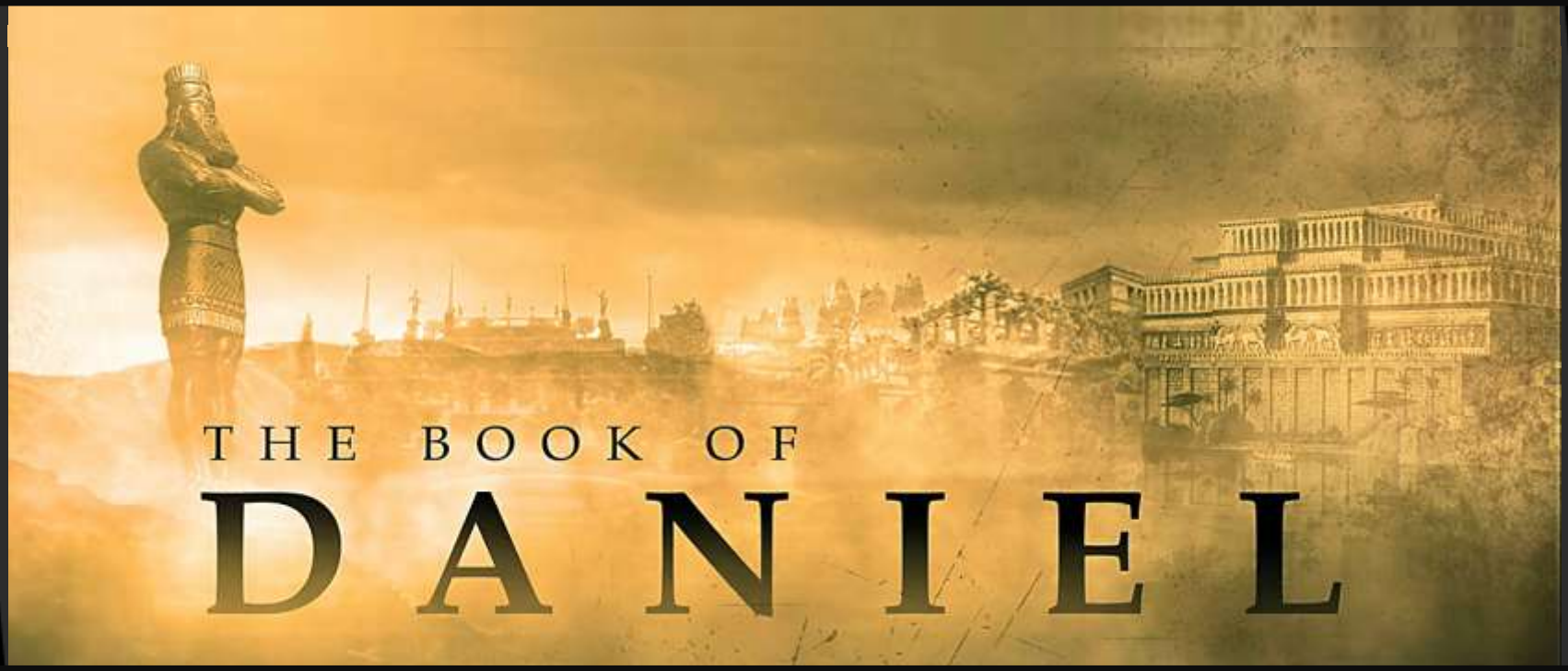
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...a verse by verse study

Introduction

- Daniel, as a young 14 yr old Jewish boy was taken captive from his homeland in 606 B.C.
- He and his three friends were put into an intensive 3-yr training program so they could become advisors to the king.
- Yet Daniel ‘purposed in his heart’ not to be defiled by the extravagance and excess that Babylon offered.
- At the end of the 3-years Daniel & friends were found 10x better than the others

Organization

- Historical Chapters 1 - 6
  - 1 Deported as a teernager
  - 2 Nebuchadenzzar's Dream
  - 3 Bow or Burn: the Furnace
  - 4 Nebuchadnezzar's Pride
  - 5 The Fall of Babylon
  - 6 The Lion's Den
  - 7 Daniel's Vision

Hebrew

Aramaic

Organization

- Visions Chapters 7 - 12
  - 7 Four Beasts
  - 8 The Ram and the He-Goat
  - 9 The Seventy Weeks
  - 10 A Glimpse of the Dark Side
  - 11 The “Silent Years” (in advance)
  - 12 The Consummation of All Things

