

# DANIEL 2-7



**Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary**  
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**Key Word**

**532  
343**

**Sovereignty**

**Daniel**

**Theme**

532

**Universal Sovereignty in  
Times of the Gentiles**

**Daniel**

# Key Verse

**(Daniel to God) "...Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them..."  
(2:20-21a).**

**Daniel**

# Kingdom Statement

343

**God's sovereignty remains steadfast despite the rise and fall of many nations until the establishment of kingdom blessing under His Messianic Ruler (9:24-27).**

**Daniel**



## Summary Statement

**The Judean exiles should be encouraged of God's **sovereign** control over all nations to preserve Israel between Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of Jerusalem (605 BC) and the establishment of the Kingdom blessings under the Messiah.**

**Daniel**

# Covenant

347c

**The covenant of an imposter Messiah (9:27) in the mold of Antiochus (Dan. 11:22-32) will be squelched (11:36-45) and replaced with the True Messiah who alone keeps his covenants (9:4).**

**Daniel**

# Redemption

347c

**God alone saves (3:17, 29; 6:27) since all other kingdoms and rulers are ultimately powerless.**

**Daniel**

# Messiah

**Predicting the date of the triumphal entry and later death (9:25-26) proves Christ will also defeat the world's kingdoms (2:34-35, 44) to rule (7:13-14) as King (10:5-9; cf. Rev. 1:12-16).**

**Daniel**

# Outline of Daniel

532

## UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY IN TIMES OF THE GENTILES

|                                |               |                |  |                |              |              |              |               |   |                               |   |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sovereignty over Daniel</b> |               |                | <b>Sovereignty over Gentiles</b>       |                |              |              |              |               | <b>Sovereignty over Jews</b>            |                               |   |
| <b>Chapter 1</b>               |               |                | <b>Chapters 2–7</b>                    |                |              |              |              |               | <b>Chapters 8–12</b>                    |                               |   |
| <b>Narrative</b>               |               |                | <b>Visions in Narrative</b>            |                |              |              |              |               | <b>Vision</b>                           |                               |   |
| <b>Hebrew</b>                  |               |                | <b>Aramaic</b>                         |                |              |              |              |               | <b>Hebrew</b>                           |                               |   |
| <b>Gentile Names for God</b>   |               |                | <b>Gentile Names for God</b>           |                |              |              |              |               | <b>Jewish Names for God</b>             |                               |   |
| <b>Third person ("Daniel")</b> |               |                | <b>Third person ("Daniel")</b>         |                |              |              |              |               | <b>First person ("I")</b>               |                               |   |
| <b>Daniel's Example</b>        |               |                | <b>Daniel Interprets King's Dreams</b> |                |              |              |              |               | <b>Angel Interprets Daniel's Dreams</b> |                               |   |
| <b>The Man Daniel</b>          |               |                | <b>Images</b>                          |                | <b>Kings</b> |              |              |               | <b>Israel's Future</b>                  |                               |   |
| <b>Exile</b>                   | <b>Food</b>   | <b>Exalted</b> | <b>Varied</b>                          | <b>Gold</b>    | <b>Neb.</b>  | <b>Bel.</b>  | <b>Dar.</b>  | <b>All</b>    | <b>Medo-Persia To Greece</b>            | <b>Return to Seventy "7s"</b> | <b>Intertestament Period to Tribulation</b> |
|                                |               |                | <b>2</b>                               | <b>3</b>       | <b>4</b>     | <b>5</b>     | <b>6</b>     | <b>7</b>      |   |                               |   |
| <b>1:1-7</b>                   | <b>1:8-16</b> | <b>1:17-21</b> | <b>Promoted</b>                        | <b>Furnace</b> | <b>Exile</b> | <b>Party</b> | <b>Lions</b> | <b>Beasts</b> | <b>8</b>                                | <b>9</b>                      | <b>10–12</b>                                |
| <b>Babylon</b>                 |               |                |  |                |              |              |              |               |   |                               |   |
| <b>605-536 BC</b>              |               |                |  |                |              |              |              |               |   |                               |   |

# Daniel



- 1 **D**aniel favored by Nebuchadnezzar
- 2 **A**nswer to king's dream
- 3 **N**ebuchadnezzar's furnace of fire
- 4 **I**nterpretation of tree vision
- 5 **E**vents at Belshazzar's feast
- 6 **L**ion's den of Darius
- 7 **S**cenés of coming kingdom
  
- 8 **F**eatures of four beasts
- 9 **A**ppointing the seventy weeks
- 10 **I**nterpreting the final vision
- 11 **T**error of the king
- 12 **H**orror of end times

# Be Confident



***Daniel***

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# Three truths...

A silhouette of a person standing on a rocky mountain peak with arms raised in a 'V' shape. The background features a vast mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of triumph, achievement, and confidence.

What do you need to know  
to be *truly* **confident**?

# I. God rules over **you** (Dan 1).



# II. God rules over all **nations** (Dan 2–7).



# III. God rules over **Israel's** future (Dan 8–12).





God **controls** each level.

——Main Idea of Daniel——

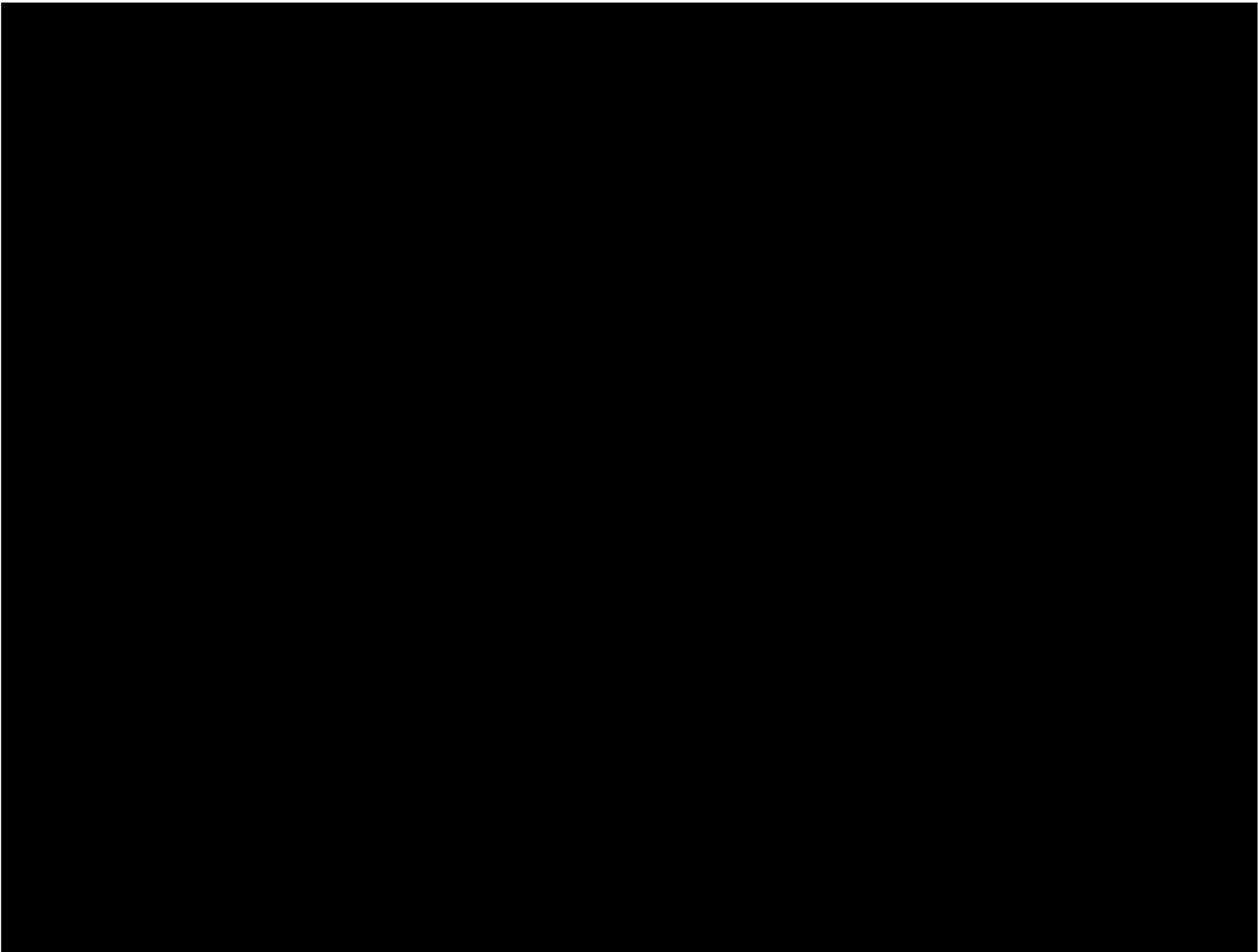
# 70 Weeks Implications

1. The kingdom would not follow the return
2. The Tribulation will last 7 years
3. The Messiah would die before AD 70
4. The Antichrist will come in the end times

**Daniel 9:24-27**

# Application

- **Recognize God's sovereignty over all authority in history**
- **Resist evil without compromising**
- **Trust God for your ultimate salvation so that you can endure to the end (12:2, 3, 12; cf. Rev. 12:11)**
- **Seek God in prayer and intercession**
- **Live a godly life**



