

God's Prophecy Is Our Command

A Foundation for Understanding Prophecy

No prophecy of the scripture is of
any private interpretation.

2 Peter 1:20

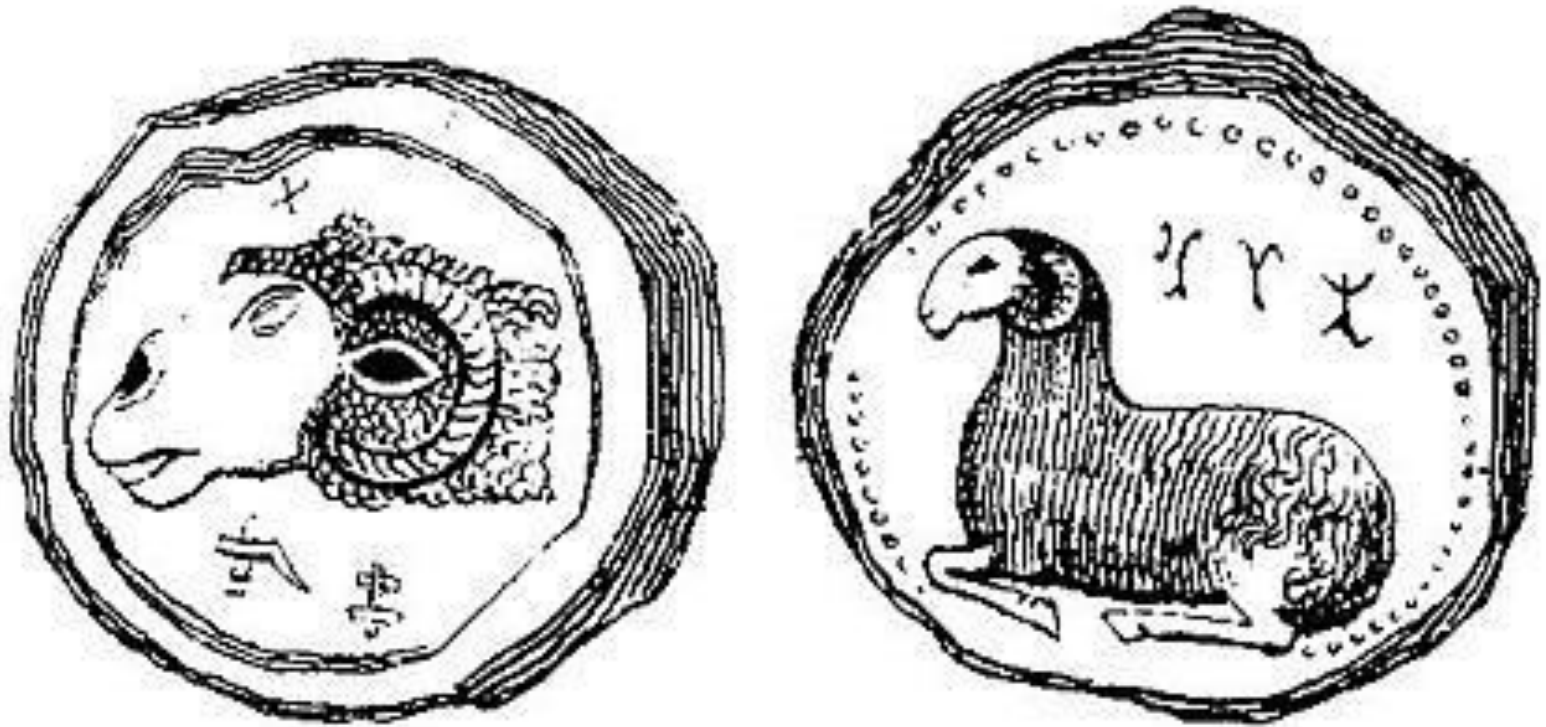
Daniel Prompts Revelation

- Daniel presents many symbolic and narrative visions of prophecy, which set the stage for several of the visions in Revelation.
 - Smiting of Nebuchadnezzar's image (chapter 2)
 - Four beasts (chapter 7)
 - Ram and he-goat (chapter 8).
- The interpretations given are further corroborated by many artifacts of antiquity and archaeology.

