

...a verse by verse study

Chronological Order

Chapter

1	Babylonian Captivity	606 B.C.
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	604 B.C.
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	587 B.C.
4	Nebuchadnezzar's Pride	570-563 B.C.
7	The vision of the 4 beasts	552 B.C.
8	Ram and He-goat vision	550 B.C.
5	Babylon falls to Persians	539 B.C.
6	The Lions' Den	539 B.C.
9	Vision of seventy weeks	537 B.C.
10 -12	Closing visions	536 B.C.

Historical Chapters

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Dreams & Visions

Chapter

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Daniel's Enduring Ministry

- Daniel was 14 when taken to Babylon

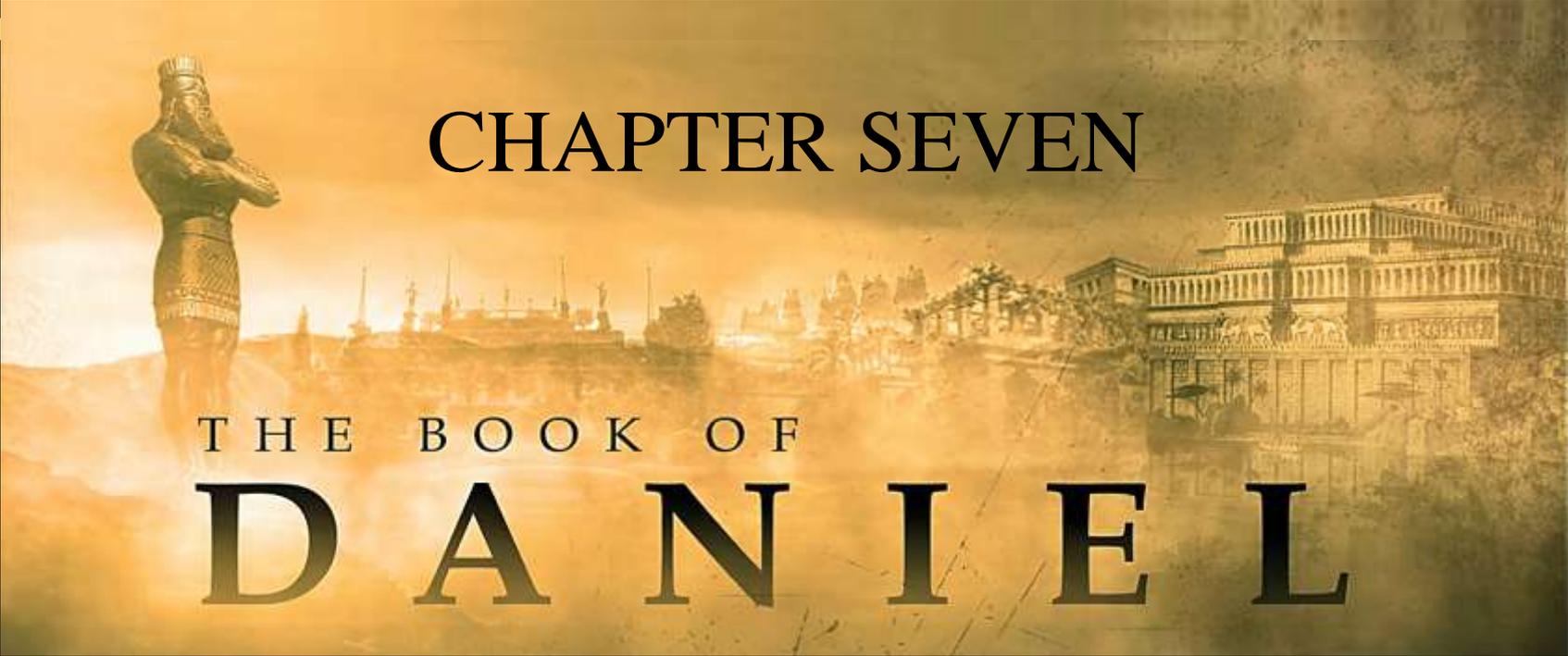


- Chapter 7 occurs when Daniel was c.68 years old

Appendix C - Chronology of the Book of Daniel

Approx. D.C. Chapter Ref.	Daniel's Age	Event / Description	Approx. Year	King
1st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	1st Year	605	Jehoiachin 2nd Year
2nd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	2nd Year	604	Jehoiachin 3rd Year
3rd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	3rd Year	603	Jehoiachin 4th Year
4th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	4th Year	602	Jehoiachin 5th Year
5th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	5th Year	601	Jehoiachin 6th Year
6th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	6th Year	600	Jehoiachin 7th Year
7th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	7th Year	599	Jehoiachin 8th Year
8th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	8th Year	598	Jehoiachin 9th Year
9th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	9th Year	597	Jehoiachin 10th Year
10th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	10th Year	596	Jehoiachin 11th Year
11th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	11th Year	595	Jehoiachin 12th Year
12th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	12th Year	594	Jehoiachin 13th Year
13th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	13th Year	593	Jehoiachin 14th Year
14th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	14th Year	592	Jehoiachin 15th Year
15th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	15th Year	591	Jehoiachin 16th Year
16th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	16th Year	590	Jehoiachin 17th Year
17th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	17th Year	589	Jehoiachin 18th Year
18th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	18th Year	588	Jehoiachin 19th Year
19th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	19th Year	587	Jehoiachin 20th Year
20th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	20th Year	586	Jehoiachin 21st Year
21st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	21st Year	585	Jehoiachin 22nd Year
22nd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	22nd Year	584	Jehoiachin 23rd Year
23rd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	23rd Year	583	Jehoiachin 24th Year
24th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	24th Year	582	Jehoiachin 25th Year
25th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	25th Year	581	Jehoiachin 26th Year
26th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	26th Year	580	Jehoiachin 27th Year
27th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	27th Year	579	Jehoiachin 28th Year
28th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	28th Year	578	Jehoiachin 29th Year
29th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	29th Year	577	Jehoiachin 30th Year
30th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	30th Year	576	Jehoiachin 31st Year
31st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	31st Year	575	Jehoiachin 32nd Year
32nd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	32nd Year	574	Jehoiachin 33rd Year
33rd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	33rd Year	573	Jehoiachin 34th Year
34th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	34th Year	572	Jehoiachin 35th Year
35th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	35th Year	571	Jehoiachin 36th Year
36th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	36th Year	570	Jehoiachin 37th Year
37th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	37th Year	569	Jehoiachin 38th Year
38th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	38th Year	568	Jehoiachin 39th Year
39th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	39th Year	567	Jehoiachin 40th Year
40th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	40th Year	566	Jehoiachin 41st Year
41st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	41st Year	565	Jehoiachin 42nd Year
42nd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	42nd Year	564	Jehoiachin 43rd Year
43rd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	43rd Year	563	Jehoiachin 44th Year
44th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	44th Year	562	Jehoiachin 45th Year
45th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	45th Year	561	Jehoiachin 46th Year