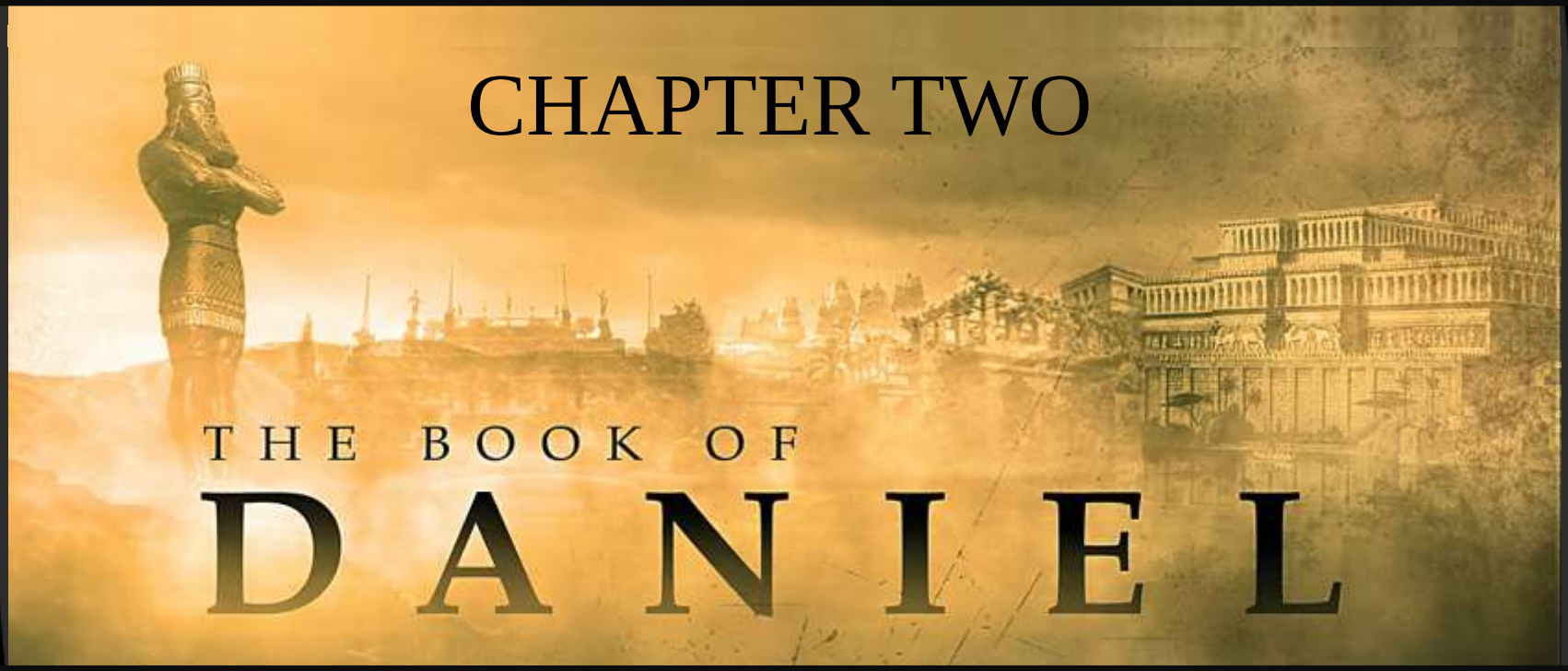
Aramaic

Hebrew

Chronological Order

Chapter		
1	Babylonian Captivity	606 B.C.
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	604 B.C.
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	588 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.

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...a verse by verse study

1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

Daniel 2:1

Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Yr

606 B.C.
- Jehoiakim's 3rd year (Dan 1:1)
- 1st Siege of Jerusalem
- Nebuchadnezzar's ascension year
- Daniel's 1st year in training (Dan 1:5)

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605 B.C.
- Nebuchadnezzar's 1st year as king
- Daniel's 2nd year in training

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604 B.C.
- Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd year as king
- Daniel's 3rd year in training

2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

Daniel 2:2

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- Power struggle between magicians (Magi), and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans
- The Magi were the priestly order of the Meads
  - Their order was hereditary
  - They were renowned for astronomy (but also fell into astrology) and were recognised as 'dream interpreters'
- The Chaldeans, being of Babylonian decent saw themselves as the true counsellors to the king

3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.
4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

Daniel 2:3-4

God Speaks Through Dreams

For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;

Job 33:14-15

God Speaks Through Dreams

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Acts 2:17

God Speaks Through Dreams

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream

Num 12:6

God Speaks Through Dreams

For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

Eccl 5:3

Dreamers in the Bible

Abraham	Gen 15:12-14
Abimelech	Gen 20:3
Jacob	Gen 31:10
Laban	Gen 31:24
Joseph	Gen 37:5,9 40:8
Pharaoh	Gen 41:15
Solomon	1 Kings 3:5
Joseph	Matt 1:20
Magi	Matt 2:12

4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

Daniel 2:4-5

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- The king asks for an interpretation of his dream…
- The Chaldeans offer to go first 2:4
  - Deliberate attempt to upstage the Magi
- But then the king explains that he cannot remember (or wanted to test them!) 2:5
  - (The Chaldeans soon wish they had let the Magi go first!)

