

# The Book of Daniel Chapters 2, 7 & 8

## A Comparative Study

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The following is a study of the Book of Daniel, chapters 2, 7, and 8. The bulk of this study is a correspondence chart containing the prophecies in those chapters. This study is set out in this fashion to allow scripture to speak for itself, with a minimum of input on my part. Christ Himself confirms that Daniel is the author of the book (Matthew 24:15 citing: Dan. 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11). The Book of Daniel is generally held to have been completed within a short time after Cyrus sacked Babylon in 539 BC. This early date is corroborated by four points.

- That the empires of the Medes were not seen as distinct from the Persians. But rather, one empire made up of "Medes and Persians" is portrayed. The latter being consistent with the earliest perception of that empire. Later peoples and certainly modern archaeologists recognize these as two distinct empires hailing out of \*proto-Indo-Iranian, and Indo-Iranian tribes. As related sets of tribes they would have shared a common Indo-Iranian set of customs and languages [1][2]. The earlier peoples would have not only looked at similarities of language and customs, but also that the Achaemenid Persian Empire of Cyrus came about by his defeating his own grandfather, Astyages the king of Media. This melding together wasn't done just by Hebrew writers. Indeed, early Greek historians also referred to the Achaemenid Empire as a *Median*. empire
- As evidenced by the Dead Sea scrolls, the language used in Daniel is confirmed as genuine to the period of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC.
- Archaic Persian and Greek words in Daniel are used correctly. This stands in contrast to the Septuagint, the name given to the Greek translation of the Jewish Scriptures, from 300-200 BC. By that latter date not even the Greek speaking translators remembered the correct use of the words found in Daniel.
- If the book was written at a date later than 539 BC, does not negate the prophetic power of the book. The fourth kingdom (Dan. 2:33, 7:7, 19) is obviously referring to the Roman empire. The Romans did not take Palestine until 63 BC. In addition, there are the 483 years from a decree to rebuild Jerusalem unto Messiah which is also right on the mark.

Understanding the four empires is foundational to understanding of Christian eschatology. It is at the end of the 4th empire, which is predicted to last a very long time, that G-d sets up His kingdom and pronounces judgment. In fact, the focus is not so much on the beginnings of each of the empires, but on their ends. Regarding the Babylonian Empire, Nebuchadnezzar was told that all of the empires would come out of Babylon. That intimate relationship was such that eventually Rome itself was figuratively referred to as Babylon (1 Peter 5:13). In what seems to be an odd bit of self recrimination, The Catholic Encyclopedia argues that Babylon is Rome.

Furthermore, regarding eschatology as it pertains to the Roman empire, that empire is one accredited

with certain attributes. Its relationship to iron, and war-making, and that it would "devour the whole earth, tread it down, and break it in pieces and crush it" would appear to apply to not just the Romans themselves, but to every world power since their day. Yet a careful review of history shows that the Roman empire, per se, has never gone away. [Pax Romana](#) which later was incorporated as "[The Holy Roman Empire](#)", gave way to [Pax Britannica](#) (the British Empire). One might even see [Arthurian legends](#), and history of that time, as the seed for the evolution of this next embodiment of Romana. By the end of the World Wars of the early 20th century Pax Britannica had given way to [Pax Americana](#), the American Empire. The same basic systems and goals, empires building and expanding those systems across the globe. So much so that some, even amongst the references above, will refer to America as the modern Rome. Pax Americana as the child, and modern manifestation of ancient Rome, appears to have been consolidated with the two Bush presidencies (Sr. & Jr.), and their "[Project for the New American Century](#)", which even secular types see as empire [1][2][3].

But enough on Rome and her daughters. That is a topic for another study. For now lets compare the Book of Daniel, chapters 2, 7, and 8. In those chapters we see the foundations of the four empires of the world.

<b>Daniel 2</b> (Amplified Bible)	<b>Daniel 8</b> (Amplified Bible)	<b>Daniel 7</b> (Amplified Bible)
<b>1st Empire (Gold)</b> <b>Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Empires (Silver &amp; Bronze)</b> <b>Medo-Persian &amp; Greek</b>	<b>4th Empire (Iron)</b> <b>Roman</b>
<p><b>31You, O king, saw, and behold, [there was] a great image. This image which was mighty and of exceedingly great brightness stood before you, and the appearance of it was frightening and terrible.</b></p>	<p>2And I saw in the vision and it seemed that I was at Shushan the palace or fortress [in Susa, the capital of Persia], which is in the province of Elam, and I saw in the vision and I was by the river of Ulai.</p> <hr/> <p>19And he said, Behold, I will make you know what will be in the latter time of the indignation [of God upon the ungodly], for it has to do with the time of the end.</p>	<p><b>3And four great beasts came up out of the sea in succession, and different from one another.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>17These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth.</b></p> <p><b>18But the saints of the Most High [God] shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.</b></p> <p><b>19Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast-- which was different from all the others, exceedingly terrible and shocking, whose teeth were of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke and crushed, and trampled what was left with its feet--</b></p> <p><b>20And about the ten horns [representing kings] that were on its head, and the other horn which came up later and before which three of [the horns] fell, the horn which had eyes and a mouth</b></p>