# Daniel 2

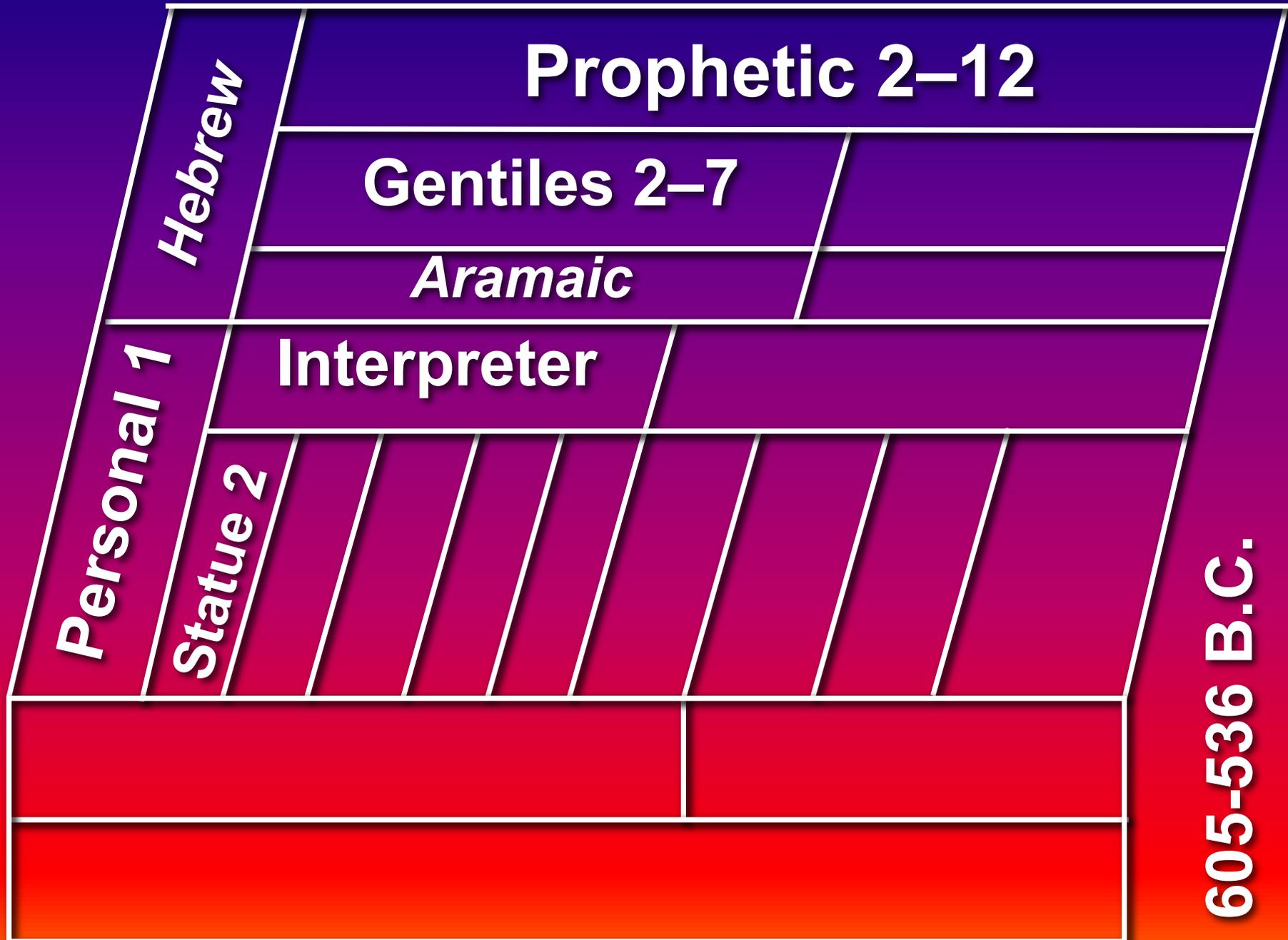
# The Point of Daniel 2–7

The exiles could confidently trust God's sovereignty over the nations seen in Daniel's devotion and prophecy of "the times of the Gentiles" (Dan 2–7).

*Daniel saw world history  
—in advance!*

# Daniel

# Chapter 2



605-536 B.C.



# Dreaming of an Image

# Daniel's Reputation

Daniel 1-2, 4-5

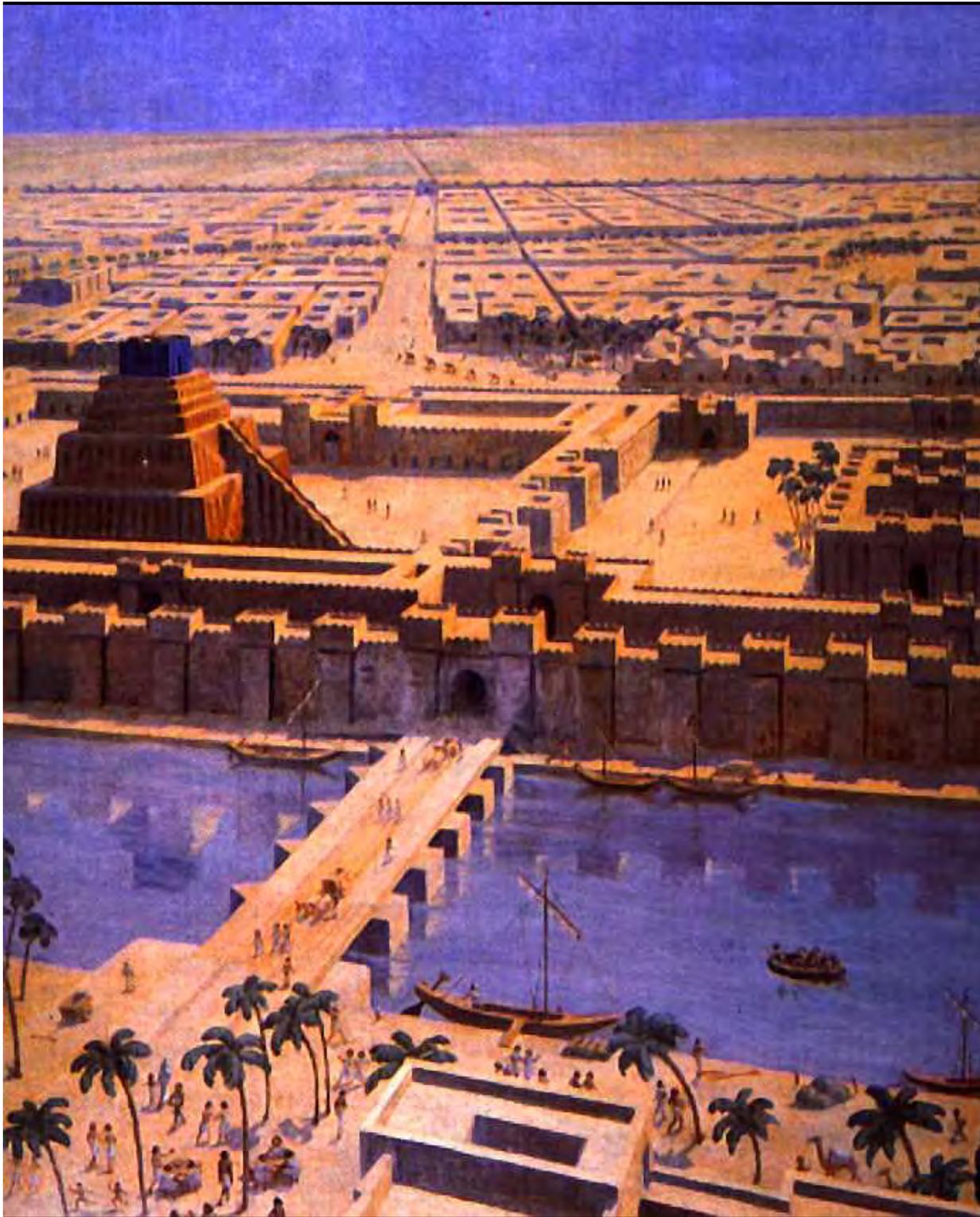


A Person of Integrity

An Interpreter of Dreams

A Prophet of God

A Highly Respected Leader



# Babylon



**REVELATION TV**

# **NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM**

**Daniel 2:1-49**

[www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org)

