46th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	46th Year	560	Jehoiachin 47th Year
47th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	47th Year	559	Jehoiachin 48th Year
48th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	48th Year	558	Jehoiachin 49th Year
49th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	49th Year	557	Jehoiachin 50th Year
50th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	50th Year	556	Jehoiachin 51st Year
51st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	51st Year	555	Jehoiachin 52nd Year
52nd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	52nd Year	554	Jehoiachin 53rd Year
53rd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	53rd Year	553	Jehoiachin 54th Year
54th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	54th Year	552	Jehoiachin 55th Year
55th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	55th Year	551	Jehoiachin 56th Year
56th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	56th Year	550	Jehoiachin 57th Year
57th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	57th Year	549	Jehoiachin 58th Year
58th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	58th Year	548	Jehoiachin 59th Year
59th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	59th Year	547	Jehoiachin 60th Year
60th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	60th Year	546	Jehoiachin 61st Year
61st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	61st Year	545	Jehoiachin 62nd Year
62nd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	62nd Year	544	Jehoiachin 63rd Year
63rd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	63rd Year	543	Jehoiachin 64th Year
64th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	64th Year	542	Jehoiachin 65th Year
65th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	65th Year	541	Jehoiachin 66th Year
66th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	66th Year	540	Jehoiachin 67th Year
67th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	67th Year	539	Jehoiachin 68th Year
68th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	68th Year	538	Jehoiachin 69th Year
69th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	69th Year	537	Jehoiachin 70th Year
70th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	70th Year	536	Jehoiachin 71st Year
71st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	71st Year	535	Jehoiachin 72nd Year
72nd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	72nd Year	534	Jehoiachin 73rd Year
73rd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	73rd Year	533	Jehoiachin 74th Year
74th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	74th Year	532	Jehoiachin 75th Year
75th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	75th Year	531	Jehoiachin 76th Year
76th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	76th Year	530	Jehoiachin 77th Year
77th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	77th Year	529	Jehoiachin 78th Year
78th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	78th Year	528	Jehoiachin 79th Year
79th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	79th Year	527	Jehoiachin 80th Year
80th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	80th Year	526	Jehoiachin 81st Year
81st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	81st Year	525	Jehoiachin 82nd Year
82nd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	82nd Year	524	Jehoiachin 83rd Year
83rd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	83rd Year	523	Jehoiachin 84th Year
84th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	84th Year	522	Jehoiachin 85th Year
85th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	85th Year	521	Jehoiachin 86th Year
86th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	86th Year	520	Jehoiachin 87th Year
87th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	87th Year	519	Jehoiachin 88th Year
88th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	88th Year	518	Jehoiachin 89th Year
89th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	89th Year	517	Jehoiachin 90th Year
90th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	90th Year	516	Jehoiachin 91st Year
91st Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	91st Year	515	Jehoiachin 92nd Year
92nd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	92nd Year	514	Jehoiachin 93rd Year
93rd Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	93rd Year	513	Jehoiachin 94th Year
94th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	94th Year	512	Jehoiachin 95th Year
95th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	95th Year	511	Jehoiachin 96th Year
96th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	96th Year	510	Jehoiachin 97th Year
97th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	97th Year	509	Jehoiachin 98th Year
98th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	98th Year	508	Jehoiachin 99th Year
99th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	99th Year	507	Jehoiachin 100th Year
100th Siege of Jerusalem [605]	14	100th Year	506	Jehoiachin 101st Year

