



Daniel 7

Daniel's Dreams and Visions

Daniel 7

- ◆ Chapters 7-12 describe Daniel's apocalyptic visions
- ◆ these visions reassure God's people that God is still in control of history and will see His purposes through
- ◆ we will see that Daniel speaks in the 1st person in this chapter, letting us know that he is the one that had these dreams and visions
- ◆ we change from things that are past to things that are future
- ◆ this chapter shows us the "times of the Gentiles" from Nebuchadnezzar to the antichrist

Daniel

- ◆ Daniel was in his 70's at this point
- ◆ Daniel 7 parallels the vision God gave to Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 2
 - ◆ head of gold — Babylon
 - ◆ chest/arms of silver — Medes/Persians
 - ◆ thighs of brass — Greece
 - ◆ legs of iron — Rome/Islam?
 - ◆ feet of iron/clay — false peace/reemergence of Islamic Caliphate?



Gold ~ Babylon

Silver ~ Persians

Bronze ~ Greece

Iron ~ Rome ?

Iron / Clay ~ ?

Medes and Persians were a united kingdom

- ◆ Daniel 7:13 — “one like the Son of man”
- ◆ one of Christ’s ways to describe Himself in the Gospels was “Son of man”
- ◆ Mark 14:61-62 — But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.
- ◆ He was quoting Daniel 7:13, confirming that He was fulfilling prophecy

Daniel 7:1

- ◆ 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
- ◆ the events of this chapter precede the events of Chapter 6
- ◆ the events of chapters 7-8 fall between chapters 4 and 5, chronologically

Daniel 7:2-3

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.
- ◆ Daniel interacts with the angel in the dream but doesn't explain how he can be asleep in his bed and able to speak to an angel standing before the throne of God
- ◆ perhaps he didn't know if he was in his body or out of the body, like Paul (2 Cor. 12:1-3)

- ◆ Four winds: we want to keep in mind in what part of the world this is happening
- ◆ it appears that these are convulsions of the Gentile nations in the times of the Gentiles
- ◆ winds from all parts of the earth
 - ◆ wars; unrest in the nations surrounding the Mediterranean Sea
- ◆ same word as “spirit” or “breath” (ruach) — could represent the influence of evil spirits blowing on world history

- ◆ Great Sea:
- ◆ throughout the OT the Mediterranean Sea is referred to as the Great Sea (Num 34:6-7; Josh 1:4; 9:1; 15:12, 47; 23:4; Ezek 47:10, 15, 20; 48:28)
- ◆ as the sea is stormy, so can the nations of the world be in chaos and war; unpredictable
- ◆ this vision related specifically to the Mediterranean world

◆ Great Sea:

◆ the four winds breaking forth together from all quarters signifies a general commotion arising in all directions simultaneously.

- ◆ Surrounding nations

- ◆ Joel 3:11-12 — Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. 12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.
- ◆ Zachariah 12:2 — Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

♦ Ezekiel 30:1-5 — The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! 3 For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen. 4 And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down. 5 Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword.

♦ where are these nations located?

♦ in the north of Africa and the Middle East — these nations are Islamic

- ♦ Micah 5:2, 4, 6 — But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting... And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth... And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.
- ♦ this hasn't happened yet but Micah is clear in telling us that the Messiah is going to liberate Israel from the Assyrian when the Assyrian crosses their border
- ♦ this is a reference to the antichrist and Christ will destroy him

Daniel 7:4

- ◆ 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.



- ◆ in Dan. 7:17, the angel told Daniel that the beasts represent 4 kingdoms — these kingdoms parallel Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar's dream
- ◆ the king saw a great and impressive image made of valuable metals, while Daniel saw dangerous beasts that devoured peoples and nations

- ◆ most scholars agree:
 - ◆ the “lion” with the “eagle’s” wings represents the Babylonian Empire
 - ◆ in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, this was Babylon
 - ◆ in Scripture, Babylon is identified with both the lion and the eagle (Jer 4:7, 13; 48:40; 49:19-22; 50:17; Ezek 17:3, 12)
 - ◆ the description of the lion being lifted up to stand like a man, and then given a man’s heart, reminds us of how God humbles King Nebuchadnezzar and made him live like a beast for 7 years
 - ◆ God told Daniel the Babylonian empire would fall
 - ◆ Babylonians had winged lions on their gates

Daniel 7:5

- ◆ 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.



- ◆ symbolized the empire of the Medes and Persians, who defeated the Babylonians
- ◆ parallels the arms and chest of the silver in the great image of Daniel 2
- ◆ the bear was raised up on one side because the Persians were stronger than the Medes
 - ◆ three ribs?
 - ◆ the three Persian kings: Cyrus, Ahasuerus and Darius (Stone's edition of the Tanach)
 - ◆ Lydia, Egypt and Babylon that the Medes and Persians had conquered?
 - ◆ these armies devoured much flesh as they marched across the land winning battles