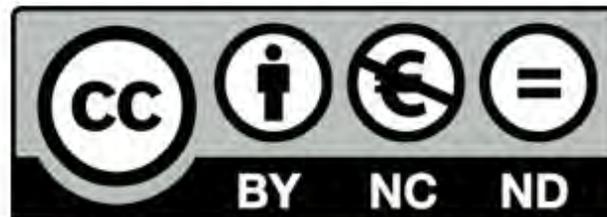


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**Gold**

**Babylon**

**Silver**

**Persia**

**Bronze**

**Greece**

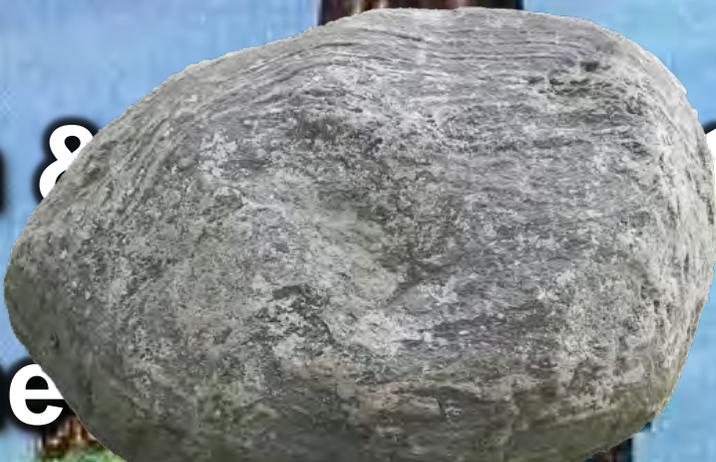
**Iron**

**Rome**

**Iron &**

**Antichrist**

**Stone**



# The Image of Daniel 2

**Kingdom**

# What is Christ's Kingdom?



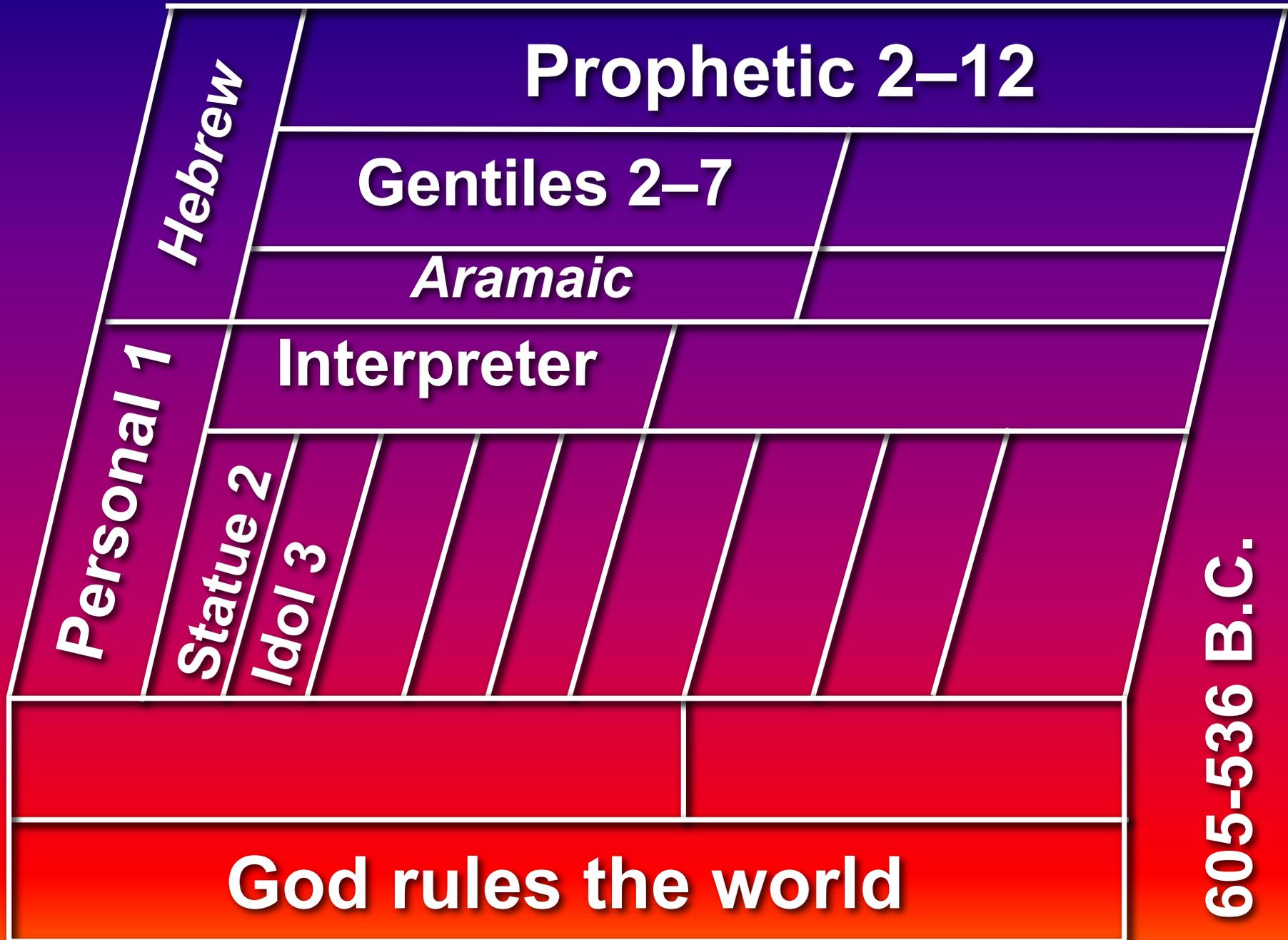


**Note that ALL of the kingdoms will fall at the same time!**

# Daniel 3

# Daniel

# Chapter 3





**Daniel 2**  
**Many**  
**materials**

**Statues can  
become a  
bad habit**



**Daniel 3**  
**All Gold at**  
**9 x 90 feet!**



**Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah  
(Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego)**



**Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego**



**The Edict (Daniel 3)**



# Standing Alone



# Where were the *other* Jews?

**“The LORD will exile you and your king to a nation unknown to you and your ancestors. There in exile you will worship gods of wood and stone!”**

**(Deut. 28:36 NLT)**

# The Fiery Furnace



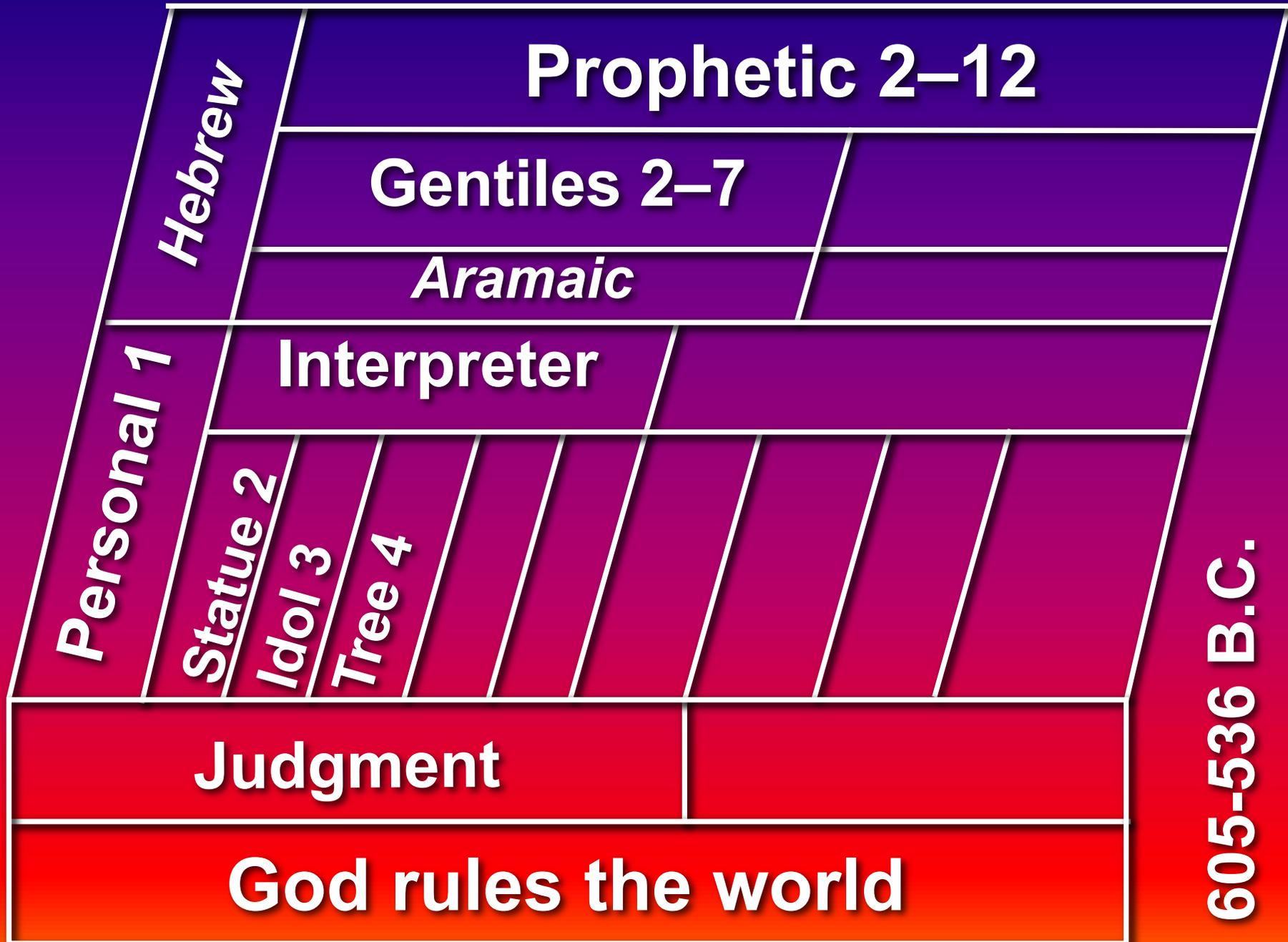
**"I see *four*  
men..."**



# Daniel 4

# Daniel

# Chapter 4



# The Tree of Daniel 4



“The king reflected and said, ‘Is this not **Babylon the Great**, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?’”

Daniel 4:30



# Hanging Gardens of Babylon



# Hanging Gardens of Babylon



**“for the form of this world is passing away.” 1 Corinthians 7:31**



**“For the sun rises with a scorching wind, and withers the grass; and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.”**

**James 1:11**



## Nebuchadnezzar Exalts **Himself** (4:30)

"As he looked out across the city, he said, 'Look at this great city of Babylon! By **my** own mighty power, **I** have built this beautiful city as **my** royal residence to display **my** majestic splendor.'"