If Daniel had died in the end of the Decalogue, he would have been 102.
 * During the Great Siege the decree that ended the Decalogue for Hezekiah 21:18-19 / Ezra 1



CHAPTER SEVEN

THE BOOK OF
DANIEL

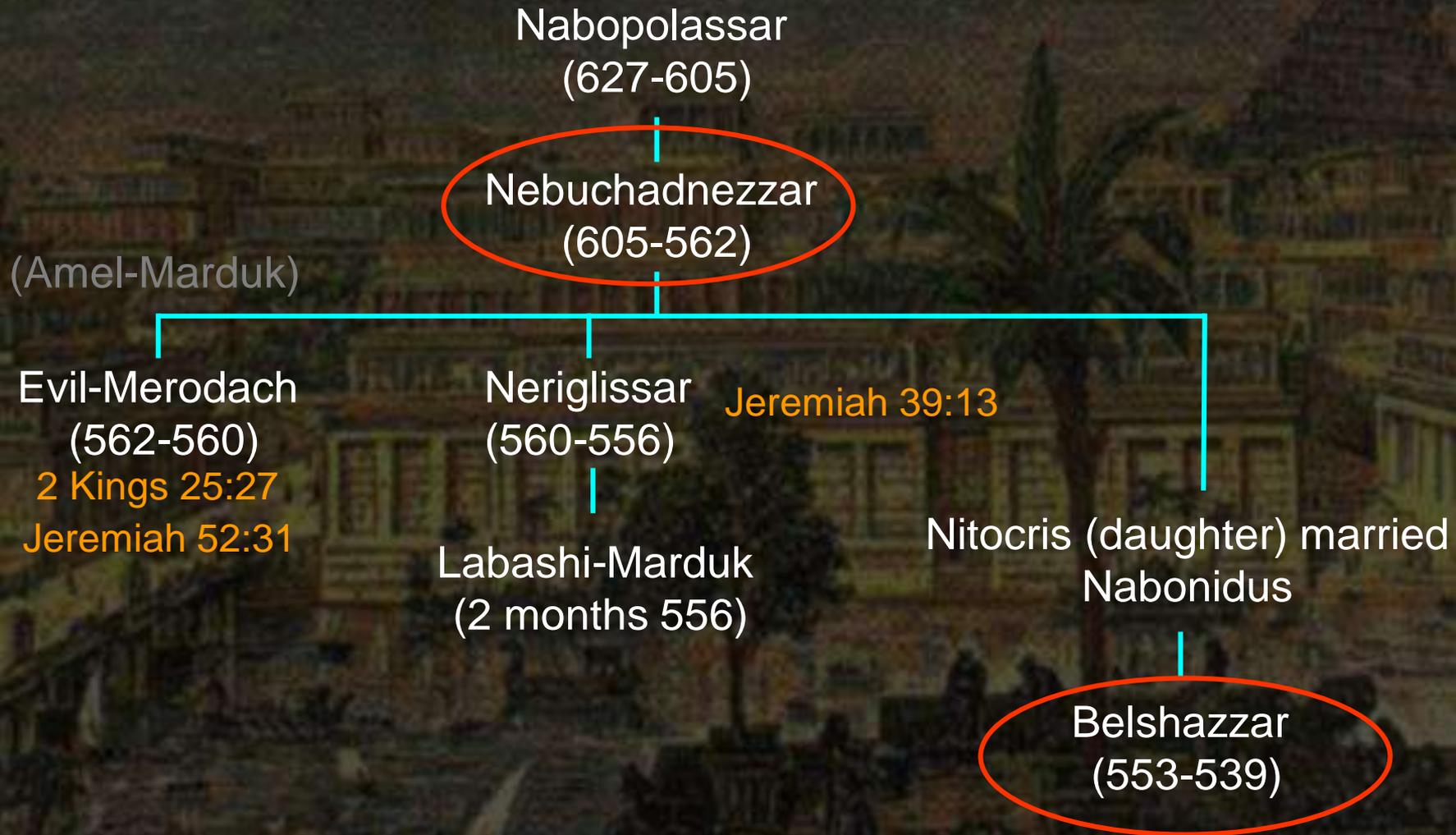
...a verse by verse study

¹ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

Daniel 7:1

- This chapter sees us move back in time to the first year of Belshazzar, which was in about 552 B.C. Thus chronologically this chapter fits about 11 years after chapter 4 and about 12 years before chapter 5.