		<p>that spoke great things and which looked greater than the others.</p> <p>21As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them</p> <p>22Until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High [God], and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.</p>
32As for this image, its head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,		
33Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay [the baked clay of the potter].		
34As you looked, a Stone was cut out without human hands, which smote the image on its feet of iron and [baked] clay [of the potter] and broke them to pieces.		
35Then the iron, the [baked] clay [of the potter], the bronze, the silver, and the gold were broken and crushed together and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them could be found. And the Stone that smote the image became a great mountain or rock and filled the whole earth.		
36This was the dream, and we will tell the interpretation of it to the king.		
37You, O king, are king of the [earthly] kings to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the might, and the glory.		
38And wherever the children of men dwell, and the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens-- He has given them into your hand		4The first [the Babylonian empire under Nebuchadnezzar] was like a lion and had eagle's wings. I looked till the wings of it were

<p>and has made you to rule over them all. You [king of Babylon] are the head of gold.</p>		<p>plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand upon two feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.</p>
<p>Medo-Perisian Empire</p>	<p>Medo-Perisian Empire</p>	<p>Medo-Perisian Empire</p>
<p>39And after you shall arise another kingdom [the Medo-Persian], inferior to you,...</p>	<p>3And I lifted up my eyes and saw, and behold, there stood before the river a [single] ram which had two horns [representing two kings of Medo-Persia: Darius the Mede, then Cyrus]; and the two horns were high, but one [Persia] was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.</p> <hr/> <p>20The ram you saw having two horns, they are the kings of Media and Persia.</p>	<p>5And behold another beast, a second one [the Medo-Persian empire], was like a bear, and it raised up itself on one side [or one dominion] and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, Arise, devour much flesh.</p>
<p>Grecian Empire</p>	<p><b>Grecian Empire</b> (Also see Daniel 11 for details about what will happen between the four kingdoms that arise out of Alexanders empire.)</p>	<p>Grecian Empire</p>
<p>...and still a third kingdom of bronze [Greece under Alexander the Great] which shall bear rule over all the earth.</p>	<p>4I looked and saw the ram [Medo-Persia] pushing and charging westward and northward and southward; no beast could stand before him, neither could anyone rescue from his power, but he did according to his [own] will and pleasure and magnified himself.</p>	
	<p>5As I was considering, behold, a he-goat [the king of Greece] came from the west across the face of the whole earth without touching the ground, and the goat had a conspicuous and remarkable horn between his eyes [symbolizing Alexander the Great].</p> <hr/> <p>21And the shaggy and rough he-goat is the king of Greece, and the great horn between his eyes is the first king [who consolidated the whole realm, Alexander the Great].</p>	<p>6After this I looked, and behold, another [the Grecian empire of Alexander the Great], like a leopard which had four wings of a bird on its back. The beast had also four heads [Alexander's generals, his successors], and dominion was given to it.</p>

**6**And he came to the ram that had the two horns which I had seen standing on the bank of the river and ran at him in the heat of his power.

**7**[In my vision] I saw him come close to the ram [Medo-Persia], and he was moved with anger against him and he [Alexander the Great] struck the ram and broke his two horns; and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but the goat threw him to the ground and trampled on him. And there was no one who could rescue the ram from his power.

**8**And the he-goat [Alexander the Great] magnified himself exceedingly, and when he was [young and] strong, the great horn [he] was [suddenly] broken; and instead of [him] there came up four notable horns [to whom the kingdom was divided, one] toward [each of] the four winds of the heavens.

**22**And as for the horn which was shattered, in whose place four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise out of his nation but not having his [Alexander's] power.

**9**Out of littleness and small beginnings one of them came forth [Antiochus Epiphanes], a horn whose [impious presumption and pride] grew exceedingly great toward the south and toward the east and toward the ornament [the precious, blessed land of Israel].

**23**And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors [the apostate Jews] have reached the fullness [of their wickedness, taxing the limits of God's mercy], a king of fierce countenance and understanding dark trickery and craftiness shall stand up.

**10**And [in my vision this horn] grew great, even against the host of heaven [God's true people, the saints], and some of the host and of the stars [priests] it cast down to the ground and trampled on them,

**11**Yes, [this horn] magnified itself, even [matching itself] against the Prince of the host [of heaven]; and from Him the continual [burnt offering] was taken away and the place of [God's] sanctuary was cast down and profaned.

