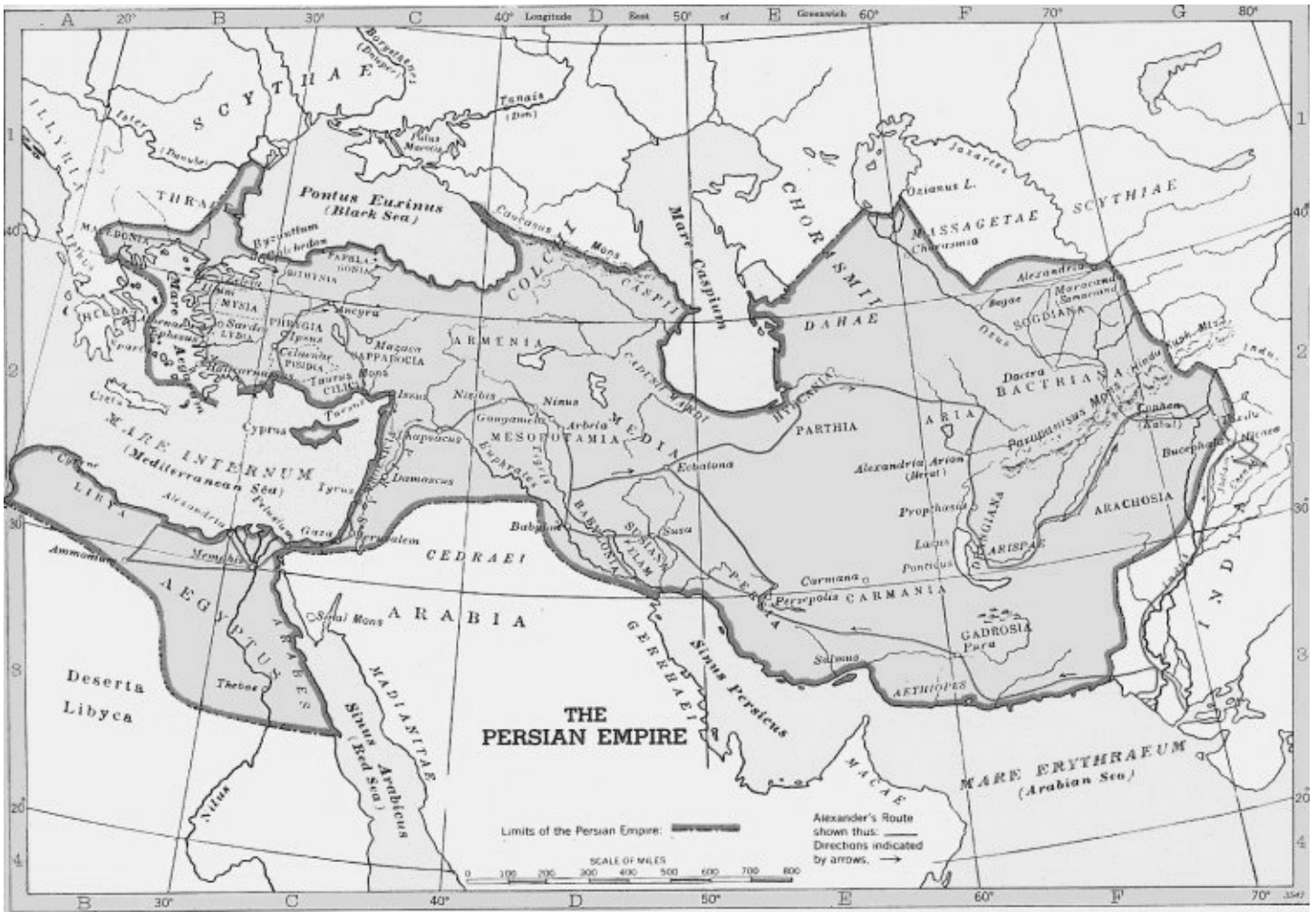


## Daniel 2: 36-49



## Daniel 2: 36-49

### The Interpretation—Babylon the First Kingdom

<sup>36</sup> “This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king.