Kings of Babylonian Empire



Daniel's Life of Service

- We might presume that at 62 Daniel was winding down...
- Yet at the end of chapter 8 (which occurs in the *third year* of Belshazzar, two years after this event), Daniel returns to do the kings business.
- So even as an old man, Daniel was still actively involved in the government of Babylon.
- We never 'retire' from ministry

¹ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

Daniel 7:1

- It seems as if this chapter is being recorded at Daniel's request by someone else
 - probably someone assigned to serve him.
- This dream is more akin to a nightmare!
 - Daniel seems more troubled by this dream than he would be of the lion's den!
- Daniel, recognising its importance, has recorded the 'sum of the matters'

2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

Daniel 7:2

- The 'four winds' are mentioned nine times in scripture:
 - Jer 49:36 / Exek 37:9 / Dan 8:8 / Dan 11:4 / Zech 2:6 / Matt 24:31 / Mark 13:27 / Rev 7:1 / Dan 7:2.
- '9' is the number of Judgment
 - They are seen either ushering in judgement (as would appear to be the case in this vision) or bringing restoration.
- It implies a global situation, with the 'four' seemingly referring to the four cardinal points of a compass

2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

Daniel 7:2

- The great sea may be the Mediterranean,
 - as this was known as the 'great sea' at that time;
- However, the 'sea' is also used in scripture as an idiom of the peoples and nations of the world (cf Rev 17:15).
- Thus, whatever is about to happen, it would appear to have a global impact that will affect the people and nations of the earth.

³ And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Daniel 7:3

The Four Beasts

- We will be told in verse 17 that these great beasts represent four 'kings'
 - or kingdoms – the Aramaic could mean either.
- In chapter 2 we also had a dream and vision of a statue that was representing world kingdoms.
- On that occasion Daniel interpreted the golden head of the statue to represent Babylon;
- The chest and arms of silver: Medo-Persia
- The belly and thighs of brass: Greece
 - under Alexander the Great,
- Finally, the two phases of the Roman empire

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Gold

Silver

Brass

Iron

Iron + Clay

Babylon

606 BC – 539 BC

Persia

539 BC – 332 BC

Greece

332 BC – 68 BC

Rome I

68 BC – ?

“Rome II”



The Four Beasts

- Are the beasts/kingdoms in chapter 7 representing the same as we saw in chapter 2?
- Scholars are divided: we have essentially two options
- The 'classical view' proposes these four beasts do represent Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome, as in chapter 2.
- Whereas in chapter 2 they are seen as an impressive metal image, they are here seen as wild beasts contrasting between man's view (chapter 2) and God's perspective of these kingdoms (chapter 7).

The Four Beasts

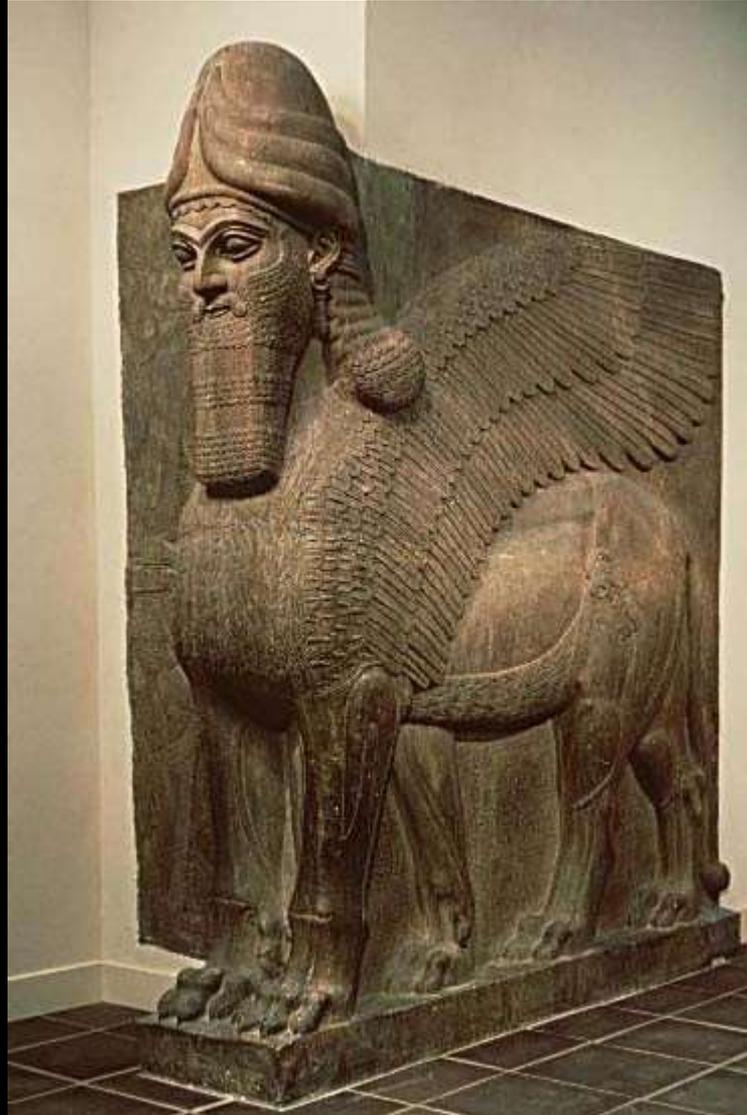
- The second view suggests that all of these kingdoms are yet to arise at some point in the future, and when they do they will all rise simultaneously.
- What is generally agreed upon is that the final phase of the last beast is the same as the ten toes in chapter two and the ten horns / ten kings mentioned in Revelation 17:12.