The Babylonian Empire 606-539 BC

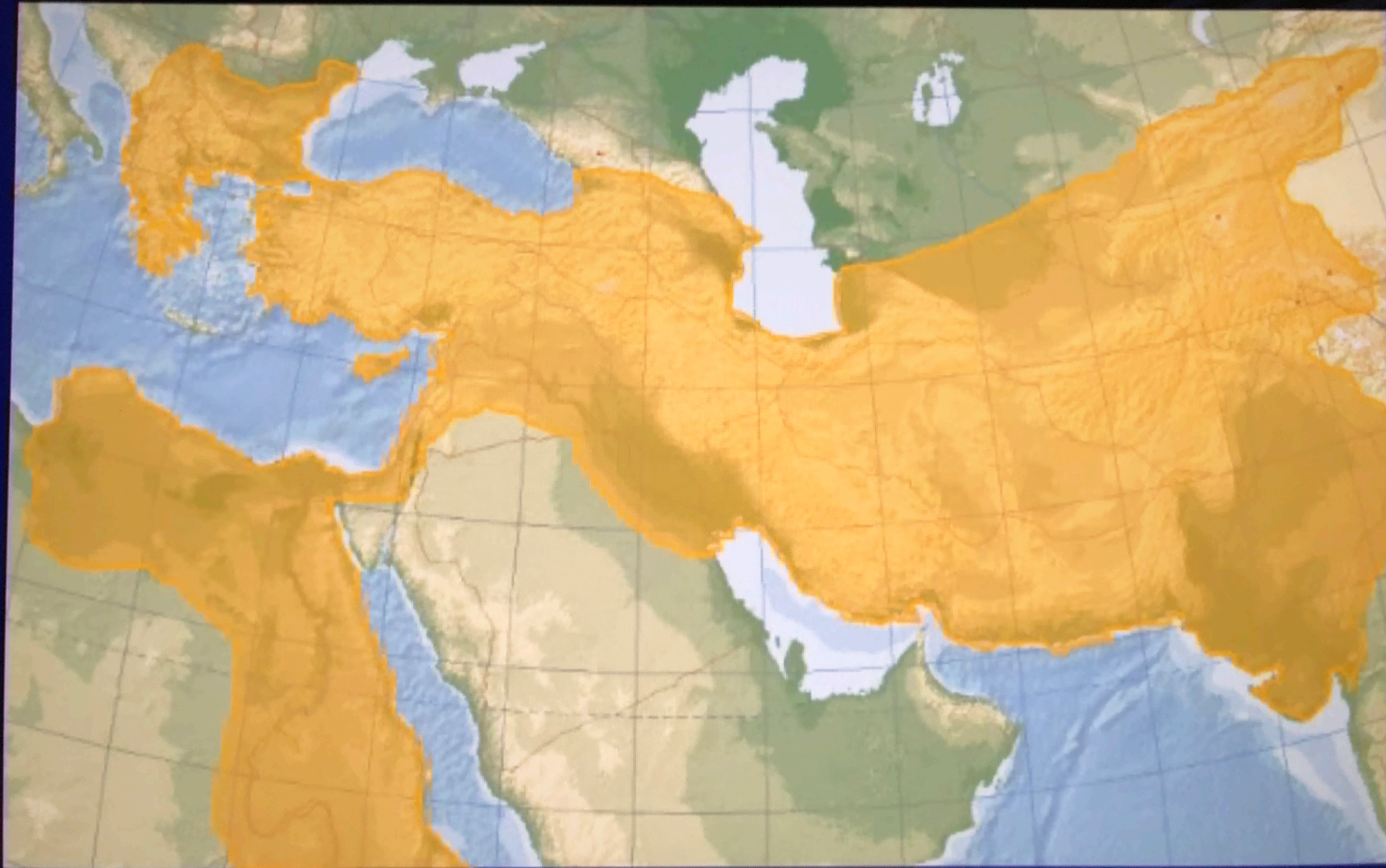


The Persian Empire 539-332 BC



The Greek Empire

332 – 68 BC



The Roman Empire 68 BC – 476 AD



Daniel 7:6

- ◆ 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.



- ◆ represents Alexander the Great and the swift conquest of his army
- ◆ this resulted in the vast expansion of the kingdom of Greece
- ◆ Alexander died at the age of 32 in 323 BC
- ◆ his kingdom was divided into 4 parts and assigned to his leaders

The Empire Divided

Daniel 11



Daniel 7:7

- ◆ 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.

- ◆ nondescript beast — personally, I think it's non-nondescript because of the fierceness with which it conquers
- ◆ many will say it represents the Roman Empire
 - ◆ strong and enduring as iron and uncompromising as a beast on the rampage
 - ◆ this beast corresponds with the legs of iron on Nebuchadnezzar's image, but the the ten toes are represented by ten horns
- ◆ many times in Scripture, a horn is a symbol of a ruler or of royal authority
- ◆ notice that during this vision, Daniel was living in the Babylonian Empire but knew it would be conquered by the Medes/Persians, then by the Greeks and then another kingdom (the Romans, taught by many)

- ◆ personal belief
 - ◆ think back to the two legs of iron, Western and Eastern Rome, eastern capital of Constantinople, of which came the Byzantine Empire and then the Ottoman Empire (fell in 1923 and have wanted to reestablish their Caliphate)
 - ◆ Christianity (Roman catholicism) and Islam share their roots in Abraham
 - ◆ however, this nondescript beast is conquering, destroying and enforcing — Rome didn't enforce everything, they were lenient with religions — Jews could continue practicing Judaism — just pay your tribute
 - ◆ reference G.H. Lang's commentary on Daniel, pp. 83-84