6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

7 They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

Daniel 2:6-7

8 The king answered and said, I know of certainty that
ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is
gone from me.
9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream,
there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared
lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the
time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I
shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation
thereof.

Daniel 2:8-9

10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

Daniel 2:10-11

God's Dwelling With Man

And And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.
13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

Daniel 2:12-13

14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to
Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone
forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:
15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain,
Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch
made the thing known to Daniel.

Daniel 2:14-15

16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.
17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:
18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:16-18

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- None can interpret – or event 'remember' the dream so the king decrees that all should be killed 2:12
- Daniel – still in his training period - hears of this and petitions the king for time to seek his God 2:16
- Daniel then goes home and gives the good news to his friends!

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- *"Guess what guys, the king has had a dream. No one could figure it out so he was going to kill all of us…..But I told him that me and my buddies would be able to work it out! How cool is that?*
- You can hear their reply:
- '*You did what?!'*
- Something tells me that Daniel did not need to encourage them too hard to pray that evening!

God Our Refuge

"Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle."

Psalm 28:1-2

God Our Refuge

"*In* thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength."

Psalm 31:1-4

God Our Refuge

"....in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD. Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me."

Psalm 27:5-7

19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.
20 Daniel answered and said,
Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:
21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Daniel 2:19-21

22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.
23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might,
and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

Daniel 2:22-23

24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.
25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:24-25

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- Daniel receives the interpretation from the Lord and then (seemingly inexplicably) asks for the 'wise men' (Magi) to be spared
- Subsequently Daniel is appointed as 'Rab-Mag' (Chief of the Magi) Ref: Dan 4:9 / Jer 39:3
- One of their principle rolls was to appoint and advise kings Ref: Esther 1:13

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- It seems that Daniel entrusted this elite group with one of the most treasured secrets of all time!
- …that God would become incarnate!
- Through the centuries the Magi waited until in 2 B.C. they look up and see a new star!
- They begin their journey to Roman occupied Jerusalem in search of the One they were to anoint as king!

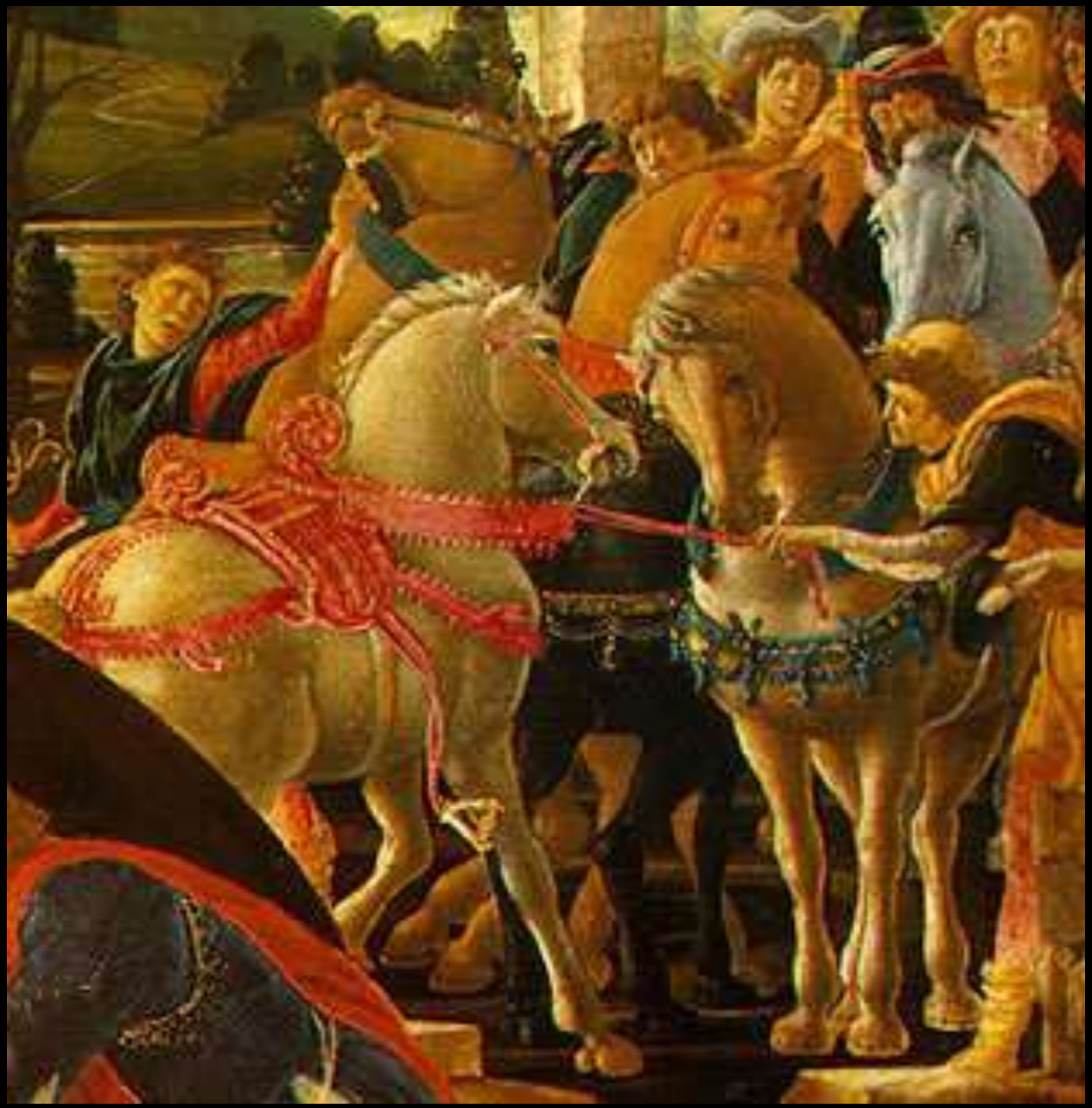
Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- As these horse-riding 'king makers' with an entourage of 1000 or more arrive in Jerusalem…
- … "all Jerusalem is troubled" Matt 2:3
- … and none more than the Idumean king Herod who had been appointed by Rome to rule Judea
- When the Magi arrive they ask: "Where is He who has been ***born*** king of the Jews!"