⁴ The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

Daniel 7:4

- Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon was the head of gold was in chapter two.
- The lion was the chief of beasts as Babylon was the chief of kingdoms (cf Dan 2:38-39).
- Creatures resembling lions with wings were on the walls and gates of Babylon

Babylonian Winged Lion-Man



The Babylonian Empire

606-539 BC



⁵ And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

Daniel 7:5

- The second beast: A Bear. Medo-Persia?
- A bear is not as swift as a lion nor as majestic, and so it was with Medo-Persia.
- We also know from history that Medo-Persia was bear-like in its lumbering strength, conquering many enemies without even a battle

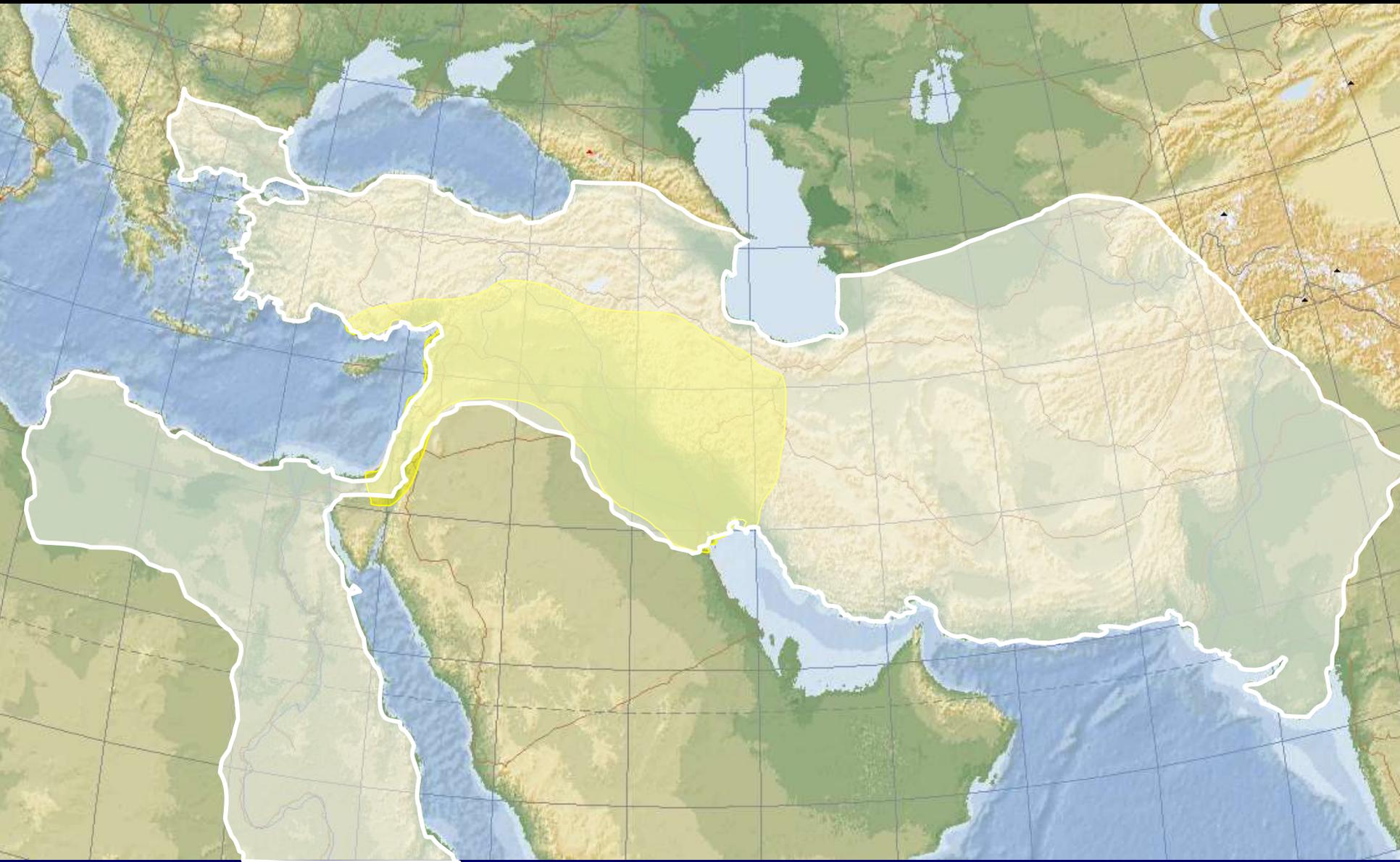
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Daniel 7:5

- Medo-Persia was a united empire of the Meads and Persians, yet Persia was the stronger and would seem to be implied by the bear-like-beast raising up on one side.
- There were three main conquests that really established the Medo-Persian Empire, namely Babylon, Egypt and Lydia.

