

seen standing beside the canal and charged at him in great rage. (7) I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power.	
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These verses give a vivid picture of one of the greatest and most unexpected overturnings in world history. More than two centuries passed between what is represented in verse 4 and what is represented in verse 5. Ten years before Alexander the Great attacked the Persian empire, that empire seemed to be at the height of its power and demonstrated this by its reconquest of Egypt, which had gained its freedom nearly a century before. Suddenly an unexpected force came from the west -- a force that the interpretation identifies as "the king of Greece." These verses vividly portray the rise of the Hellenistic empire. The conquests of Cyrus were very great and comparatively rapid, but the progress of Alexander the Great as he led his armies east from Macedon two hundred years later would be far more rapid. In only twelve years he brought the entire Persian empire to his feet. The mention of the prominent horn between the eyes of the goat points to Alexander's preeminence in the whole undertaking.

There is considerable evidence of contact between Greece and Babylon at the time of Belshazzar, but it is very unlikely that anyone living at that time would have thought it possible, apart from divine revelation, that distant Greece could ever topple an Asiatic empire.