

little horn that would come out of the fourth kingdom, and to the complete destruction of the fourth beast and the establishment of a new universal regime. The purpose in chapter 8 is quite different, for it reaches its climax in predicting the career of a wicked man who would come from the third kingdom, and says nothing about events that would occur after that time.

After verse 8 more than a century is passed over in silence. There is no reference to this interval in the account of the vision, but it is suggested in the interpretation by the phrase "in the latter part of their reign" (v. 23). The remaining portion of chapter 8 deals with one of the greatest crises in the history of God's people -- the attempt of a Hellenistic king, who ruled one of the sections of the third empire, to force the Jews to abandon their religion and worship heathen gods.

Those who hold the Maccabean view insist that chapters 7 and 8 both relate to Antiochus (IV) Epiphanes, who attempted to destroy the Jewish customs and the Jewish religion. On the face of it this identity appears unlikely, since the evil figure in Daniel 7 comes from the fourth kingdom, while the one to whom the rest of chapter 8 is devoted comes from the third kingdom.

It has become customary to refer to the great enemy of God described in Daniel 7 as "the little horn," although the term "little horn" occurs only once in the King James Version of that chapter (7:8). The fact that the KJV uses the same phrase in Daniel 8:9 suggests that in chapter 8 the same person is being described. It is therefore important to recognize that the terminology in chapter 8 is very different. This fact is clearly brought out in the translation in the NIV. In Daniel 7:8, instead of saying "another little horn," like the KJV, the NIV says "another horn, a little one" -- a translation that is not only closer to the original but also more logical. In Daniel 8:9 the Hebrew original does not say "a little horn" but "a horn from littleness." The Hebrew preposition *min*, which is generally translated "from" is also often used in comparisons and in such cases is usually translated "than." This latter is the interpretation that was