The Persian Empire

539-332 BC



6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

Daniel 7:6

- The third beast now seems to correspond to the next historical empire, i.e. Greece.
- The beast is like a leopard – one of the swiftest of all creatures – and in addition it has wings on its back implying even greater speed.
- This is a fitting description of the empire of Greece under Alexander the Great

Alexander The Great

- Alexander conquered the known world in lightning speed, unparalleled in history.
- At the age of 29 it is reported that the young Alexander fell on his bed and wept because there were no more lands to conquer.
- On his deathbed (c. 33 yrs) Alexander was asked: 'to whom shall the empire be given', his answer: 'give it to the strong'.
- Within a year his empire had been divided up between his four generals.



The Empire Divided

Daniel 11



Cassandria

Lysimachus

Seleucus

Ptolemy

400 "Silent Years"?
(Detailed in advance in Daniel 11)

⁷ After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and **it had ten horns.**

Daniel 7:7

- The fourth beast corresponds to the Roman Empire - in its two phases
- This fourth beast is that it is so unlike anything else Daniel doesn't even try to compare it to an animal,
– he just simply tells us that it is 'dreadful and terrible'.

The Fourth Beast

- In chapter two we were told that Rome was *“strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.”* (Dan 2:40)
- Here a similar picture is painted which indeed echoes the history of the Roman Empire,
- They took delight in crushing and destroying their foes.
- Verse 24 will tell us the ten horns are to arise ‘out of this kingdom’, giving us our ‘two phases’ of (I) Rome and (II) Revised Rome.

The Fourth Beast

- Note: Rome had both the familiar western leg, and the less publicised eastern leg,
 - which actually outlived the western leg by a thousand years
 - the two legs corresponding to the legs of the statue in chapter 2?
- Prophecy students often focus on the western ‘European’ element and largely ignore the eastern empire, that includes Assyria, Babylon (Iran/Iraq) and North Africa.
 - Today these are predominantly Muslim nations

The Roman Empire



8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things

Daniel 7:8

- In verse 11 we find that this little horn is given a personal pronoun showing him to be an individual.
- This little horn that is speaking 'blasphemous' things, will subdue three of the original ten horns.
- This is the one we commonly label as 'Antichrist'

Revelation 17

- 12 And **the ten horns** which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.
- 13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Revelation 17:12-13

⁹ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire

Daniel 7:9

- The phrase 'thrones cast down' is literally 'set in place' - **note it is plural!**
- These are not the thrones of the 10 horns, nor the thrones of the little horn.
- These are thrones that are placed alongside the Ancient of Days.

The Final Game of Thrones

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4

The Latter Reign!

- There are two distinct groups that we are told will reign with Christ during the Millennium,
- I. The bride of Christ (the Church) (2 Tim 2:12 / Rev 5:10),
- II. those who were beheaded for their witness during the Tribulation time.
- Therefore, these thrones would seem to be the thrones that we (that is, Christians) will sit on!
- *“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him” 2 Tim 2:11-12*

The Ancient of Days

- Who is the Ancient of Days?
- From John's description of Jesus in Revelation chapter 1, it would appear to be Jesus!

The Ancient of Days

I John..... was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last....And I turned to see the voice that spake *with me*....His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Revelation 1:9-18

The Ancient of Days

And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death

Revelation 1:9-18

The Ancient of Days

- The similarities between Daniel's and John's visions would lead us to conclude that this is none other than Jesus Christ.
- However., in verse 13 we find that Jesus comes to the Ancient of Days, meaning that the Ancient of Days must be God the Father.
- Why do they look so similar?
- Remember Jesus' words to Philip in John 14:9
 - “Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father”
- And in John 10:30 Jesus said:
 - “I and my Father are one”

¹⁰ A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Daniel 7:10

- A fiery stream coming out from before Him would create a left / right divide.
- Either you would be on one side or the other.
- This is reminiscent of Matt 25:31-34
- Note the number that stand before Him...

Population Control?

- The ancient systems for counting didn't go beyond a thousand...
- So, this may imply a 'countless number'
- However, it may mean what it says!
- Ten thousand times ten thousand = one hundred million.
- This is provocative: It could mean that after the various judgments of the Tribulation period culminating in the battle of Armageddon, one hundred million is all that will be left on the earth!
 - Certainly about one and a half billion people will die under the fourth seal in Revelation 6:7-8; and this is only at the beginning of the Tribulation.

¹⁰ A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Daniel 7:10

- Which books?
- Could it be 66 books that reveal God's righteous Law and the Salvation that is available to all who repent and trust Jesus?
- Note: that people will be judged by their works!

God's Books

- How terrifying it would be to be standing in this crowd and see Jesus start to open the books.
- What information do those books contain?
- If God has been keeping a list of everything you have ever thought, done and said, and it is all recorded in black and white, what kind of defense could you offer?
- Praise God that Jesus has nailed to His own cross the handwriting of ordinances that were written against us and paid them in full on our behalf!! (see Col 2:14).

