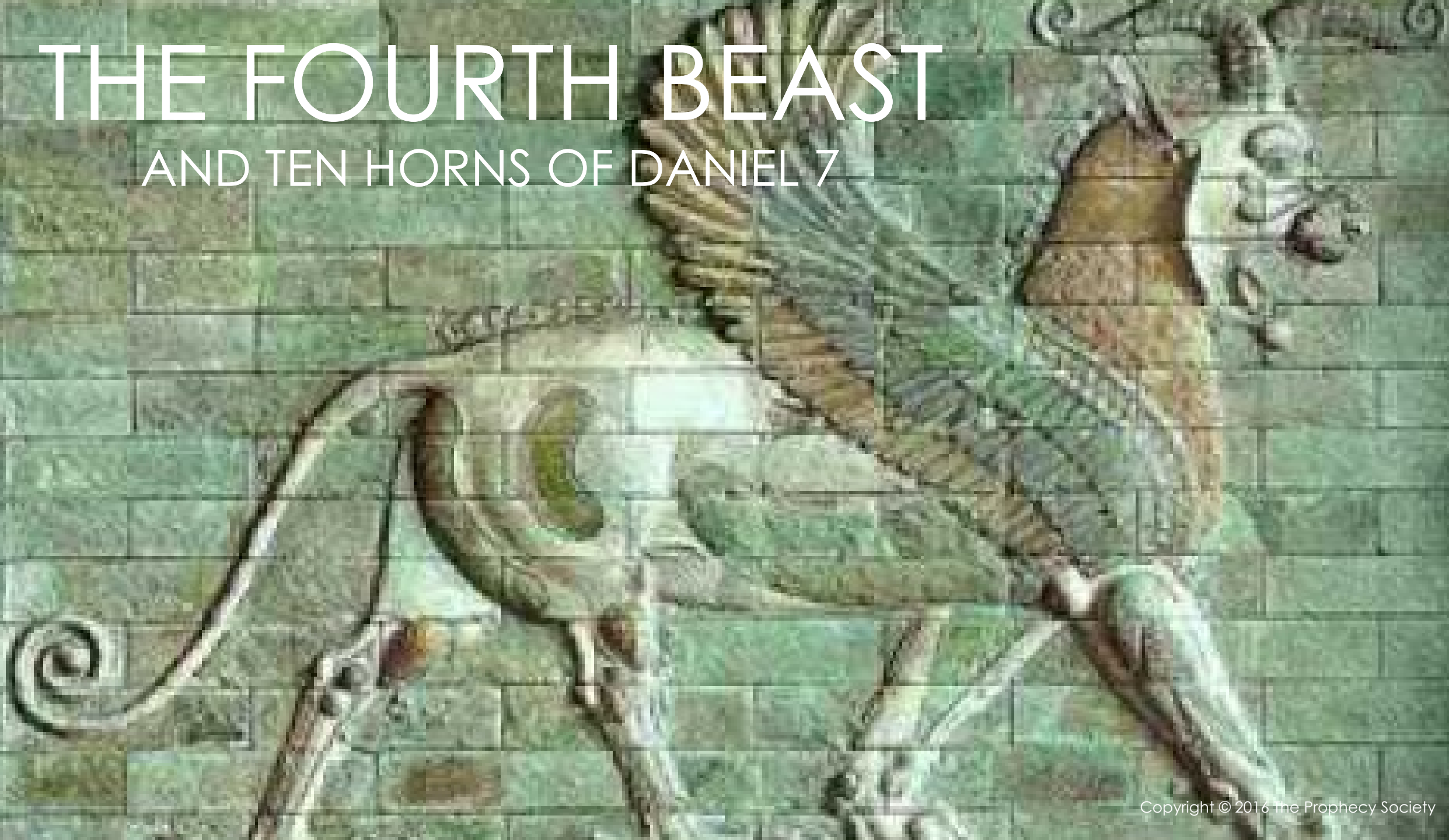


THE FOURTH BEAST

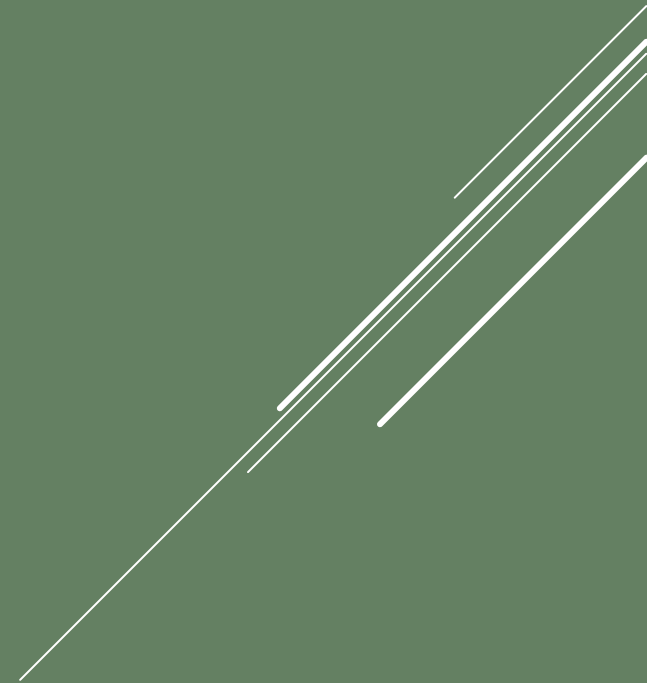
AND TEN HORNS OF DANIEL 7



THE FOURTH BEAST OF DANIEL 7

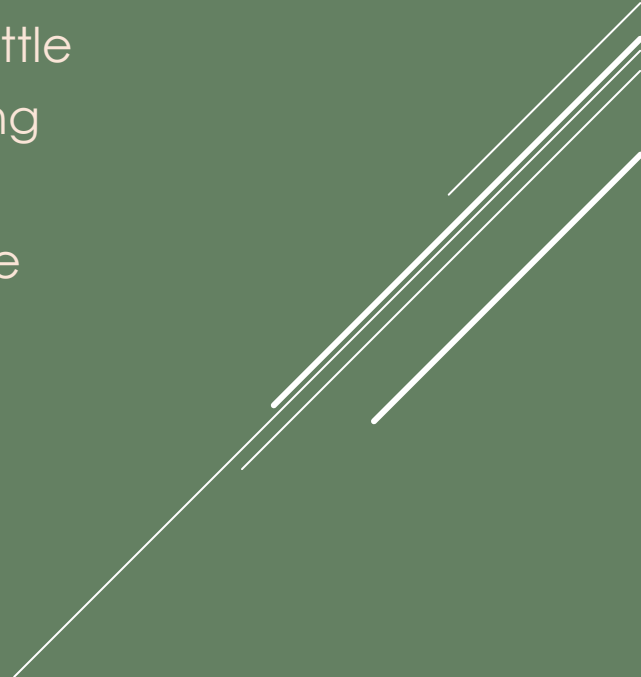
The seventh chapter of Daniel describes a period of Jewish history involving four beasts representing four kings, with the fourth beast having ten horns that represent ten kings.

📖 "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the **ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings** that shall arise: **and another shall rise after them**; and he shall be diverse from the first, **and he shall subdue three kings.**" ~ Daniel 7:23-24 KJV