<sup>37</sup> You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory;

<sup>38</sup> and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given *them* into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

## Medo-Persia and Greece

<sup>39</sup> After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

### Interpretation of the Dream

From GOD

→to Daniel

→to Nebuchadnezzar

→to us

<sup>36</sup> This was the dream; now we tell its interpretation before the king

God's view of the course of Gentile world power

—Four great empires—

**Babylon**

**Medo-Persia**

**Greece**

**Rome 1 and Rome 2**

## 37-38 Head of Gold –Babylonian Empire

<sup>37</sup> You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; <sup>38</sup> and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given *them* into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

<sup>3rd</sup> **Head of 7 headed Dragon is Babylon;**

<sup>1st</sup> Egypt, then Assyria To rule over the known world; to **rule** over the Jews

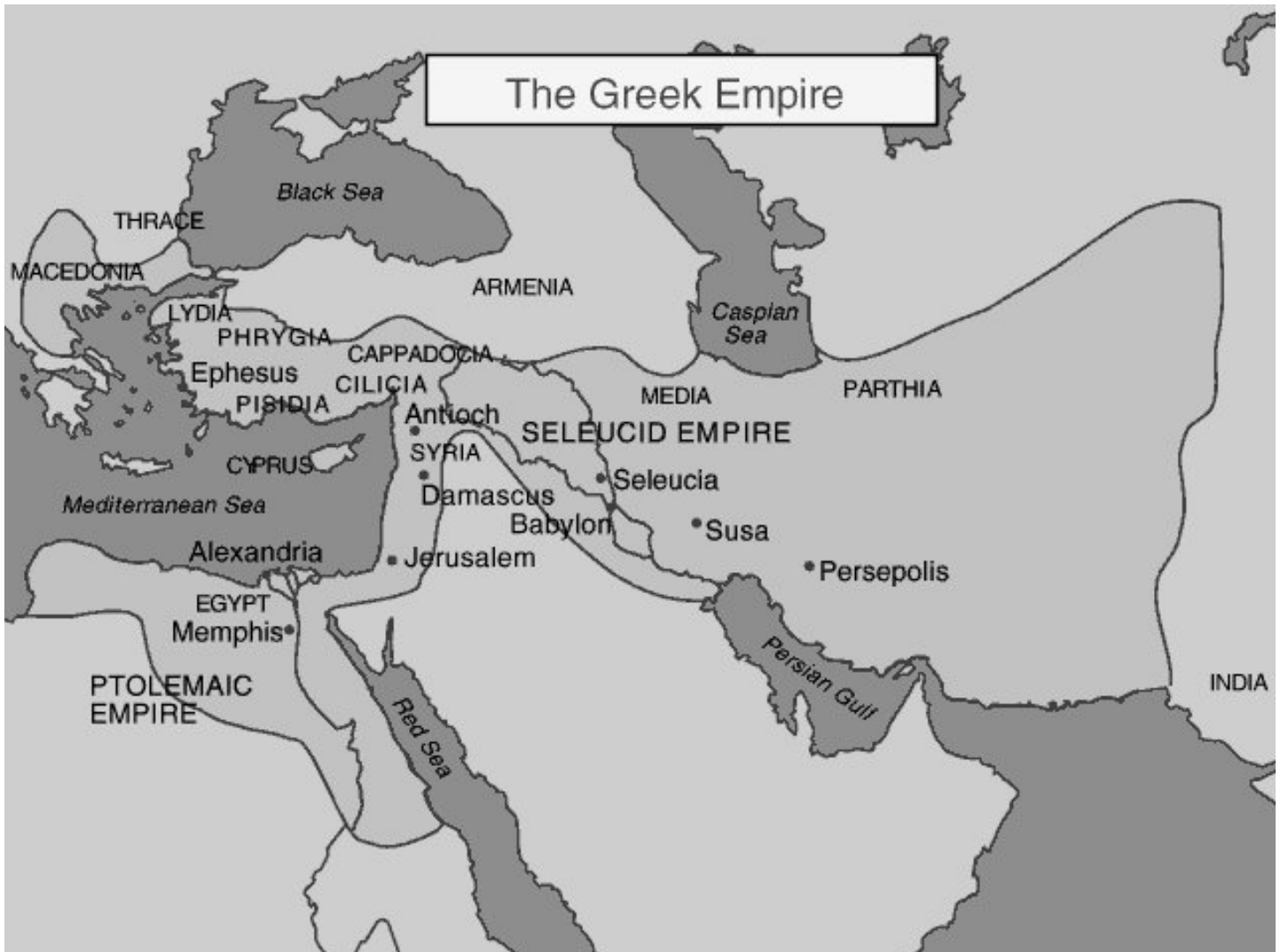
This **Babylonian Empire** began and ruled in what is today **Iran** and will rule only some 100 years.

From its final invasion of Jerusalem in 586 to 539 bc  
when Babylon fell to the Persians.