¹¹ I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

Daniel 7:11

- Revelation 13 is full of this beast speaking blasphemous things (Rev 13:1,5,6,11);
- Finally, this beast – who we know better as Antichrist – will get what’s coming!
 - *2 Thessalonians 2:8 “whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming”*

Just Reward

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 19:20

¹² As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

Daniel 7:12

- The last beast of the four is destroyed.
- But what about the other beasts...?
- A plausible answer is that the 'spiritual powers' behind these kingdoms are 'removed from office' yet not destroyed until after the Millennium.

Lasting Influence of the Beasts

- The legacy of these kingdoms (Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece) are prevalent in the world today.
- **Babylon's** current influence was addressed in our study of chapter 4
- **Greece's** thirst for learning and 'wisdom' rejected the simplicity of the gospel and continues to this day in our education systems (see 1 Cor 1:22-23).
- **Medo-Persia** has spawned false religions such as Zoroastrianism and modern-day Persia (i.e. Iran) is an area today associated with a passionate hatred of Israel.

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

Daniel 7:13

¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:14

- This should be the end of 'Amillennialism'!
- When Christ's kingdom is established, it will be literal and unmistakable!

¹⁵ I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

Daniel 7:15

- It is important to understand that Daniel, at this time, was looking for the reestablishment of Israel, as their 70 years in Babylon was drawing to a close (just 15 years to go...)
- This must have been quite a shocker to see that all of these beasts would come first.

¹⁶ I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

Daniel 7:16

- Who Daniel speaks to here, we are not told,
- Could it have been an angel?
- Please notice Daniel's attitude here: he is grieved and troubled but he doesn't 'kick back' and say 'this is all too confusing for me'. No. He sets his heart on finding out the truth!

¹⁷ These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

Daniel 7:17

- As the 'one who stood by him' starts to interpret these things, it is easy to picture Daniel listening intently.
- The first thing he is told is, as we've noted, the four beasts represent four kings or kingdoms.

¹⁸ But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Daniel 7:18

- Now Daniel is given some great news!
- But the question for us is: ‘who is meant by ‘the saints’?
- Clue: Who would Daniel have understood it to be in 552 B.C.?

Saints of the Most High

- Often when we hear the title 'saints' we are prone to think of 'super-Christians'; but according to the New Testament, all who follow Christ are referred to as saints
 - (See 2 Cor 3:13 / Eph 1:1 / Phil 1:1 / 2 Thes 1:10).
- However, Christians are not the only group in the Bible to be referred to as 'saints'.
- Indeed if we were to take this verse as referring to Christians, we have a real problem when we get to verse 21, for there the 'horn' prevails over the saints – something that Jesus said not even the gates of hell would do against the Church (Matt 16:18).

Saints of the Most High

- This therefore leaves us only one option:
- ...as Daniel would have understood, the ones referred to in this verse are Israel, who throughout the Old Testament (of which Daniel is obviously part), are called 'saints'.
 - See Deut 33:2-3 / 2 Chron 6:41 / Psalm 132:16 / etc.
- Consistent with numerous Old Testament prophecies, and in fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:7, 13:14-17 & 15:18, Daniel is told that Israel will take the kingdom that God promised to Abraham's seed as a possession for ever – see Acts 15:15-16

¹⁹ Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

Daniel 7:19

- Now Daniel goes back to look more closely at the fourth beast,
- ...which we have already identified as Rome,
 - which did indeed devour and break in pieces, stamping the residue of those whom it conquered.

20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

Daniel 7:20

21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

Daniel 7:21

- Daniel watches and, no doubt to his surprise, sees Antichrist making war with the Jews and prevailing against them.
- So great will be this time of persecution for the Jews that Jeremiah labelled it 'the time of Jacob's trouble' - **Jer 30:5-7**
- Zechariah goes even further and explains that only one third of the Jews will survive this 'holocaust' - **Zech 13:8-9**

22 **Until** the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Daniel 7:22

- To Daniel's (and the Jews) relief there is an 'until'.
- God will not let this persecution go on one moment longer than is necessary to accomplish His plans.
- And at that moment 'judgment was given' – God ruled in favour – of the Jews, and they will be given the kingdom.
 - See: Gen 15:18 / Gen 17:1-8 / Psalm 89 / Psalm 105 / 2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16, 24-26, 29 / Luke 1:32-33 / Acts 15:14-16

²³ Thus he said, 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.

Daniel 7:23

24 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

²⁵ And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 7:25

- Antichrist will 'wear out' the Jews...
- but here we are given the duration:
- Time (singular) = 1 year,
- Times (plural) = 2 years,
- Half a time = half a year.
- Total = 3 ½ years

26 But the judgment shall sit, and **they** shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

Daniel 7:26

- Who is doing this judging? Christ and His bride – the Church.
- *“Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels?”* (1 Cor 6:2-3)

27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Daniel 7:27

Conclusion

- The Jews will possess the kingdom (verses 18 & 22) in fulfillment of the unconditional promise made to Abraham.
- To this point the vision has all been about these ungodly earthly kingdoms, all of whom 'unlawfully' possessed the land that was given to Abraham by God.
- Therefore it follows that it is now given to whom it rightly belongs, i.e. the Jews.