The 10 kings are usually misidentified...

Some expositors like to identify the ten kings as Roman emperors. Other expositors improperly mix the chronology in Daniel with the Book of Revelation and place the reigns of the ten kings in the end times, usually identifying the little horn that arises from the ten kings as an Antichrist causing general mayhem on Earth. Both of those interpretive schemes are incorrect. We will show from history how the ten kings and little horn can be correctly identified.



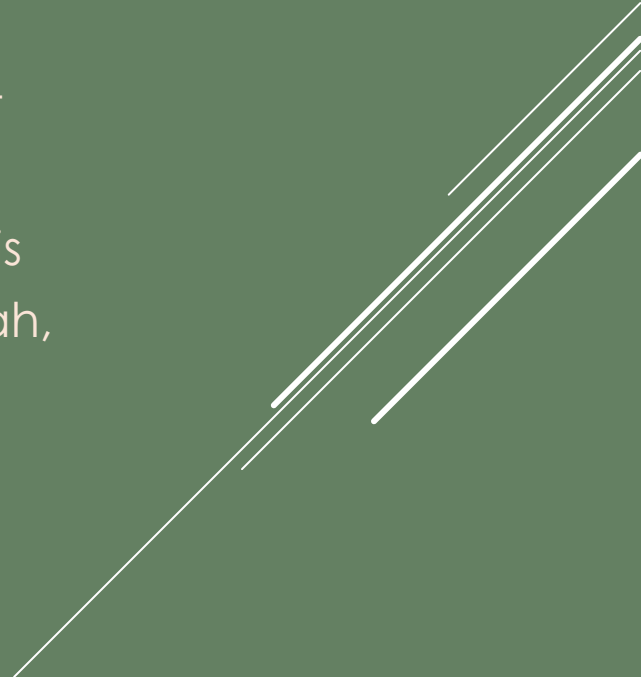
The Chronological Context ...