Giovanni - The Journey Of The Magi



Detail From “Adoration Of The Magi” By Botticelli



Typical Christmas Card



"you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition" Matt 15:6

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name
was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto
me the dream which I have seen, and the
interpretation thereof?
27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and
said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot
the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the
soothsayers, shew unto the king;

Daniel 2:26-27

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Daniel 2:29

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy
mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass
hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known
to thee what shall come to pass.
30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for
any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for
their sakes that shall make known the interpretation
to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts
of thy heart.

Daniel 2:29

31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.
32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,
33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.
34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Daniel 2:31-34

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

Daniel 2:35-36

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Gold



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Gold



Silver

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Gold

Silver

Brass



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Gold

Silver

Brass

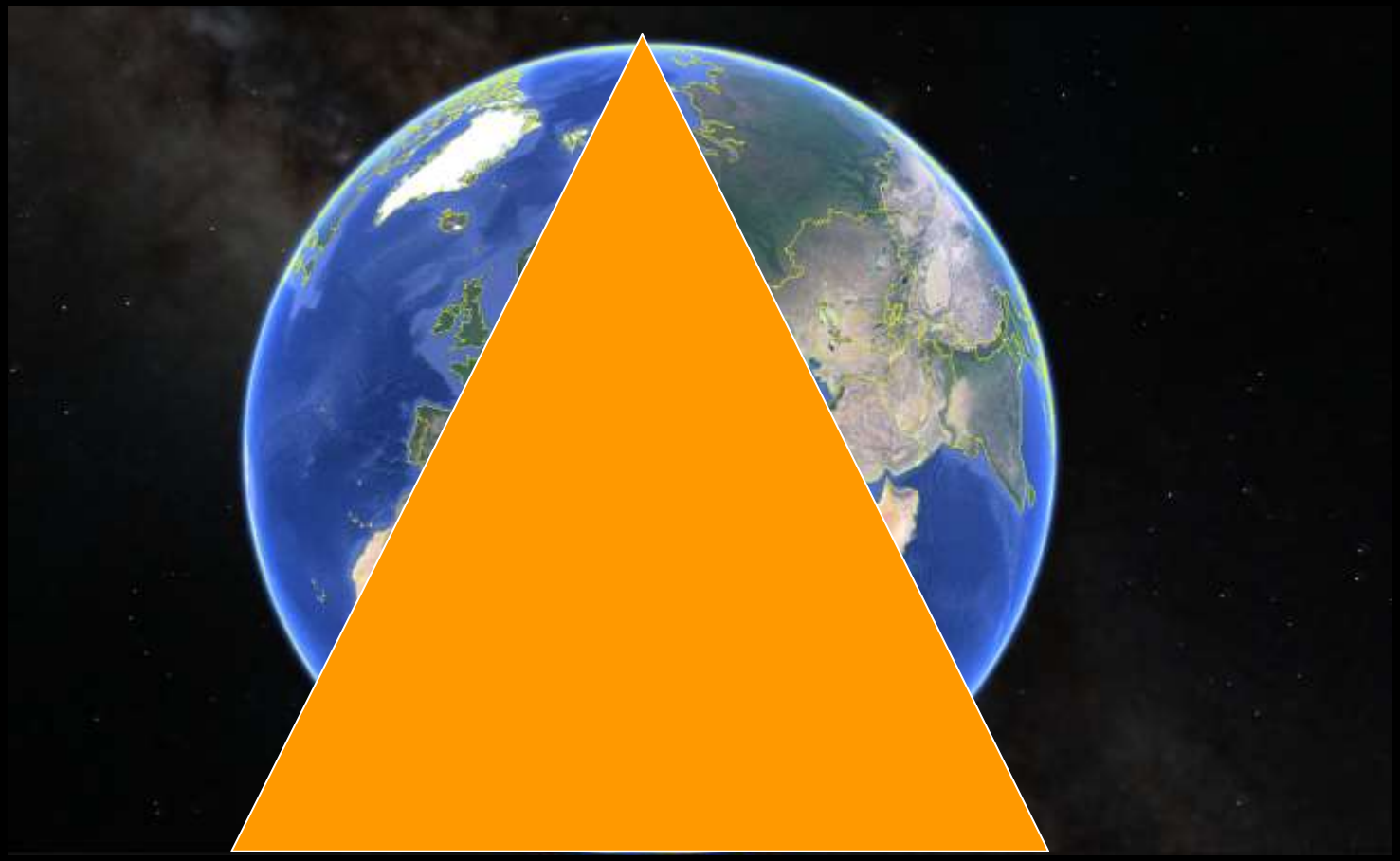
Iron

Iron + Clay



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- Daniel explains the dream and gives the interpretation:
  - There is to be four great empires following Babylon
  - At the end of days, the God of Heaven will establish His own throne and rule over the whole earth.
  - His will be a kingdom that will never end

37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.
38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

Daniel 2:37-38

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Gold



Babylon

606 BC – 539 BC

Gold was abundant in ancient Babylon, so it is fitting the kingdom of Babylon is depicted as Gold

The detail and accuracy of this prophecy is a thorn in the flesh to the critics; for after Babylon another kingdom did arise, but not with the absolute power of Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar.

Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon was head & shoulders above the nations that would follow!