In 536 bc the **Babylonian Empire** will fall to the **Medo-Persian Empire**, without fulfilling its dream of world of a utopia society. The Fall is recorded in Daniel 5:30-31

Daniel 5: 30- 31

<sup>30</sup>That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. <sup>31</sup> So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.



Then in Daniel 8:20-21 records Greece as third Kingdom. The Persians ruled the entire Middle East until the Greeks lead by Alexander the Great conquered them in 323 bc.

Daniel 8: 20- 21

The Ram's Identity

<sup>20</sup>The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.

## The Goat

<sup>21</sup> The shaggy goat *represents* the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king

But Greece will fall to Rome called **Kittim**, Rome's Hebrew name in Daniel 11:30.

Daniel 11: 30

<sup>30</sup> For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

37 "You, O king, of the Chaldean empire are the king of kings, head of all kings on earth to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the glory;

# Do you see it?

**verse 18 Daniel and his 3 friends turn to the God of heaven**

<sup>18</sup> so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

**verse 19 Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven**

<sup>19</sup> Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; <sup>20</sup> Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.

**verse 28 There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries**

<sup>28</sup> However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind *while* on your bed.

**verse 37 the God of heaven has given...**

<sup>37</sup> You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory;

**The God who Reveals Mysteries**

is the **same God** who controls all human history and appoints kings.

**Then to complete the picture of God of heaven**

Verse 44 the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed.

Please note that it is the **same God** who gives wisdom and power to the believer (verse 23) and also promotes unbelievers according to His Plan.

Here God promotes Nebuchadnezzar according to His own Plan.

<sup>37</sup> You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory **it is our God** who gives what all men have—believers and unbelievers—.

the Kingdom

Kingdom of Babylon

the Power

Economic, physical resources

the Strength

Great military empire

the Glory

All the human glamor and human prestige that goes with such a kingdom

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38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

### **“Those who bless you I will bless”**

According to CAH Nebuchadnezzar is probably the greatest military genius of all history.

This is prophesied by Jeremiah

### **Jeremi ah 27:**

<sup>5</sup> With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please.

<sup>6</sup> Now I will hand all your countries over to my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him.

<sup>7</sup> All nations will serve him and his son and his grandson until the time for his land comes; then many nations and great kings will subjugate him.

<sup>8</sup> “If, however, any nation or kingdom will not serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon or bow its neck under his yoke, I will punish that nation with the sword, famine and plague, declares the LORD, until I destroy it by his hand.

## **Fall of Babylon <●●●●> rise of Medo Persian Empire**

The Babylonian or Neo Chaldean Empire was the strongest, but it lasted only 66 years: 605-539 bc.

<sup>39</sup> After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

<sup>39</sup> After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you,

## **“glory is fading”**

The Babylonian empire fell to Medo-Persian empire in 539 bc  
—see this in Daniel 5:30-31;

Daniel 5: 30- 31;

<sup>30</sup> That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. <sup>31</sup> So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two. The Fall of the Babylonian empire to one inferior to itself is simple. The most important pages of any world history book is the table of contents

Read slowly and carefully...

**—the rise and fall of nations—**

...generally to nations inferior to them.

You can concentrate on the study of why they rose to power and why they fell, but the history of man is a history of the rise and fall of empires.

## Where do you think America is on this scale?

...and what is so interesting is that each of these nations think they will last forever!

There is only one nation that will never fall  
**—Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ—**

<sup>39</sup> After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you,

The Aramaic word translated inferior to you is an interesting picturesque word: it means **earthward or downward**. It is difficult to pinpoint this Aramaic word, for each of these **5 Gentile nations** had various areas of superiority, as the **Medo-Persian Empire** contributed both medical & mathematics that we still use today. (Persian had far superior artificial teeth than we had in the time of George Washington).

But the Word of God tells us that  
**the greater will be overtaken by the inferior.**

First this does away with the human wisdom of evolution.

Weakening of the leadership in Babylon.

God removes kings and establishes Kings as per His Plan.

The man who took Nebuchadnezzar's place, his own son, Evil-Merodach.

**2 Kings 25: 27**

<sup>27</sup> Now it came about in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he became king, released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison; and **Jeremiah 25: 31**

<sup>31</sup> 'A clamor has come to the end of the earth,

Because the LORD has a controversy with the nations.

He is entering into judgment with all flesh;

As for the wicked, He has given them to the sword,' declares the LORD."



Evil-Merodach was as weak as Nebuchadnezzar was strong.  
He will be killed by his own brother-in-law ( Nergal-sar-ezer ) after just two years on the throne.