The prophecy about the fourth beast with ten horns and the little horn in Daniel 7 was recorded by Daniel in the first year of the Babylonian coregent-king Belshazzar *circa* 550 B.C. The Jews were still captive in Babylon. It makes sense to look to the period immediately following the time of the captivity and coregency of Belshazzar (last Babylonian ruler over the Jews) for the fulfillment of the prophecy in Daniel 7.



The First King ...

In 539 B.C., Cyrus II captured Babylon, bringing the Babylonian Empire to an end. From a biblical perspective, that event marked the start of the Medo-Persian (Achaemenid) Empire. Cyrus II the Great, the first king to rule over the Jews after Belshazzar was deposed, is the king represented by the first beast in the prophecy, the lion with eagles wings who was given the heart of a man. The “heart of a man” reference is probably based on the fact that Cyrus was called a messiah, God’s anointed one, in Isaiah 45:1.



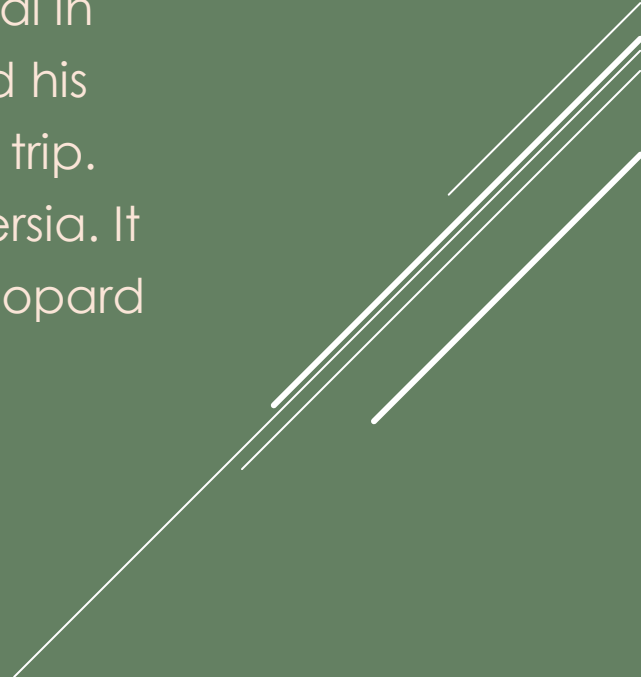
The Second King ...

Cyrus II the Great died in 530 B.C. and was succeeded by his son, who reigned as Cambyzes II. It is Cambyzes who is the king represented by the second beast, a bear with three ribs in its mouth that was told to devour much flesh.



The Third King ...

Cambyses II expanded the Persian Empire into Egypt, and then attempted unsuccessfully to invade Kush (modern-day Sudan). While his army was tied down in the Kush campaign, a rebellion led by his brother Smerdis (*aka* Bardiya) began back in the Persian capital in 522 B.C. Cambyses immediately retreated from Kush to defend his throne, but died under mysterious circumstances on the return trip. Upon the death of Cambyses, Smerdis gained the throne of Persia. It is Smerdis who is the king represented by the third beast, the leopard with four wings and four heads who was given dominion.