The Babylonian Empire 606-539 BC



39a And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee,

Daniel 2:39a

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Gold

Babylon
606 BC – 539 BC

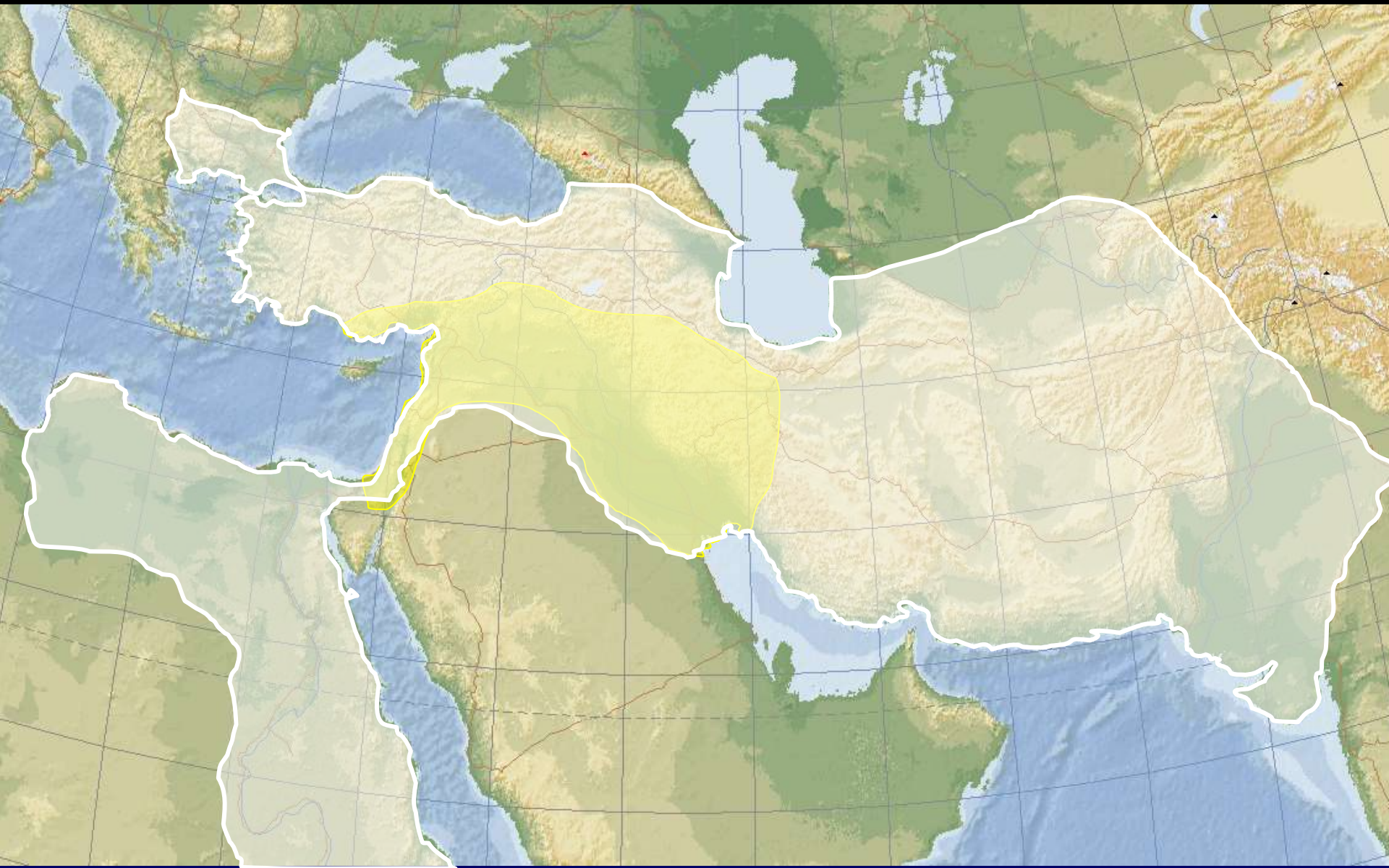


Silver

Persia
539 BC – 332 BC

In 539 B.C. Cyrus conquered Babylon (without a battle! – see Chapter 5). Cyrus was part Median and part Persian and so united the two factions into the great Medo-Persian Empire. Silver coinage became the currency of the empire.

The Persian Empire 539-332 BC



39b And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

Daniel 2:39b

After the Medo-Persian Empire, history confirms that a third kingdom, wielding brass shields and swords, with stunning speed conquered the Persians and went on to take the known world. It is recorded that the leader of this new empire, at only 30 or so years of age, wept because there were no more lands to be conquered.

That leader was Alexander the Great and the Empire was the famous Greek Empire. After Alexander's death the Greek Empire was divided between his four generals, but it never had the same power as it did under Alexander. Eventually the Greek Empire fell to a fourth empire.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Gold — **Babylon**
606 BC – 539 BC

Silver — **Persia**
539 BC – 332 BC

Brass — **Greece**
332 BC – 68 BC



The Greek Empire 332 – 68 BC



The Empire Divided

Daniel 11



40 And the fourth kingdom shall be 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.

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

Daniel 2:40-41

Rome