# Involuntary Vegetarianism

**He lived as an animal**



**Famous Painting "Nebuchadnezzar" by William Blake**

# Jerusalem's Fall

232  
342  
560

Key Dates

627 Jeremiah

605 Daniel

597 Ezekiel

Jerusalem's Fall

Zephaniah

630

Habakkuk

606

Joel

590

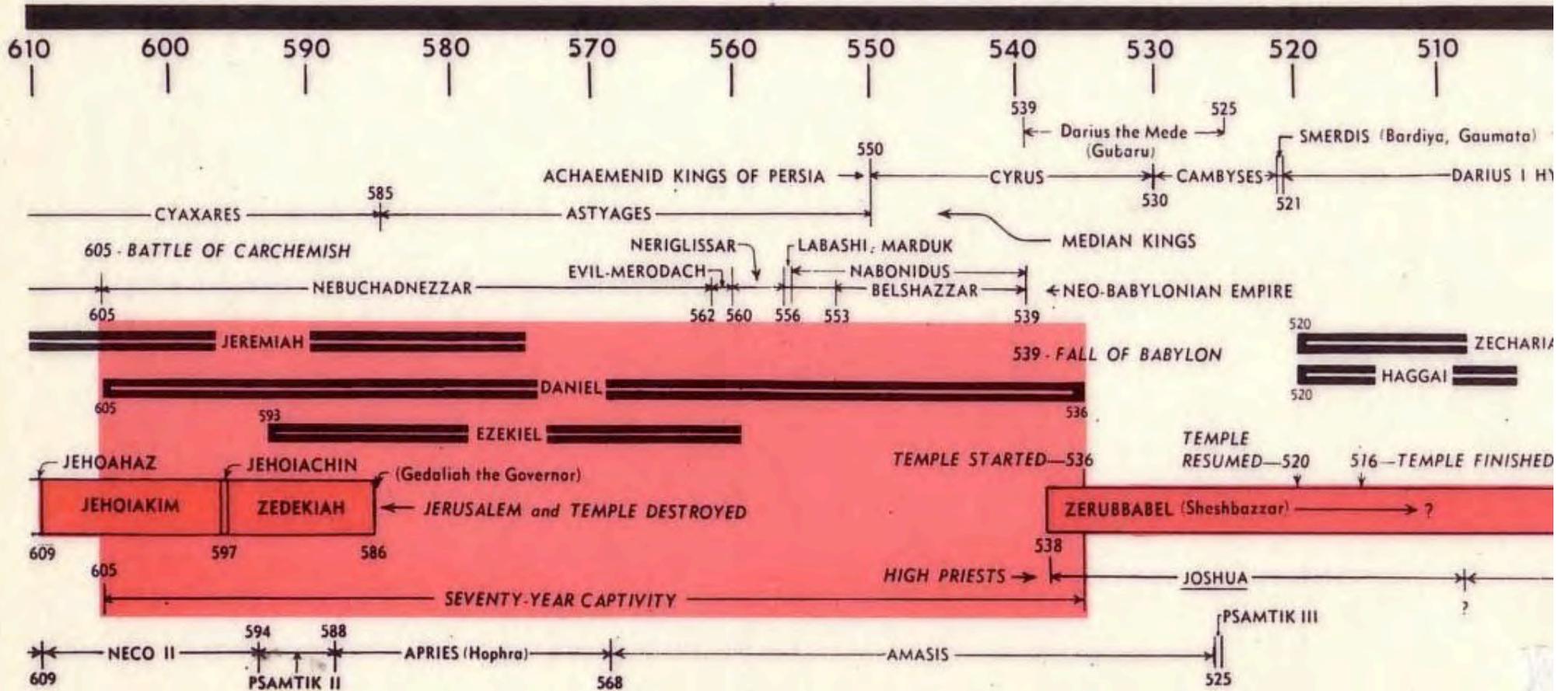
586

Lamentations

538

# Chart of the Exile

232 & 342

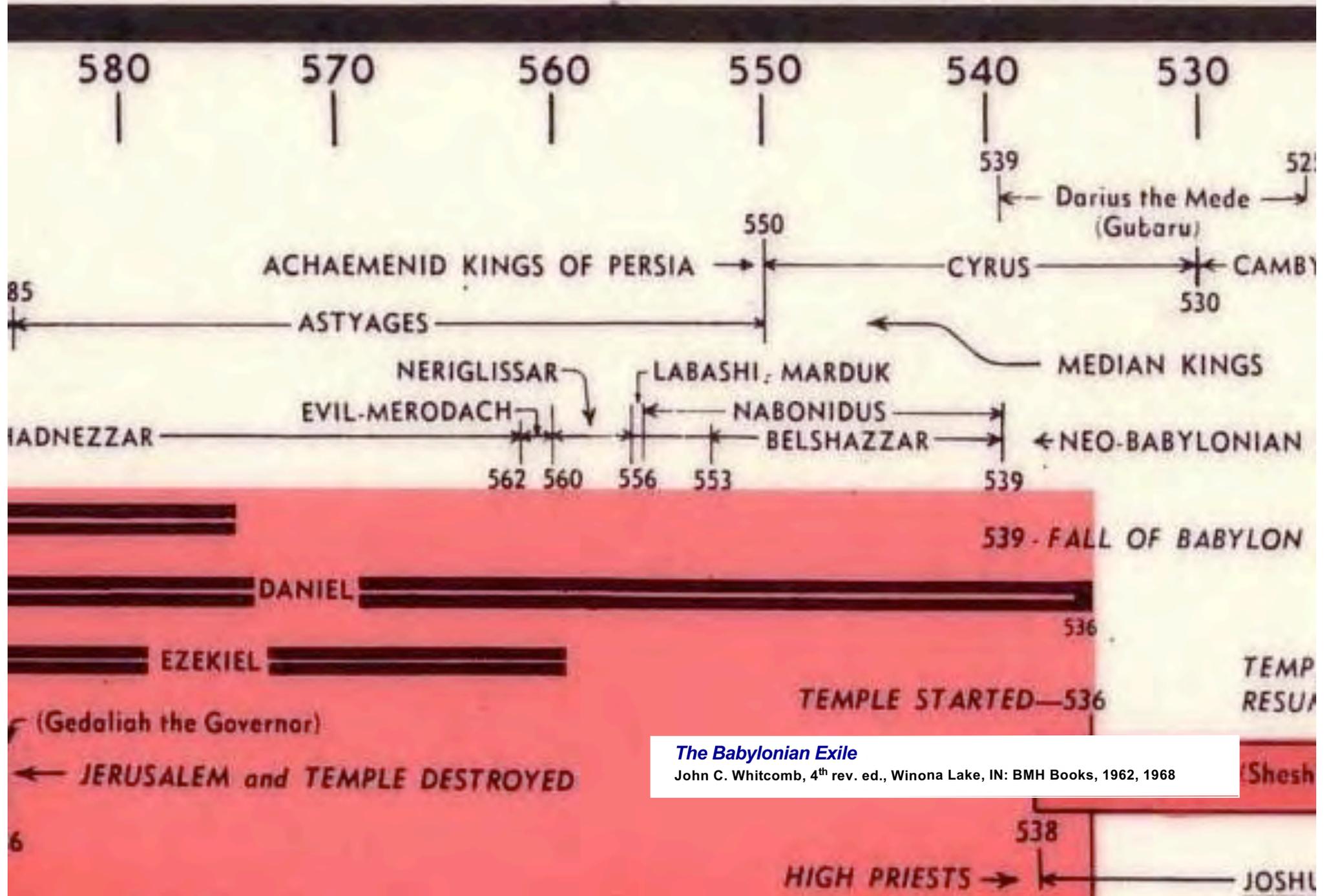


## The Babylonian Exile

John C. Whitcomb, 4<sup>th</sup> rev. ed., Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1962, 1968

# Chart of the Exile

232 & 342



## *The Babylonian Exile*

John C. Whitcomb, 4<sup>th</sup> rev. ed., Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1962, 1968

# Israelite Captives 586 BC



# Neo-Babylonian Kings

342  
537

1

**Nabopolassar**  
625-605 (20 yrs.)  
Conquered Nineveh

2

**Nebuchadnezzar**  
605-561 (44 yrs.)  
Conquered Judah

3

**Evil-Merodach**  
561-560 (2 yrs.)  
Released Jehoiakim  
(2 Kings 25:27)

4

**Neriglissar**  
560-556 (4 yrs.)

5

**Labashi-Marduk**  
556 (9 months)

6

**Nabonidus**  
556-539  
(17 yrs.)  
Self-Imposed Exile

Tema



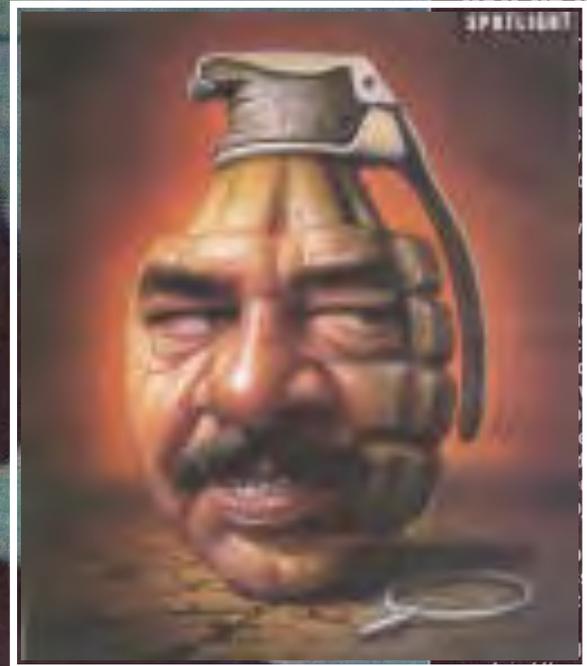
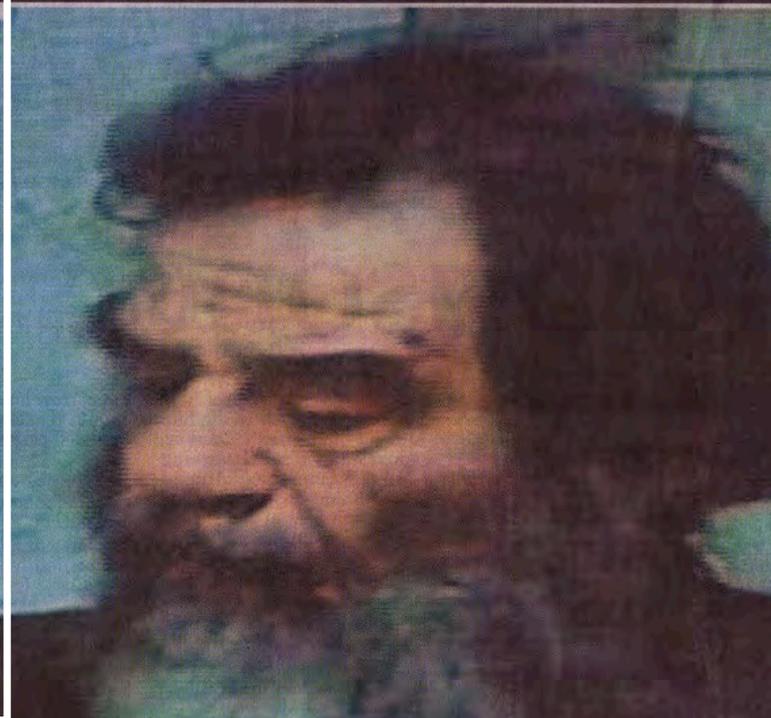
7