Daniel 8

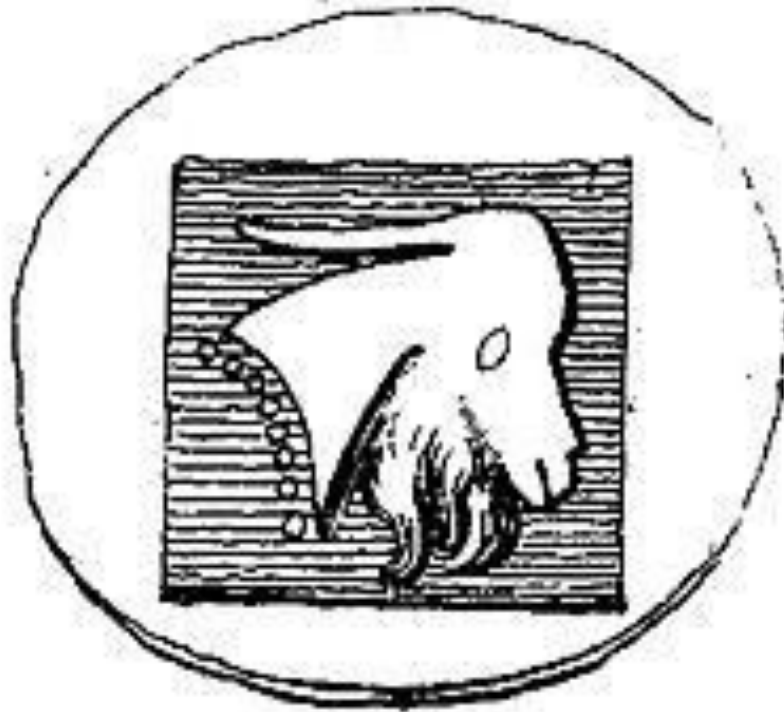
- Two-horned ram from the east is identified with the kingdom of the Medes and Persians
- He-goat and its great horn signify the kingdom of Greece (*Hebrew* Javan, or Ionia) and its first great king (Alexander).
- Persian and Macedonian coins of the time show how each empire used a particular animal to represent itself (even as nations do today).

The Persian Ram



A ram which had two horns . . . they are the kings of Media and Persia. -- Daniel 8:3,4,20

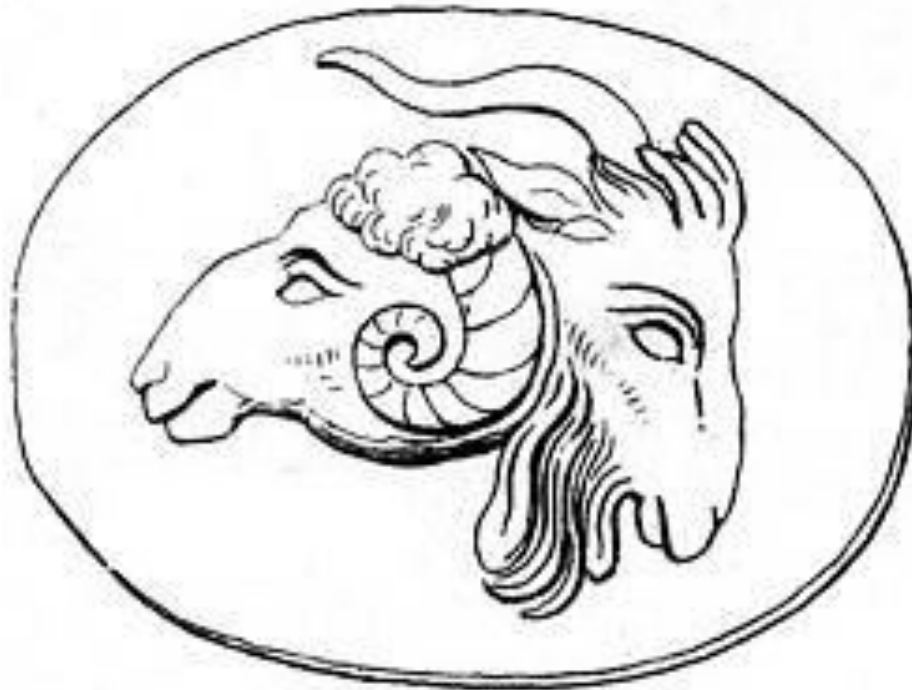
The Macedonian Goat



Goat with One Long Horn

The goat had a notable horn between his eyes. The rough he-goat is the king of Javan. -- Daniel 8:5,21