- Unlike the previous empires, Rome was never defeated. It divided into the eastern and western ‘legs’ (with the eastern leg outlasting the western by almost a 1000 years).
- Since its demise, almost all of the parts that made up the old empire have had their day at ruling.
  - The Ottoman Turks,
  - The French of Napoleon,
  - The Germans,
  - The Dutch,
  - The Spanish
  - and of course, the British Empire.
  - Even America (USA) was founded by people from the old Roman Empire.



Rome

- So as we come to this verse we are told of a ‘phase’ of the Roman Empire of which history knows nothing;
- Therefore it is reasonable to conclude that it is yet to come
  - something that is confirmed in subsequent verses and chapters of this book.
- We are told this final phase of the Roman Empire will consist of feet and toes, partly potters clay and partly iron
  - not a good mixture for these two will not stick together,
- We are told that this kingdom will be divided, yet there will be the strength of iron in it.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2



Gold — **Babylon** 606 BC – 539 BC

Silver — **Persia** 539 BC – 332 BC

Brass — **Greece** 332 BC – 68 BC

Iron — **Rome I** 68 BC – ?

Iron + Clay — **"Rome II"**

The Roman Empire 68 BC – 476 AD



42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and
part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and
partly broken.
43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry
clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of
men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as
iron is not mixed with clay.