**Belshazzar**  
553-539  
(14 yrs.)

First Dynasty in white  
Others in yellow

All rulers who exalt themselves will be humbled

# SADDAM CAPTURED



Saddam saw himself as the "New Nebuchadnezzar." This included his end!

US troops seize former Iraqi leader in a hole near

HOW HE WAS CA

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intensive search. The tro  
suspicious of a small wall  
compound containing a m  
structure and a mud hut,  
north-west of wolverine

Searching the compou  
discovered a tiny "spider  
camouflaged with bricks.

In military terms, a sp  
small disguised shaft lead  
subterranean chamber of  
tunnels.

At about 8.30pm, the  
the hole and found Sadda

# outline

## 1 NARRATIVE

1:1-7 Exile

1:8-16 Food

1:17-21 Exaltation

## Chiasm in Daniel 2–7

### 2–7 VISIONS IN NARRATIVE

2 Kingdom: "Image" of history destroyed

3 Deliverance from fiery furnace

4 Nebuchadnezzar humbled

5 Belshazzar humbled

6 Deliverance from lion's den

7 Kingdom: "Beasts" of history destroyed

Chiasm

# Nebuchadnezzar Humbled



"But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom [endures] from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven.

And [among] the inhabitants of earth...no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?'

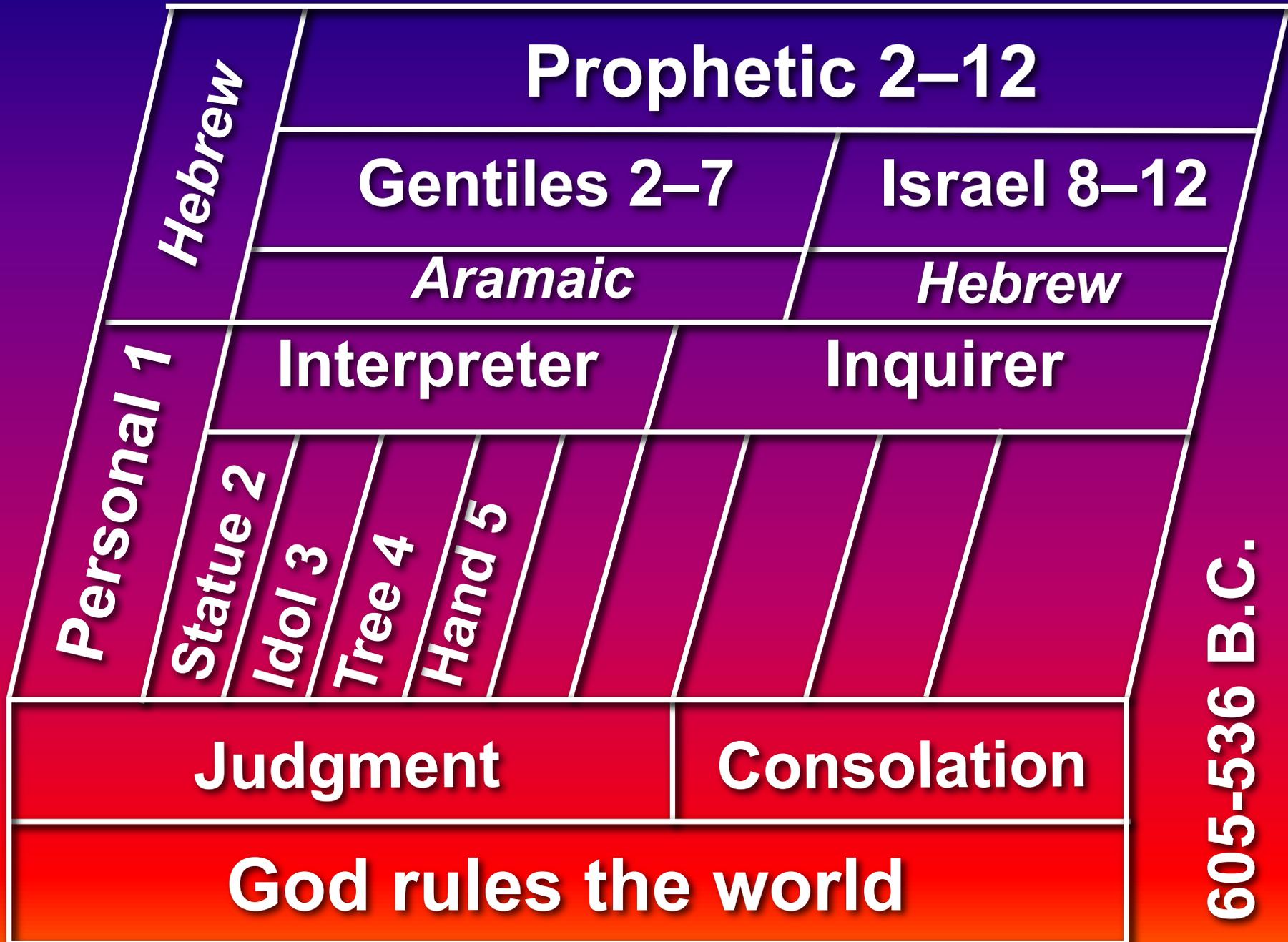
At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.

'Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.'

# Daniel 5

# Daniel

# Chapter 5



605-536 B.C.

# Belshazzar Humbled

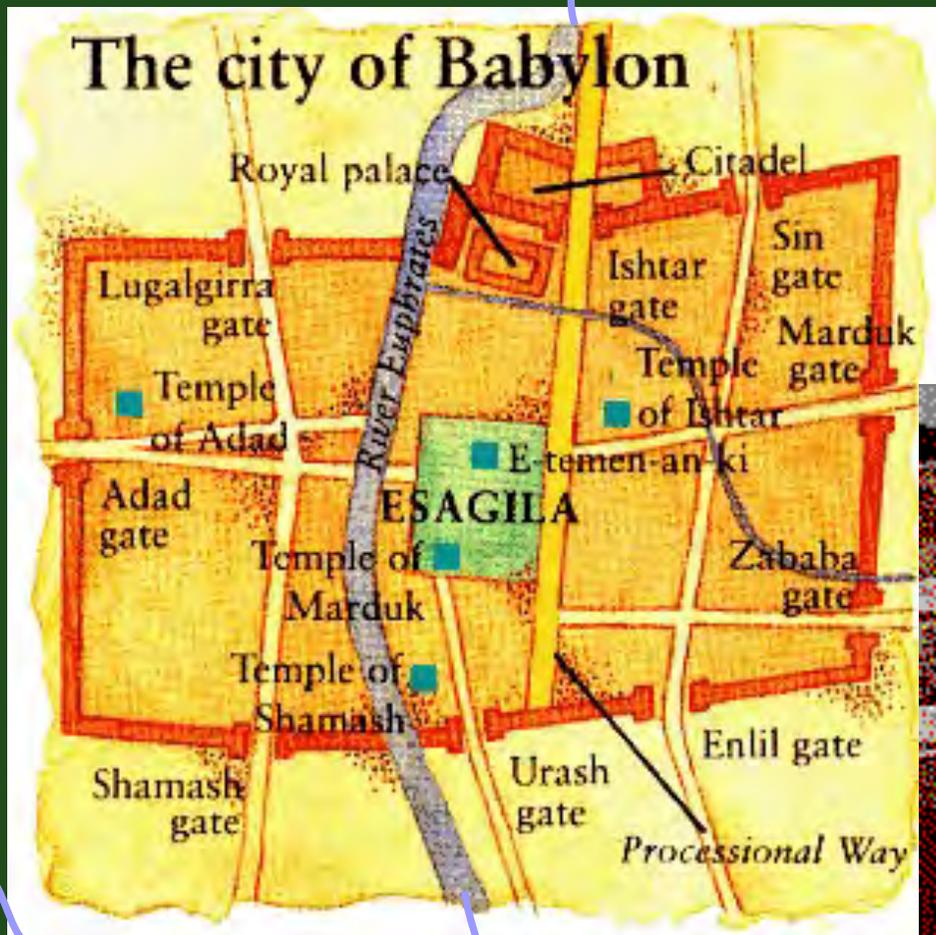


• Rembrandt

# BABYLON FELL in 539 BC

510a

## Persians entered under the water gates!



### Daniel 5 (Belshazzar's Feast)



# Babylon's Fall (Herodotus)

544b

*The History of the Persian Wars* 1.191 (430 BC)

"[Cyrus] placed a portion of his army at the point where the river enters the city, and another body at the back of the place where it issues forth, with orders to march into the town by the bed of the stream, as soon as the water became **shallow enough**: he then himself drew off with the unwarlike portion of his host, and made for the place where Nitocris dug the basin for the river, where he did exactly what she had done formerly: **he turned the Euphrates by a canal into the basin**, which was then a marsh, on which the river sank to such an extent that the natural bed of the stream became fordable.