Goat Conquers Ram



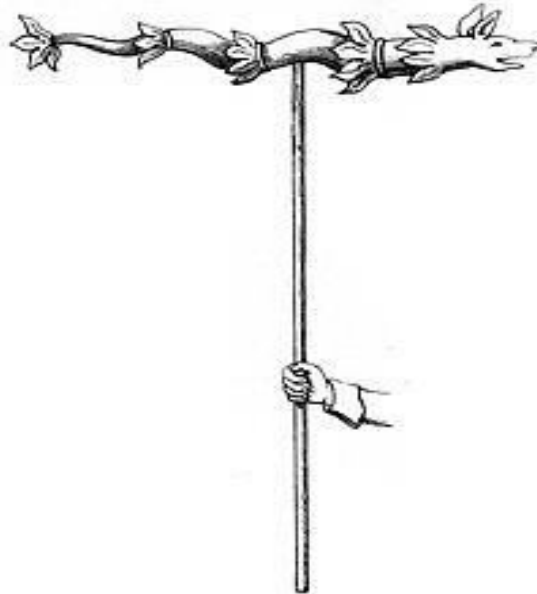
Alexander's total victory over the Persian Empire is illustrated in yet another coin displaying the great horn extending over the defeated ram.

In sequence, the successive heads, or imperial capitals

1. Babylon
2. Medo-Persia
3. Greece: Pella/Macedonia
4. Greece: Alexandria/Egypt
5. Greece: Antioch/Syria
6. Rome (Imperial) ["now" in John's day]
7. Greece: Constantinople/Thrace

Roman Imperial Ensign of the Dragon

A great red dragon. -- Revelation 12:3



In Revelation 12 we see these seven heads on the dragon, and with diadems on the heads. The dragon became the Roman imperial ensign near 300 A.D. It had the head of a wolf (the symbol of Thrace) on the body of a serpent.

Emperor Nerva

[with imperial crown]

96-98 AD



And upon their heads as it were crowns [laurel wreaths]
like unto gold. -- Revelation 9:7

Emperor Valens

[with royal diadem]

364-378 A.D.



Seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems.
-- Revelation 12:4

That the great power of the Roman Empire
was known centuries in advance may be
seen in the map of Italy:



A stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image on
the feet that were of iron and clay. and break them in pieces . . .
A kingdom which . . . shall break in pieces and consume all
these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. -- Daniel 2:34,44

Ten horns identified with ten Germanic tribes which took over the Roman Empire

- **Herules**, **Ostrogoths**, and **Lombards** (all three later incorporated into the Kingdom of Italy, per Daniel 7:8)
- **Vandals** (Sicily and North Africa)
- **Sueves** (Portugal)
- **Visigoths** (Spain)
- **Franks** (North and West France)
- **Burgundians** (Southeast France)
- **Alemans** (Germany)
- **Anglo-Saxons** (England).

Odovacer 476-493 A.D.

[Herules]



Theodatus 534-536 A.D. [Ostrogoths]



Queen Antharis 584-591 A.D. [Lombards]



Thrasamund 496-523 A.D. [Vandals]



Richiarius 448-456 A.D. [Suevi]



Hermenegild 589-594 A.D. [Visigoths]



Clovis 481-511 A.D. [Franks]



Gonthram 561-592 A.D. [Burgundians]



Theoderbert I 534-548 A.D. [Alemans]



Offa 755-794 A.D. [Anglo-Saxons]



Question?

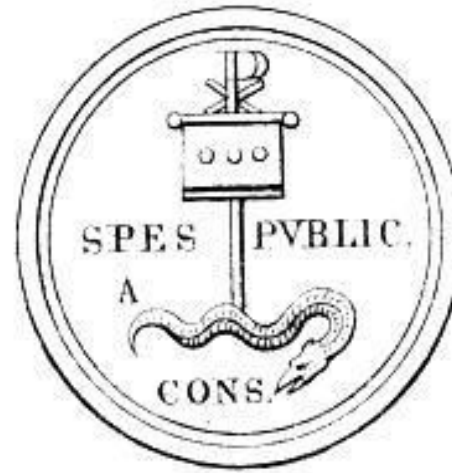
How could 3rd-Century manuscripts know that in the 5th and 6th centuries there would come exactly 10 Germanic tribes that would display the diadem of the Roman Empire?