Daniel 2:42-43

44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Daniel 2:44

- This kingdom is the ‘Kingdom *from* Heaven’ spoken of Matthew’s gospel 32x
- It is an earthly kingdom
- It is a sub-set of the ‘kingdom of God’

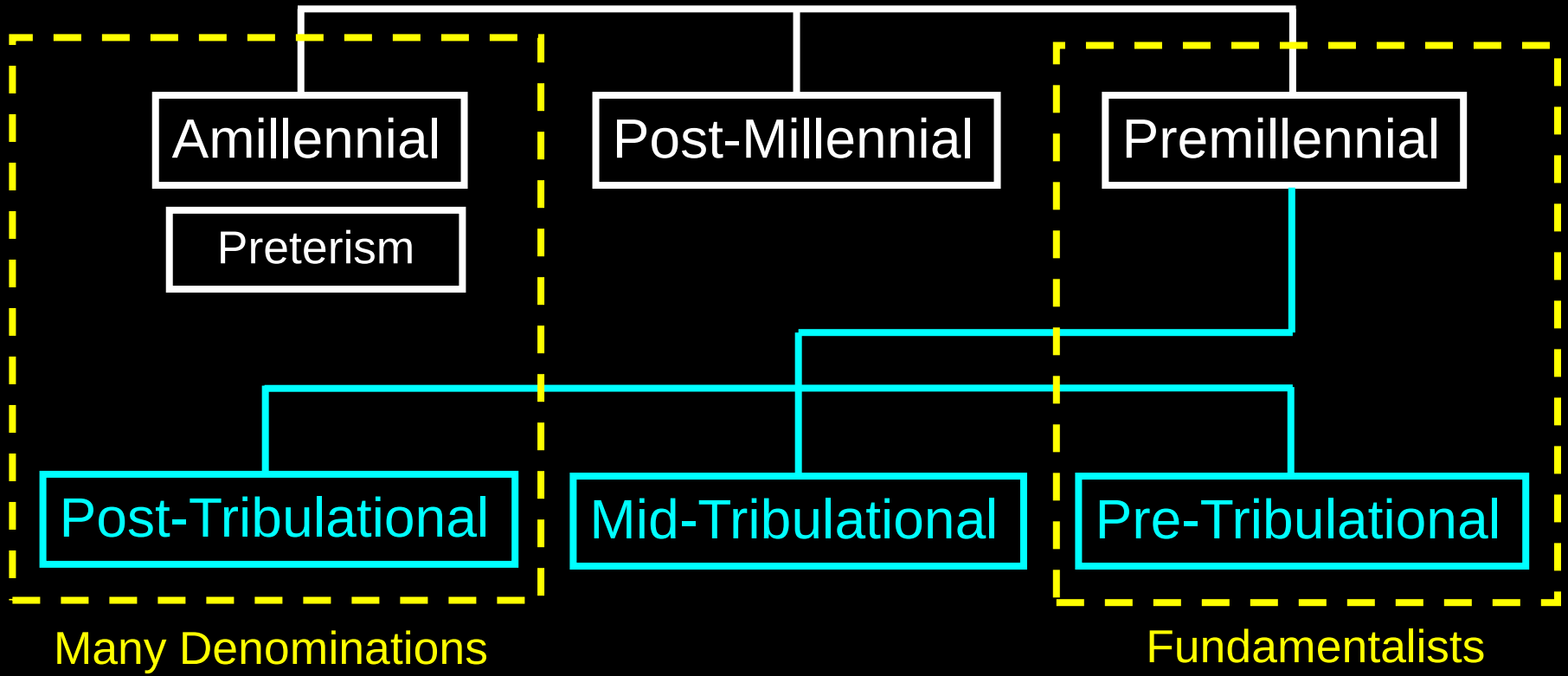
45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Daniel 2:45

- As the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman Empires were all literal earthly empires that came to pass as Daniel foretold… so will God's kingdom!

Eschatology

(the study of the End Times)



Allegorical ⟷ Literal

Hermeneutics

(How we interpret the Bible)

The Premillennial View

- Daniel 2 tells us that the stone will become a mountain suddenly, not gradually.
  - Christianity did not suddenly fill “the whole earth”
- Though Christ came in the days of the Roman Empire He did not destroy it as foretold in Dan 2
- During Christ’s time on earth the Roman Empire did not have 10 kings rule at one time.
  - Yet Nebuchadnezzar’s stature suggests that when Christ comes to establish His kingdom, 10 rulers will be in existence and will be destroyed by Him.