Jeremi ah 39: 3

<sup>3</sup> Then all the officials of the king of Babylon came in and sat down at the Middle Gate: Nergal-sar-ezer, Samgar-nebu, Sar-sekim the Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer *the* Rab-mag, and all the rest of the officials of the king of Babylon.

**Nergal-sar-ezer** (Jeremiah 39:3) will die after just 4 years on the throne.

While Babylon was on its rise and fall, two powers were on their way of rising in power; the Medes and the Persians.

The breast and arms of silver of Nebuchadnezzar statue. (539 bc)

In 539 bc Babylon falls under Belshazzar  
to Cyrus of the Medo-Persian empire.

**Isa. 45:1-2a**

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed,  
Whom I have taken by the right hand,

To subdue nations before him

And to loose the loins of kings;

To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

<sup>2</sup> "I will go before you and make the rough places smooth;

I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.

# Again, it is God who removes kings and establishes kings!

The Question is: **was Cyrus a believer in the coming Messiah, JESUS CHRIST?**

We have many reasons to believe that he did believe in Daniel's Messiah.

- 1 **Cyrus was a vital part in the Plan of God for the Jewish people.**

Daniel 1: 21

<sup>21</sup> And Daniel <sup>[x]</sup> continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.

Daniel 6: 28

<sup>28</sup> So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 10: 1

<sup>1</sup> So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Throughout Ezra and Isa. 44: 28.

<sup>28</sup> *“/t is /who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd!*

*And he will perform all My desire.’*

*And he declares of Jerusalem, ‘She will be built,’*

*And of the temple, ‘Your foundation will be laid.’”*

- 2 **Daniel led Nebuchadnezzar to JESUS CHRIST; Daniel had personal relationships with Cyrus; Cyrus will appoint Daniel chief Administrator of the Persian Empire. So there is every reason to believe that Daniel witnessed to Cyrus of His God! And the Plan of God for the ages**
- 3 **Then, of course, there is the fact that Cyrus decreed that the Jews were to return to Israel and rebuild the temple; something that very well could have been his understanding of God's plan for the Jews. It is interesting that while God used Babylon to execute His Divine Decree against Israel, God blessed the Babylonians for their treatment of the Jews. Then God used the Persian Empire to return Israel to the Promised-land. And God blessed both these empires for their treatment of the Jews.**

## “Those who bless you I will bless”

Just think of all the peoples from the ancient world who will be in heaven, thanks to Daniel and his three friends and their witness of their God; and our God.

But it was not just Cyrus, there is also **King Darius I** (521-486)

He is mentioned in **Daniel**, **Ezra**, **Nehemiah**, **Haggai** and **Zechariah** and a careful study seems to indicate that he, also, believed in the coming of Messiah. During his reign Jews had returned to Jerusalem and both the city walls and temple were completed.

For over 200 years (536-200 bc) the Jews enjoyed great prosperity and influence of the gospel.  
(*From Nebuchadnezzar →→→→→ to Alexander the Great*)

To demonstrate God’s protection of His people, the story of Esther occurred.

### **The rise of empire of Greece—Graeco-Macedonian Empire**

the belly and thighs of bronze of verse 32

<sup>32</sup> The head of that statue *was made of fine gold*, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,



## Daniel 2

39 then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. **Over the Jews—as recorded in 8:20-21—**

### The Ram's Identity

<sup>20</sup> The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.

### The Goat

<sup>21</sup> The shaggy goat *represents* the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

—this will be **Greece**.

While the **Medo-Persian Empire** was weakening another empire was being developed in the **West**—the **Graeco-Macedonian** empire.

It is misleading to omit the **Macedonian** part of this empire

**Philip II of Macedon** became ruler of all Greece and he and a beautiful red-head Olymias had a son named Alexander! Philip was assassinated and Alexander took control of the throne at age twenty.

To demonstrate his genius, **Alexander** overcame an immediate block. Different Greek dialects were spoken throughout all Greece. So to resolve this language barrier, **Alexander** was responsible for the development of a common Greek, came to be known as

**Koiné Greek**, which is the Greek in which the New Testament was penned.

And then the Greek empire would fall to the Romans--recorded in **Daniel 11: 30**

<sup>30</sup> For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

—who will conquer Jerusalem in 64 bc.

Then will come the 5<sup>th</sup> and final... **The Stone** that will crush the entire Statue,  
**Kingdom of God with JESUS CHRIST** as its King.  
—Millennial Reign of JESUS CHRIST—