Answer: Divine Inspiration

The Devil and the Dragon

The great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth
(Revelation 12:9, ASV).

Constantine (313-337 A.D.) and his son Constantius (353-361 A.D.) display their interpretation of the fall of heathen Rome, **the cross erected over the fallen dragon**



Seven Heads and Mountains

- The seven heads and ten horns appear one last time, in Revelation 17. Seven mountains are mentioned in verse 9, “The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.”

Identification of the seven mountains is also given on Roman coinage



Vespasian 69-79 A.D.

Imperial Rome sitting on her seven mountains, holding her military sword of empire.

- A papal Roman medal shows Rome holding out her cup as a teacher of nations, calling to mind Scriptures such as “Babylon hath been a golden cup in Jehovah’s hand, that made all the earth drunken” (Jeremiah 51:7, ASV), and “the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and gilded with gold and precious stone and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations” (Revelation 17:4).



Interpreting Prophecy

Sound interpretation of prophecy is not simply guesswork. We need:

- Evidence
- Cross-References
- Common Sense

Conclusions and Deductions

- The seven heads are seven successive world-class empires which sequentially bear rule over most of the Lord's people as well as the world.
- Hence it would appear the prophecies of chapters 12, 13, and 17 were seen by those who lived during the papal reign and the Protestant era; so it is chapters 14-16 and 18 that remained to be fulfilled toward the end of the Gospel age – during “the last day”.

What might we expect in coming years?

- Events of the last day are seen in Revelation chapters 14-16 and 18, but there is no mention of Christ's second advent in chapters 12, 13, or 17.
- Reliable expectations for the next several decades are more likely to be found by considering that the last day is divided into seven parts (Joshua 6:15,16), and thence by studying the seven last plagues of Exodus and Revelation.
- As Israel continues to return to their land, in accord with Ezekiel 37 (the Valley of Dry Bones), one may watch how rapidly the eastern and western blocks of Ezekiel 38 are each coalescing.

Suggest 7 Periods of Gospel Age

Ezekiel 2:9-10; Revelation 8-11

1. Lamentation: White horse
 2. Mourning: Red horse
 3. Mourning: Black horse
 4. Lamentation: Pale horse
 5. Woe: Star falls from heaven
 6. Woe: 4 horses loosed
 7. Woe: [Rev. 10:7, 11:18]
Kingdom of the world to be
kingdom of our Lord and of
his Christ
- Gospel goes forth under Jews
 - Under heathen Rome (70-)
 - Under “Christian” Rome (313)
 - Under Papal Rome (539-)
 - Reformation (1517-)
 - Protestant Expansion
 - Gospel Age Harvest
- 1,000 Year Kingdom of Christ

7 Periods of Gospel Age Harvest

Exodus 8-15

1. Flies
2. Murrain killed cattle 💣
3. Blains on man & beast
4. Hail, thunder, lightning 💣
5. Locusts from E. wind 💣
6. Darkness (3 days)
7. Death of Firstborn 💣

Exodus

World Events

- Long Depression (1873-1890s)
- World War 1 (1914-1918)
- Great Depression (1929-1939)
- World War 2 (1939-1945)
- Communist Threat (1945-1989)
- Deep Depression ?
- Armageddon

Christ's 1000-year Kingdom

What Should We Do because of What We Believe?

- “Come forth, my people, out of [sectarian Babylon], that ye have no fellowship with her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues,”
- Do not urge the unready to come out, but be merciful to those who remain in Babylon.
- As the prejudice against Israel gains steam, Stay off the bandwagon!

What Else Should We Do Now?

- Do not look for a future Antichrist worse than Rome; instead, watch Leftist/Atheism, Islam, Christendom
- Expect “Darkness/Dry River” many years before Armageddon
- Prepare for Depression –
Get out of debt. Stay out of debt!
- Use modern technology for public and personal witness, while we are still able
- Encourage our Jewish friends to learn Hebrew and to make Aliyah [immigrate to Israel] while it is still easy