

When the book began to be widely read people would have seen this evidence of its truth and could know that the terrible days pictured in the latter part of chapter 8 were still in the distant future.

The conquests of Alexander the Great (represented by the goat from the west) occurred two centuries after Daniel wrote. Another century and a half passed before the time of Antiochus Epiphanes. Thus the greater part of the vision was not fulfilled until more than three centuries after Daniel received it, but its warnings and its promises of ultimate deliverance would prepare God's people for the great crisis described in this chapter.

Notes

- ^{^1} This name appears in the KJV as Shushan, following the Hebrew writing, which may preserve the local pronunciation. The Assyrians and the later Greeks, unfamiliar with the sound *sh*, pronounced it Susa.
- ^{^2} It has been suggested that a kingdom of Thrace was sufficiently important to rank with the great kingdoms of Macedonia, Syria and Egypt, but I have been unable to find any historical evidence of the existence of such a kingdom during the period from 280 to 180 B.C.
- ^{^3} See pp. 224-238