This change occurred at about the time when Daniel received this vision, and would give him assurance that the rest of the prophecy would be fulfilled.

In the following years Cyrus led his armies westward through the area north of the Babylonian empire. Then he marched north and conquered all of Asia Minor. After doing so he returned and went further south, eventually taking possession of Babylon itself. This part of his career is vividly symbolized in verse 4.

It might be asked how the references in verse 4 to west, north and south as directions in which the ram was pushing could be harmonized with the idea of a symbolic dream. Yet the answer to this question is not difficult, since Daniel seemed in his vision to be standing beside the Ulai Canal. As he was already familiar with the area the position of the canal would make the directions obvious.

Although these conquests by Cyrus were followed by others in the east, the east is not mentioned, since the purpose of the vision was to point out the supplanting of the Babylonian empire by that of Persia. In this connection it would be well to call attention again to the danger of unjustifiable arguments from silence. Whatever the Bible clearly states can be taken as true. When the Bible does not mention something it may mean that the thing not mentioned did not occur, or there may be some other reason, as here, for the omission.

THE RAM OVERCOME BY THE GOAT	GREECE
(5) As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground. (6) He came toward the two-horned ram I had	(21) The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king.