"Hereupon the Persians who had been left for the purpose at Babylon by the river-side, entered the stream, which had now sunk so as to reach about midway up a man's thigh, and thus got into the town.

# Babylon's Fall (Herodotus)

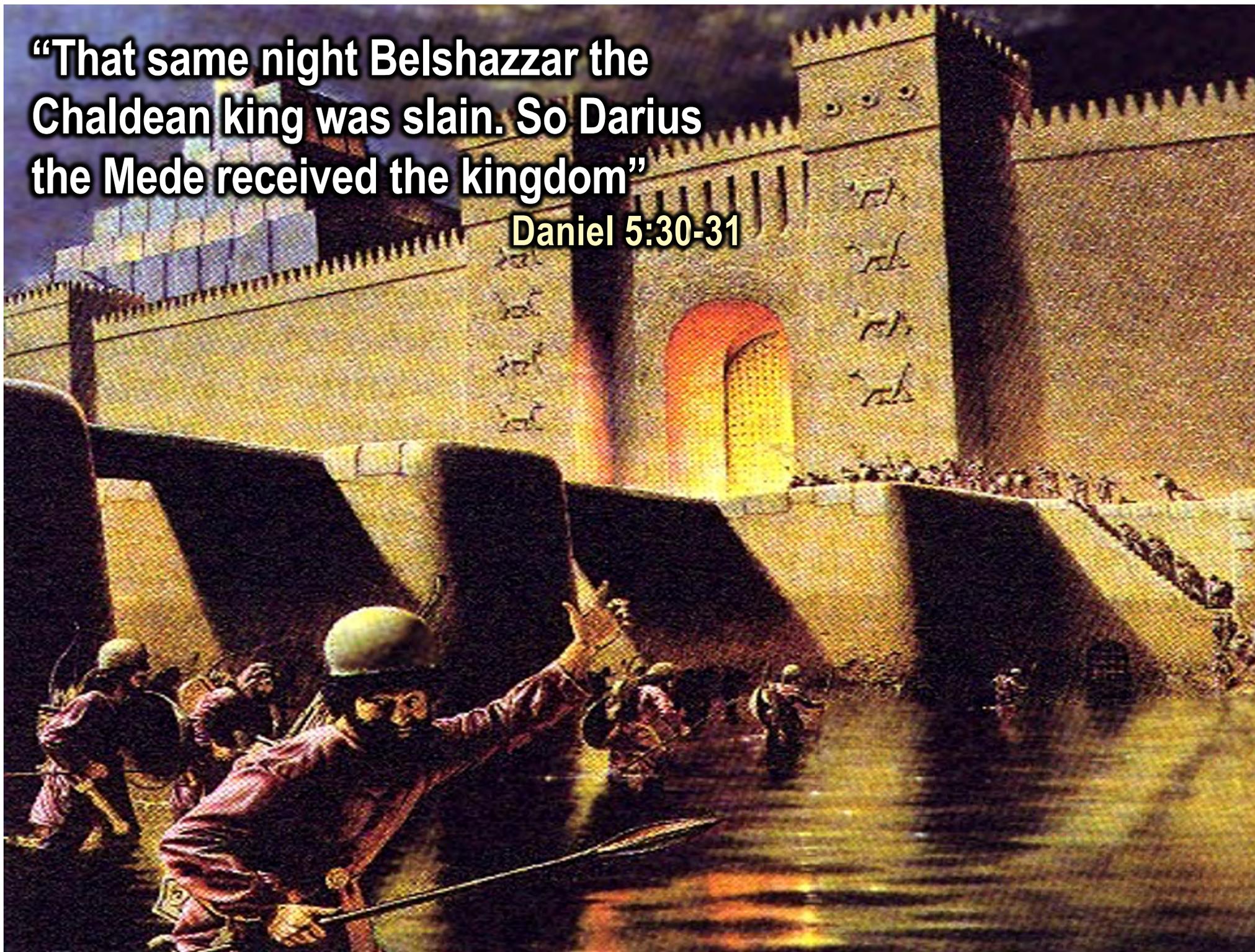
544b

"Had the Babylonians been apprised of what Cyrus was about, or had they noticed their danger, they would never have allowed the Persians to enter the city, but would have destroyed them utterly; for they would have made fast all the street-gates which gave upon the river, and mounting upon the walls along both sides of the stream, would so have caught the enemy, as it were, in a trap. But, as it was, **the Persians came upon them by surprise and so took the city.** Owing to the vast size of the place, the inhabitants of the central parts (as the residents at Babylon declare) long after the outer portions of the town were taken, knew nothing of what had chanced, but as **they were engaged in a festival,** continued dancing and reveling until they learnt the capture but too certainly. Such, then, were the circumstances of the first taking of Babylon."

*The History of the Persian Wars* 1.191 (written over a century later in 430 BC)