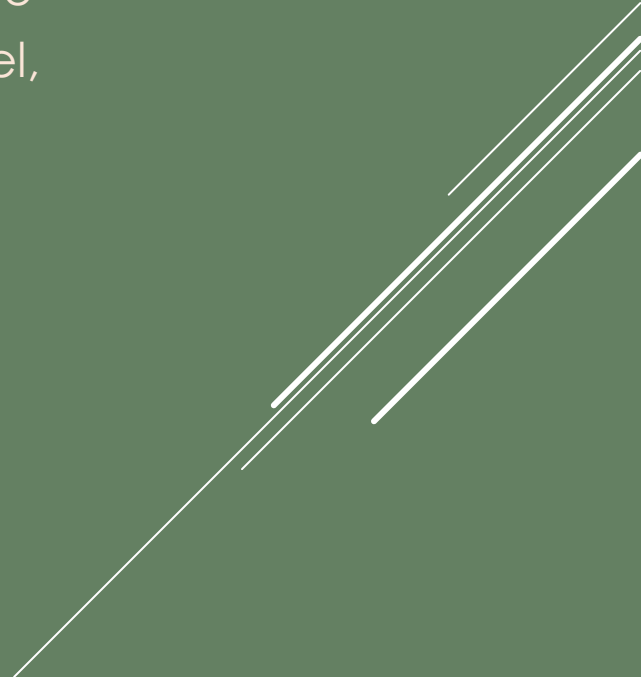
The Fourth King ...

Smerdis (*aka* Bardiya) occupied the Persian throne for only a few months before Darius the eldest son of Hystaspes, an important Persian authority figure, killed him and seized the throne for himself. Darius I is the king represented by the fourth beast, which was dreadful and terrible with iron teeth that broke everything into pieces, and which was different from the beast that had come before it. Known to history as Darius the Great, and unrelated to Cyrus who had founded the Persian Empire, he founded the new Darian dynasty.



The Darian Dynasty ...

As you can see, the first four kings of the Medo-Persian (Achaemenid) Empire, those who history says reigned immediately after the Babylonian Empire during which the prophecy in Daniel 7 was recorded by the prophet Daniel, are the most logical kings to be associated with the four beasts described in the biblical text. The ten kings of the Darian dynasty also fit the biblical text exactly.



Kings of the Medo-Persian (Achaemenid) Empire

(all years shown below are years B.C.)

First Beast - Cyrus II the Great (r. 546-530), defeated of Babylon in 539, Jews allowed to return to Jerusalem circa 536.

Second Beast - Cambyses II (r. 530-522), added Egypt to the Persian empire.

Third Beast - Smerdis (aka Bardiya, r. 522-521), killed by Darius I.

Fourth Beast with Ten Horns - Darius I the Great, begins Darian dynasty (see below)

The ten kings of the Darian dynasty were as follows:

- (1) Darius I the Great (r. 521-486), "the Great," crossed the Bosphorus in the year 512, expanded the Persian empire into Europe, initiated two centuries of Greco-Persian hostilities, defeated at Battle of Marathon in 490; Second Temple dedicated in Jerusalem in 515.
- (2) Xerxes I (r. 486-465), invaded Greece, defeated Greek army at Battle of Thermopylae, burned the city of Athens and the Acropolis.
- (3) Artaxerxes I Longimanus (r. 464-424), Egypt revolted, empire declined.
- (4) Xerxes II (r. 424), killed by Sogdianus.
- (5) Sogdianus (r. 424-423), killed by Darius II.
- (6) Darius II Nothus (r. 423-404), troubled times in Egypt, the renegade Jewish Temple at Elephantine destroyed.
- (7) Artaxerxes II Memnon (r. 404-358), oversaw further decline of empire.
- (8) Artaxerxes III Ochus (r. 358-338), initiated minor resurgence of the Persian empire, Egypt reconquered.
- (9) Artaxerxes IV Arses (r. 338-336), battled Phillip II of Macedonia.
- (10) Darius III Codomannus (r. 336-330), deposed Artaxerxes IV, later defeated by Alexander the Great at Granicus River (334), Issus River, (333) and Gaugamela (331); last king of Achaemenid Persian Empire.

Now for the little horn ...

If you recall, verse 24 of Daniel 7 specified that a little horn would arise after the ten kings of the Persian Empire.

📖 "And the **ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings** that shall arise: **and another shall rise after them**; and he shall be **diverse** from the first, **and he shall subdue three kings.**" ~ Daniel 7:24 KJV

In his vision, the prophet Daniel saw one king defeating three kings, but what his vision actually represented was one king defeating the same king in three different battles. History confirms that meaning of the vision by telling us that the king (little horn) who was different (Greek), and who conquered the Medo-Persian Empire, was Alexander the Great.