The Premillennial View

- Though Christ is now the chief cornerstone to the Church (Eph 2:20) and a “a stone” that causes unbelievers to stumble (1 Peter 2:8), He is *not yet* a Smiting Stone as He will be when He comes again
- The Stone (Messiah) will crush and end all the kingdoms of this world
  - But the church has not and will not conquer the world’s kingdoms.
- The church is not a Kingdom with a political realm
- But Christ’s coming Millennium kingdom will be (Luke 1:32 / 2 Sam 7)

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 2:1-4

46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.
47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

Daniel 2:46-47

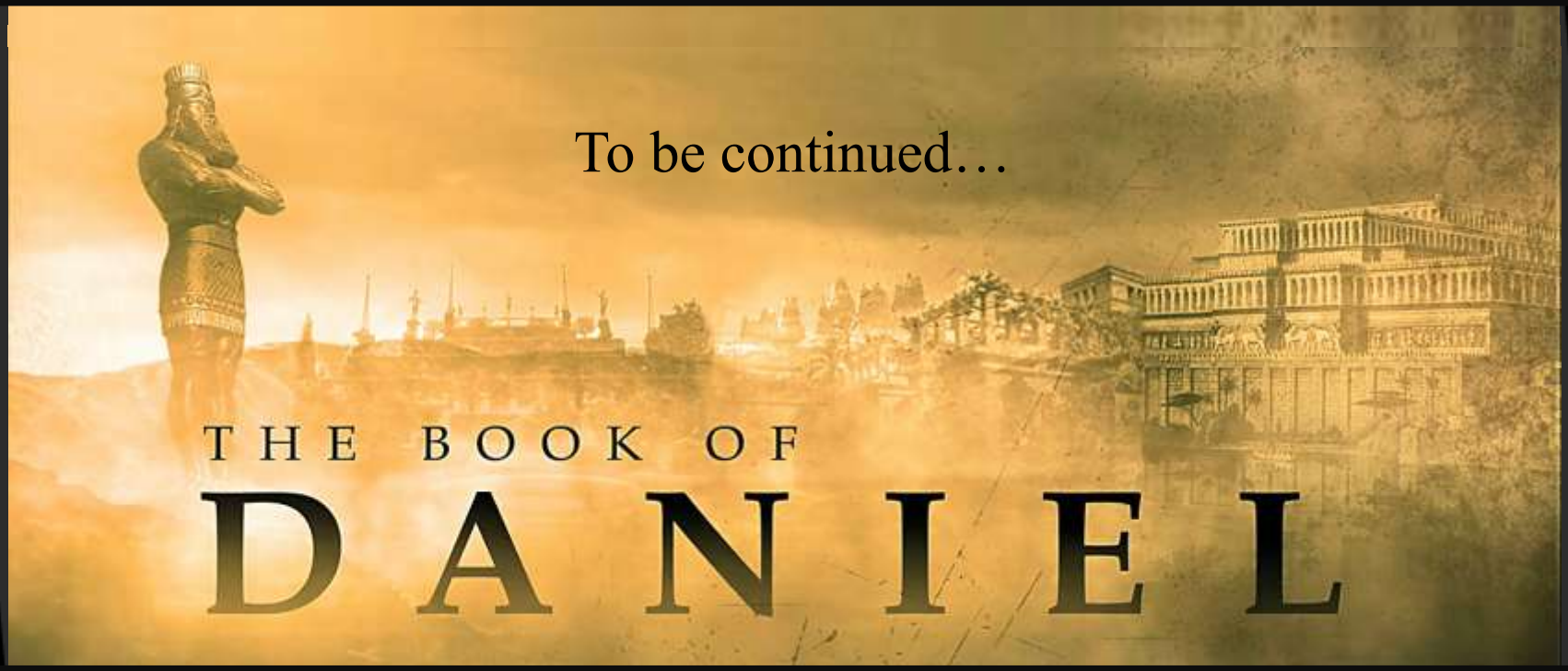
48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.
49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

Daniel 2:48-49

- So Daniel is promoted and ensures that his friends are too.
- As a result of these four Jewish young men the wise men of Babylon were spared from being cut in pieces and their houses being made a dunghill, were they grateful? Sadly the answer is no.
- In fact as we move into chapter three we will find these wise men conspiring against Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah and trying to get them killed.
- Their principle motivation was no doubt jealousy, after all they represented the greatest minds in the kingdom but had been made to look foolish by four teenage Hebrew slaves.
- However, before we are too hard on the Chaldeans and their associates, we should remember that in like manor we rejected the one who had given up His home to come to a foreign land to save us.

- He crossed a gulf that no one among the sons of men could cross; only one whose dwelling is ‘with the gods’ would be able, and so He humbled Himself and became a man, and then purposed in his heart to do the will of His Father in Heaven, to the extent that He became obedient to the death of the cross, that you and I may go free.
- He is the Rock that was smitten the first time (Ex 17:6), but will come again to establish His kingdom, a kingdom that will fill the whole earth, a kingdom that will be an eternal kingdom.
- The kingdom, the power & the glory be His, now & forever, Amen.

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...a verse by verse study



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