**“That same night Belshazzar the  
Chaldean king was slain. So Darius  
the Mede received the kingdom”**

**Daniel 5:30-31**



# Cyrus Conquers Babylon

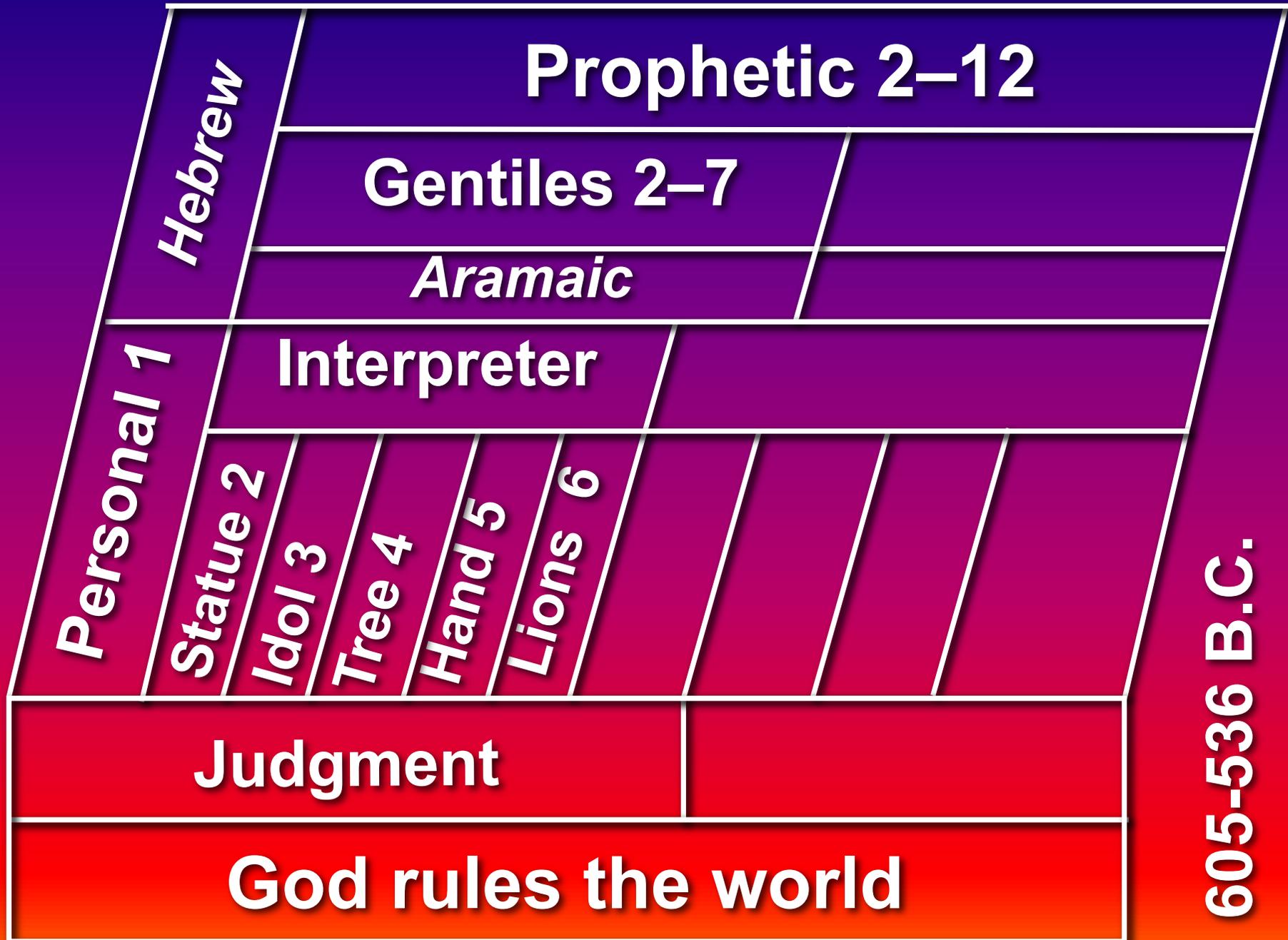
539 BC



# Daniel 6

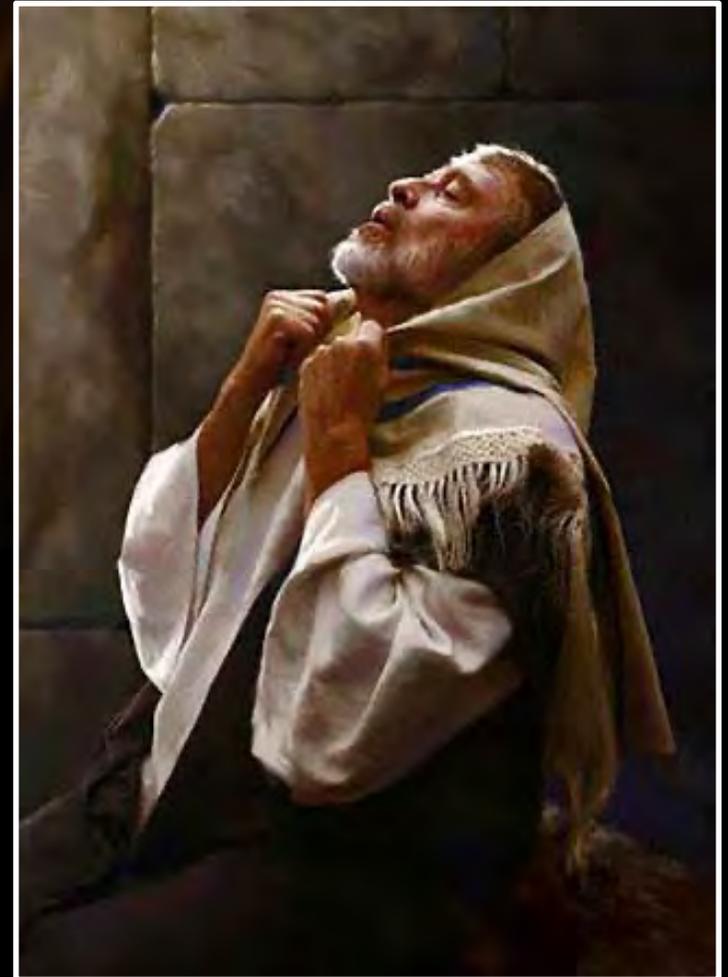
# Daniel

# Chapter 6





**Daniel prayed eastward  
with windows open to  
Jerusalem (Daniel 6)**





**Hungry lions (but not for Daniel)**

# Darius Humbled

Darius the Mede conquered Belshazzar (grandson of Nebuchadnezzar). Darius also acknowledged God's sovereignty:

**"I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed and His dominion [will be] forever. He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has [also] delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."**

**Daniel 6:26-27**



# Daniel 7

# Outline of Daniel

532

## UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY IN TIMES OF THE GENTILES

|                                |             |                |  |             |              |             |             |            |   |                               |   |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sovereignty over Daniel</b> |             |                | <b>Sovereignty over Gentiles</b>       |             |              |             |             |            | <b>Sovereignty over Jews</b>            |                               |   |
| <b>Chapter 1</b>               |             |                | <b>Chapters 2–7</b>                    |             |              |             |             |            | <b>Chapters 8–12</b>                    |                               |   |
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| <b>Hebrew</b>                  |             |                | <b>Aramaic</b>                         |             |              |             |             |            | <b>Hebrew</b>                           |                               |   |
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| <b>The Man Daniel</b>          |             |                | <b>Images</b>                          |             | <b>Kings</b> |             |             |            | <b>Israel's Future</b>                  |                               |   |
| <b>Exile</b>                   | <b>Food</b> | <b>Exalted</b> | <b>Varied</b>                          | <b>Gold</b> | <b>Neb.</b>  | <b>Bel.</b> | <b>Dar.</b> | <b>All</b> | <b>Medo-Persia To Greece</b>            | <b>Return to Seventy "7s"</b> | <b>Intertestament Period to Tribulation</b> |
|                                |             |                | 2                                      | 3           | 4            | 5           | 6           | 7          |   |                               |   |
| 1:1-7                          | 1:8-16      | 1:17-21        | Promoted                               | Furnace     | Exile        | Party       | Lions       | Beasts     | 8                                       | 9                             | 10–12                                       |

**Babylon**

**605-536 BC**

# outline

## Where's the main division of the book?

Since beasts represent nations in both chapters 7 and 8, some scholars link these two chapters. This makes the major division of the book at 1–6 and 7–12.

But the division of 1–7 and 8–12 better sees the book as a whole.

How is this?

# outline

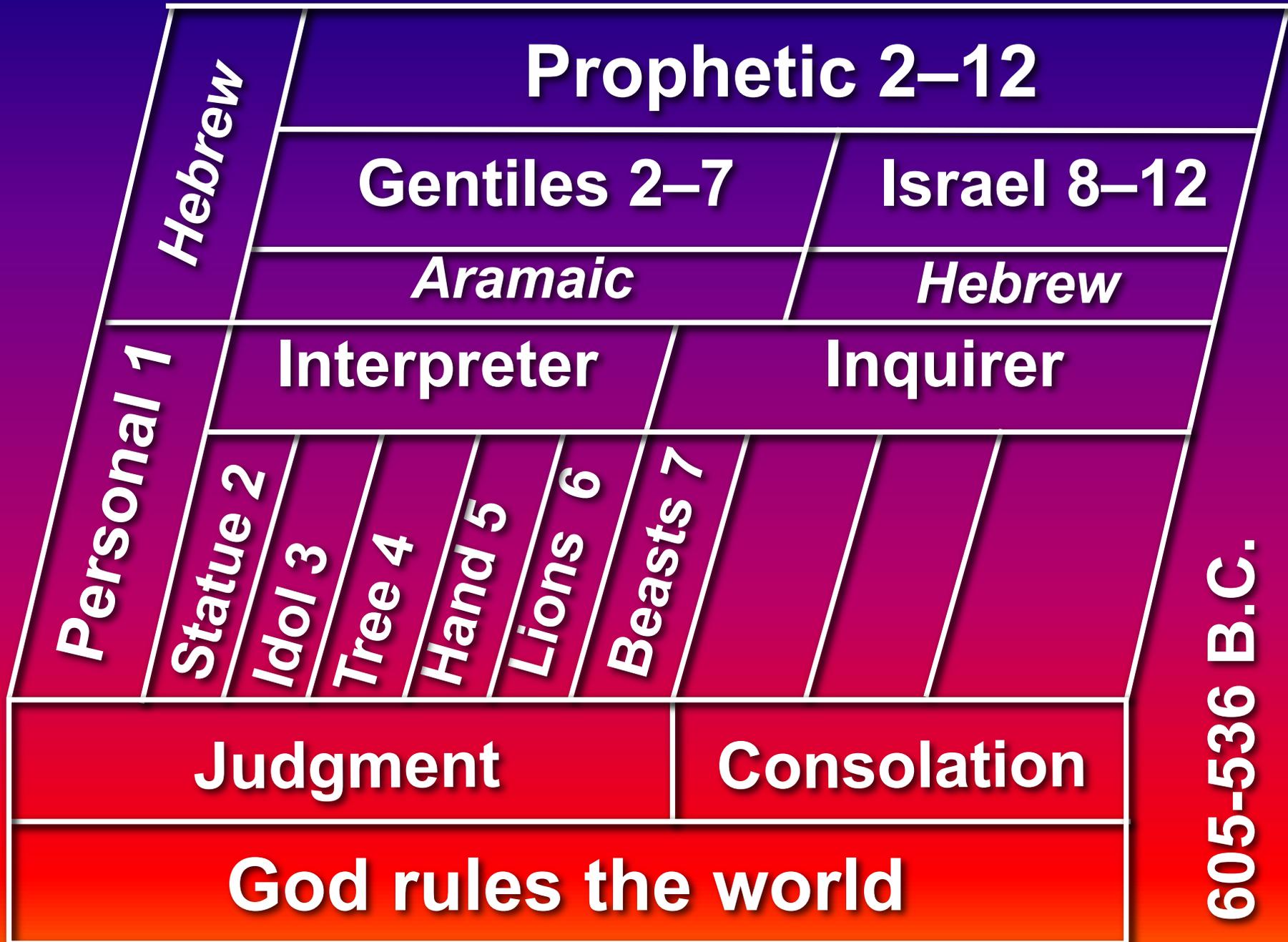
## Daniel 1–7

### Support for Dividing Daniel Between Chapters 7 & 8

1. The Aramaic part is chapters 2–7 (not 1–6). Therefore, a division after chapter 7 treats the book the way it presents itself. An example of the link is that the Aramaic word for God (אֱלֹהֵי) in chapters 1–6 also appears in chapter 7.
2. The man Daniel appears in the third person in chapters 1–7. But chapters 8–12 are written in the first person.
3. Chapters 1–7 focus on Gentiles whereas in chapters 8–12 Daniel's visions all focus on Jews.

