

The 4 Heads of the Leopard

The Leopard in Daniel 7:6 is Greece. “After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.”

The emphasis of “four” on this Leopard represents four powers, or authority figures, that exhibited a Greek cultural rule over the land of Israel before the time of Christ.

Daniel 11:3-32a explicitly refers to the first three Greek rulers. The “*vile person*” of 11:21-32a (Antiochus IV Epiphanies) is not the fourth Greek ruler/head. He is the corruption of the “*king of the North*”, a type of evil “*little horn*” that grew out of his father Antiochus III the Great. Antiochus IV foreshadowed Herod the Great. Just as a type of little horn grew out of Antiochus III, even so Herod the Great being the actual “*little horn*” (7:8, 8:9) grew out of the Imperial Roman rule (the 4th beast of Daniel 7). The Greek influence of the Roman Senate (Hellenistic Rome) is the fourth head of the Leopard.

First Daniel 11:1-2 will mention five Persian rulers.

Persian Rulers of Daniel 11:1-2

1. Darius the Mede (same person as Cyrus the Persian)
2. Cambyses → start of the “*three more kings*” 11:2
3. false Smerdis
4. Darius I (Esther’s king)
5. Xerxes → “*the fourth*” richer and will stir up all of Greece 11:2

Xerxes attacked Greece, which years later provoked the rise and conquest of Alexander the Great.

Outline of Daniel 11:5 – 20

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| A. The power of the king of the North arises, under the power of the South | v. 5 |
| B. An unsuccessful marriage: South sends wife to North | v. 6 |
| C. Victories of South over North | vv. 7–9 |
| D. Victory of North, then South, then North again: the power changes | vv. 10–13 |
| C’ Victories of North over South | vv. 14–16 |
| B’ An unsuccessful marriage: North sends wife to South | v. 17 |
| A’ The South is defeated, but the North also suffers setbacks | vv. 18–20 |

The outline and details of this handout come from “The Handwriting on the Wall” by James Jordan, pgs. 477-592.

4 Greek Heads in Daniel 11:3-35 (the 4 headed Leopard)

1. “*a mighty king*”- Alexander the Great and immediate successors(11:3-4)

2. “*king of the South*” - the Ptolemy dynasty of Egypt (south of Israel)

Actual History:

Ptolemy I Soter
Ptolemy II Philadelphus

Prophetic Reference:

11:5 he “became strong”
11:6 his daughter Berenice was given to Antiochus II Theos

Ptolemy III Euergetes

11:7 brother; “branch” of Berenice’s roots

Ptolemy IV Philopater

11:11-12

Ptolemy V Epiphanes

11:17 Antiochus III gave his daughter Cleopatra I to him

3. “*king of the North*” - the Seleucid dynasty of Syria (north of Israel)

Actual History:

Seleucus I Nicator
Antiochus I Soter
Antiochus II Theos
Seleucus II Callinicus
Seleucus III Ceraunus
Antiochus III the Great
Seleucus IV Philopater

Prophetic Reference:

11:5 “*one of his princes*”
11:6-8 married Berenice
11:9
11:10a
11:10b – 19
11:20

* Antiochus IV Epiphanies 11:21 – 32a → is the evil son of Antiochus III

4. “Hellenistic Rome” – Roman Senate under Greek-cultural influence The “*little help*” of Dan. 11:34 came with the Maccabean revolution in 164 BC

climaxing in 139 BC, under Simon III High Priest, when the Roman Senate protected Jewish liberty. Simon was murdered in 135 BC, along with many other righteous people during that time. (11:35)

* Imperial Rome beginning with Julius Caesar (49 BC) is the 4th beast of Daniel 7.

* Herod the Great and his lineage is the “*little horn*” in Daniel 7 & 8; and “*the king*” in Daniel 11:36-45.