**12**And the host [the chosen people] was given [to the wicked horn] together with the continual burnt offering because of the transgression [of God's people-- their abounding irreverence, ungodliness, and lack of piety]. And righteousness and truth were cast down to the ground, and it [the wicked horn] accomplished this [by divine permission] and prospered.

**24**And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall corrupt and destroy astonishingly and shall prosper and do his own pleasure, and he shall corrupt and destroy the mighty men and the holy people (the people of the saints).

**13**Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one that spoke, For how long is the vision concerning the continual offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of both the sanctuary and the host [of the people] to be trampled underfoot?

**25**And through his policy he shall cause trickery to prosper in his hand; he shall magnify himself in his heart and mind, and in their security he will corrupt and destroy many. He shall also stand up against the Prince of princes, but he shall be broken and that by no [human] hand.

**14**And he said to him and to me, For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed and restored.

**26**The vision of the evenings and the mornings which has been told you is true. But seal up the vision, for it has to do with and belongs to the [now] distant future.

Note: the sanctuary was cleansed and restored on Kislev 25, 165 BCE as a result of the Maccabean revolt.

**Roman Empire**

**Roman Empire**

**Roman Empire**

**40**And the fourth kingdom [Rome] shall be strong as iron, since iron breaks to pieces and subdues all things; and like iron which crushes, it shall break and crush all these.

**7**After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast [the Roman empire]--terrible, powerful and dreadful, and exceedingly strong. And it had great iron teeth; it devoured and crushed and trampled what was left with its feet. And it was different from all the beasts that came before it, and it had ten horns [symbolizing ten kings].

**41**And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of [baked] clay [of the potter] and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom; but there shall be in it some of the firmness and strength of iron, just as you saw the iron mixed with miry [earthen] clay.

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

**23**Thus [the angel] said, The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms and shall devour the whole earth, tread it down, and break it in pieces and crush it.

**24**And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise; and another shall arise after them, and he shall be different from the former ones, and he shall subdue and put down three kings.

**42**And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of [baked] clay [of the potter], so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle and broken.

**21**As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them

**25**And he shall speak words against the Most High [God] and shall wear out the saints of the Most High and think to change the time [of sacred feasts and holy days] and the law; and the saints shall be given into his hand for a time, two times, and half a time [three and one-half years].

(Ezek 28:2; Dan 11:36, 37, 2 Thess. 2:4, Rev. 13:5-8)

**43**And as you saw the iron mixed with miry and earthen clay, so they shall mingle themselves in the seed of men [in marriage bonds]; but they will not hold together [for two such elements or ideologies can never harmonize], even as iron does

<b>not mingle itself with clay.</b>		
<b>Day of the Lord &amp; Kingdom of G-d</b>	<b>Day of the Lord &amp; Kingdom of G-d</b>	<b>Day of the Lord &amp; Kingdom of G-d</b>
<p>44And in the days of these [final ten] kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people; but it shall break and crush and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever.</p>		<p>9I kept looking until thrones were placed [for the assessors with the Judge], and the Ancient of Days [God, the eternal Father] took His seat, Whose garment was white as snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was like the fiery flame; its wheels were burning fire.</p>
		<p>10A stream of fire came forth from before Him; a thousand thousands ministered to Him and ten thousand times ten thousand rose up and stood before Him; the Judge was seated [the court was in session] and the books were opened.</p> <p>26But the judgment shall be set [by the court of the Most High], and they shall take away his dominion to consume it [gradually] and to destroy it [suddenly] in the end.</p> <p>(see: Psalms 2, 50:4-5, 1 Thess. 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10, Rev. 11:18, 16:16, 19:17-19 )</p>
		<p>11I looked then because of the sound of the great words which the horn was speaking. I watched until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire.</p>
		<p>12And as for the rest of the beasts, their power of dominion was taken away; yet their lives were prolonged [for the duration of their lives was fixed] for a season and a time.</p>
<p>45Just as you saw that the Stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it broke in pieces the</p>		<p>13I saw in the night visions, and behold, on the clouds of the heavens came One like a Son of</p>

<p>iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter. The dream is certain and the interpretation of it is sure.</p>		<p>man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.</p> <p>(see: Matthew 24:30, 25:31-32, Mark 13:26 , Luke 21:27)</p>
		<p><b>14</b>And there was given Him [the Messiah] dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom is one which shall not be destroyed.</p> <p><b>27</b>And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heavens shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions shall serve and obey Him.</p> <p>(see: Rev. 11:15, Rev. 20:4-6)</p>

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