Conclusion

- However this verse now refers to the 'kingdom under the whole heaven'
- We are told that the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness under the whole heaven shall be given, not to the saints, but **to the people of the saints** of the Most High.
- Could this be a subtle reference to the Church?
- Could it be said that the Church are the 'people of the Jews'?
- Romans 11 tells us that we have been grafted in to olive tree of Israel, Israel being the 'natural branches'.

Conclusion

- It is also true in one sense that Israel birthed the Church
- I. All the Apostles were Jews,
- II. To the Jews were 'committed the oracles (words) of God' (Rom 3:2),
 - i.e. we get our Bible from the Jews.
- Given the fact that the Church is to reign over the 'whole heaven' with Christ:
 - *“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.”* (Rev 2:26-27)

Conclusion

- *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” (Rev 3:21)*
- Surely therefore the ‘people of the saints’ are indeed Christians and therefore the Church!?
- What we do know without question is that the ‘*him*’ whom ‘*all dominions shall serve and obey*’ is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

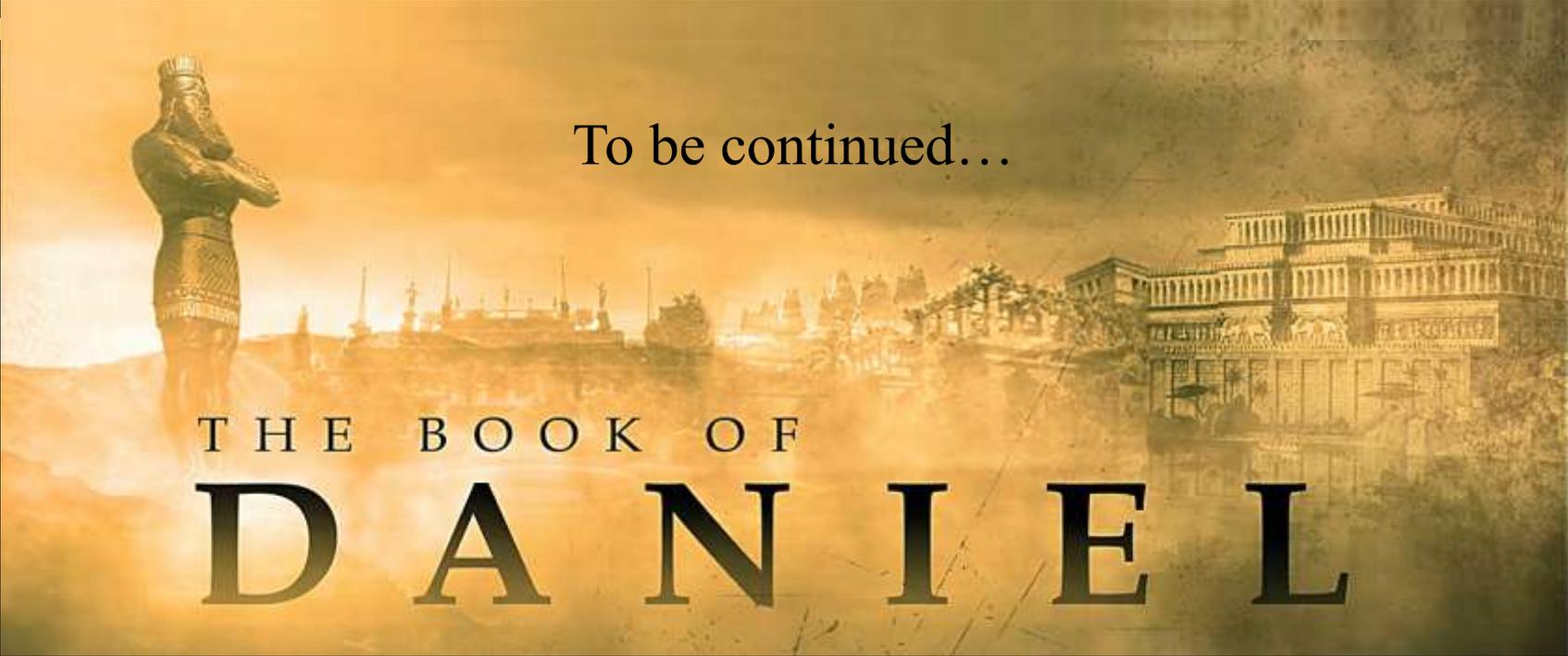
²⁸ Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

Daniel 7:28

- There is a lot to digest here...
- And the implications are staggering!
- Consider what this means for the unsaved world
- Consider what this means for Israel
- Consider what response will come from you!
 - **At the very least you should be praying more!**



To be continued...

The background of the central section is a golden-hued illustration. On the left, a large, bearded statue of a king stands with arms crossed. In the background, a city with domes and spires is visible, and on the right, a large, multi-tiered classical building with columns stands near a body of water. The overall scene is bathed in a warm, golden light.

THE BOOK OF
DANIEL

...a verse by verse study



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