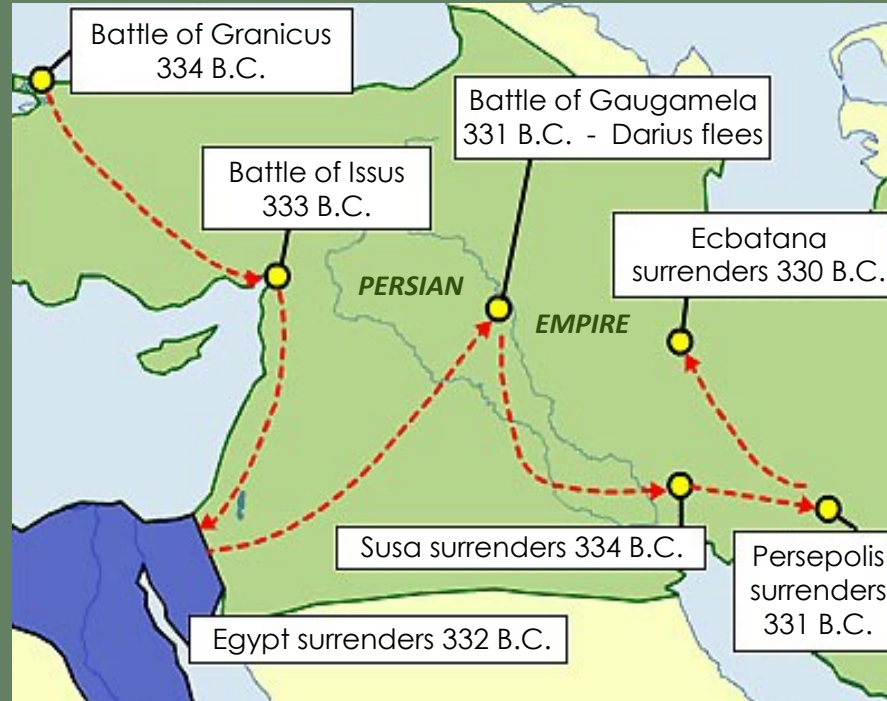
Alexander the Great led his troops into Asia in May or June of 334 B.C. At the Granicus River, near ancient Troy, he met and defeated the Medo-Persian army of Darius III Codomannus for the first time. Alexander defeated Darius a second time at the Battle of Issus in 333 B.C., achieving a third and final victory at the Battle of Gaugamela in 331 B.C.



ALEXANDER THE GREAT
King of Greece
336-323 B.C.

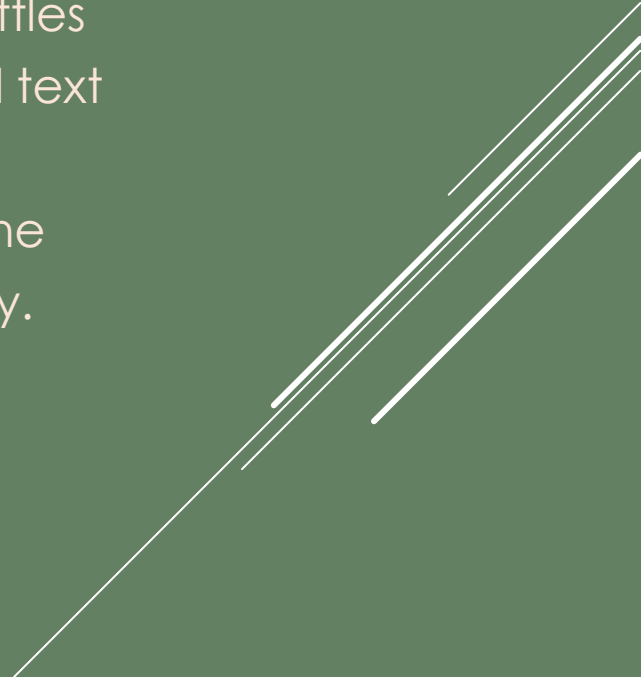


SITE OF BATTLE OF GRANICUS



ALEXANDER'S ROUTE OF CONQUEST

There you have it. The four beasts of Daniel 7 were the first four kings of the Medo-Persian (Achaemenid) Empire. The fourth beast was Darius I the Great, who founded the Darian dynasty composed of ten kings. The little horn that subdued three kings was Alexander the Great, who defeated Darius III Codomannus, the last Persian king, in three important battles recorded for us in detail by ancient historians. The biblical text of the prophecy and the interpretation of the prophecy presented herein match recorded history exactly when the beasts, kings, horns, and little horns are identified correctly.

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