# Daniel

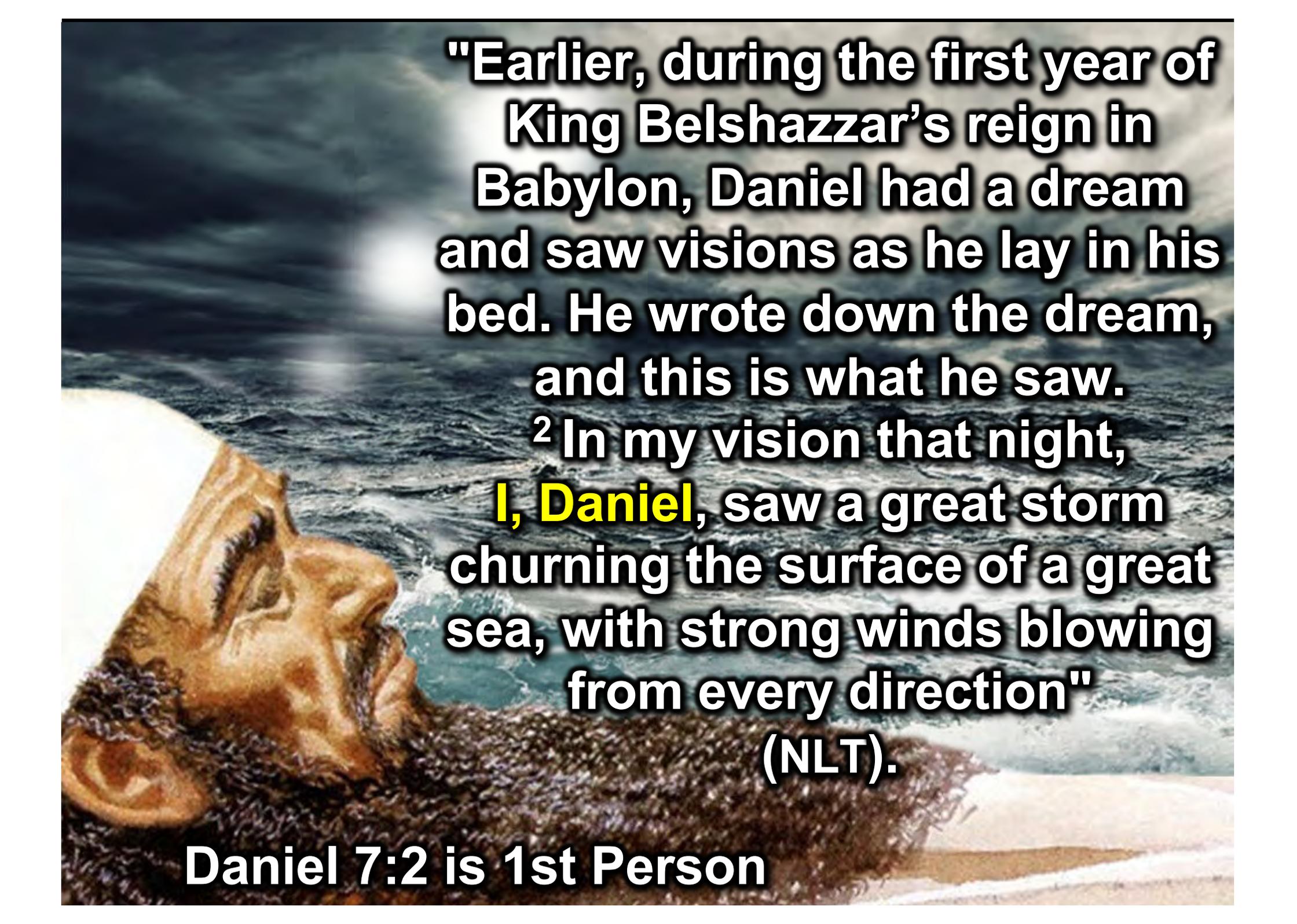
# Chapter 7



605-536 B.C.

# Four Beasts of Daniel 7





**"Earlier, during the first year of King Belshazzar's reign in Babylon, Daniel had a dream and saw visions as he lay in his bed. He wrote down the dream, and this is what he saw.**

**<sup>2</sup> In my vision that night, I, Daniel, saw a great storm churning the surface of a great sea, with strong winds blowing from every direction"**  
**(NLT).**

**Daniel 7:2 is 1st Person**





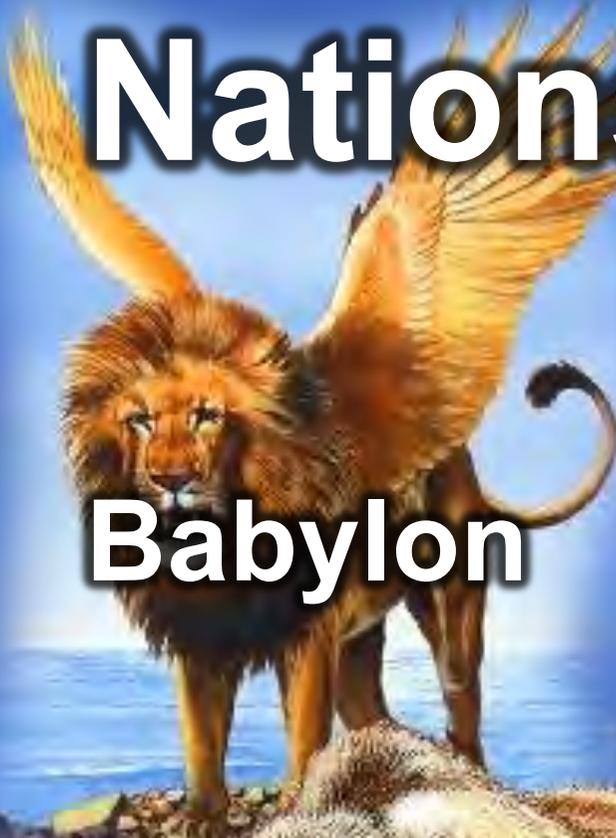








# Nations in Daniel 7



Babylon

A golden winged lion with a human face, standing on a rocky outcrop. Its wings are spread wide, and its tail is curled. The background shows a blue sky and a body of water.



Greece

A golden winged leopard with a human face, standing on a rocky outcrop. Its wings are spread wide, and its tail is curled. The background shows a blue sky and a body of water.



Medo-Persia

A large brown bear with its mouth open, standing in shallow water. Its fur is thick and shaggy. The background shows a blue sky and a body of water.



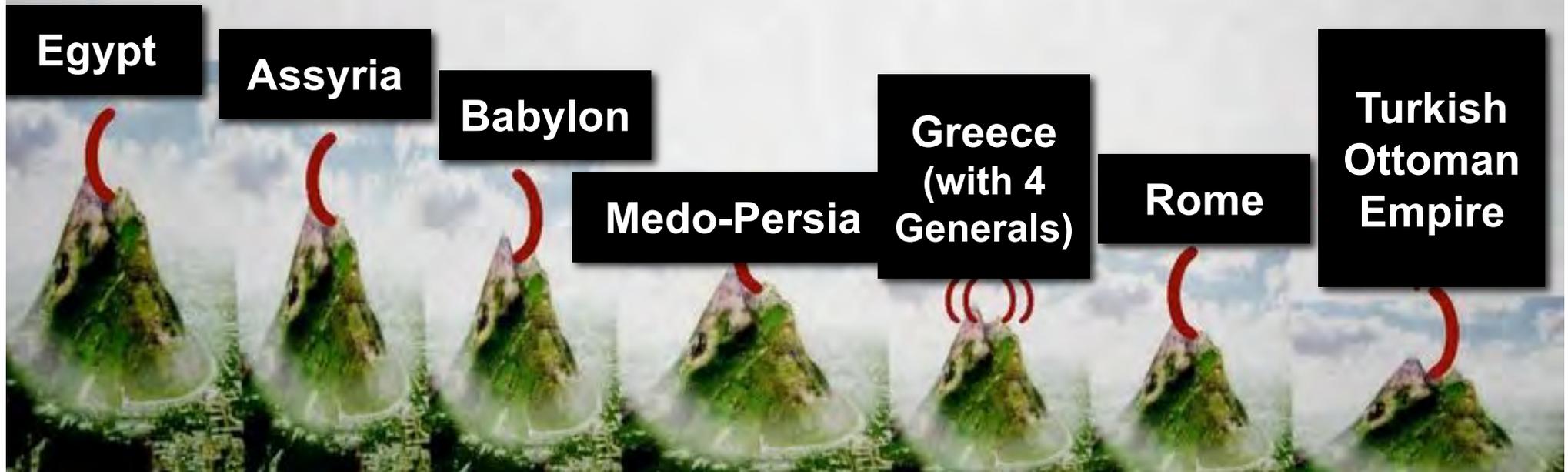
Rome

A green dragon with a human face, standing on a rocky outcrop. It has a long tail and is breathing fire. The background shows a blue sky and a body of water.

# Correlation with Daniel

| <b><i>Daniel 7:1-8</i></b>   | <b><i>Revelation 13:1-2; 17:9-12</i></b>  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Four beasts (lion, bear, leopard, terrible beast with ten horns)</b></p> | <p><b>One beast that is like a leopard, bear, and lion (13:2) with ten horns (13:1; 17:3)</b></p> |
| <p><b>Seven heads representing four successive kingdoms</b></p>                | <p><b>Seven heads representing seven successive kingdoms</b></p>                                  |
| <p><b>Four kingdoms</b></p>  | <p><b>Seven kingdoms</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Ten horns (v. 7)</b></p>   | <p><b>Ten horns (13:1; 17:3,12)</b></p>   |

# Another view on the 7 kings



**Revelation 17:3, 12**

# **Eight Successive Kingdoms** **(Revelation 17:10-11)**

- 1. Egypt (Pharaohs)**
- 2. Assyria (Assyrian kings)**
- 3. Neo-Babylonia (Nebuchadnezzar)**
- 4. Medo-Persia (Cyrus)**
- 5. Greece (Alexander the Great)**
- 6. Rome (Caesars; "one is")**
- 7. Reunited Roman Empire (ten kings; "not yet")**
- 8. Final Gentile world kingdom (the Antichrist)**

## ***Support for Successive Kingdoms View***

479-  
480

**"The successive-kingdoms view avoids the nebulous nature of the symbolic view, is consistent with the Old Testament imagery from Daniel 7, and provides a consistent interpretation of the eight kings. For these reasons this is the preferred view. Therefore Revelation 17:9-11 offers no support for the early date of Revelation based on the idea that Nero is the sixth king."**



**Nero (A.D. 37-68)**



**Domitian (A.D. 81-96)**

**Rev. 17:10 has no reference to Nero or Domitian as Beale affirms.**

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Control of the World  
Political System:

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7 Heads

Roman  
Consecutive  
Past  
17:9-11

10 Kings

Worldwide  
Simultaneous  
Future  
17:12

Beast (8th King)

Worldwide  
Controls 10 Kings  
Future  
17:13



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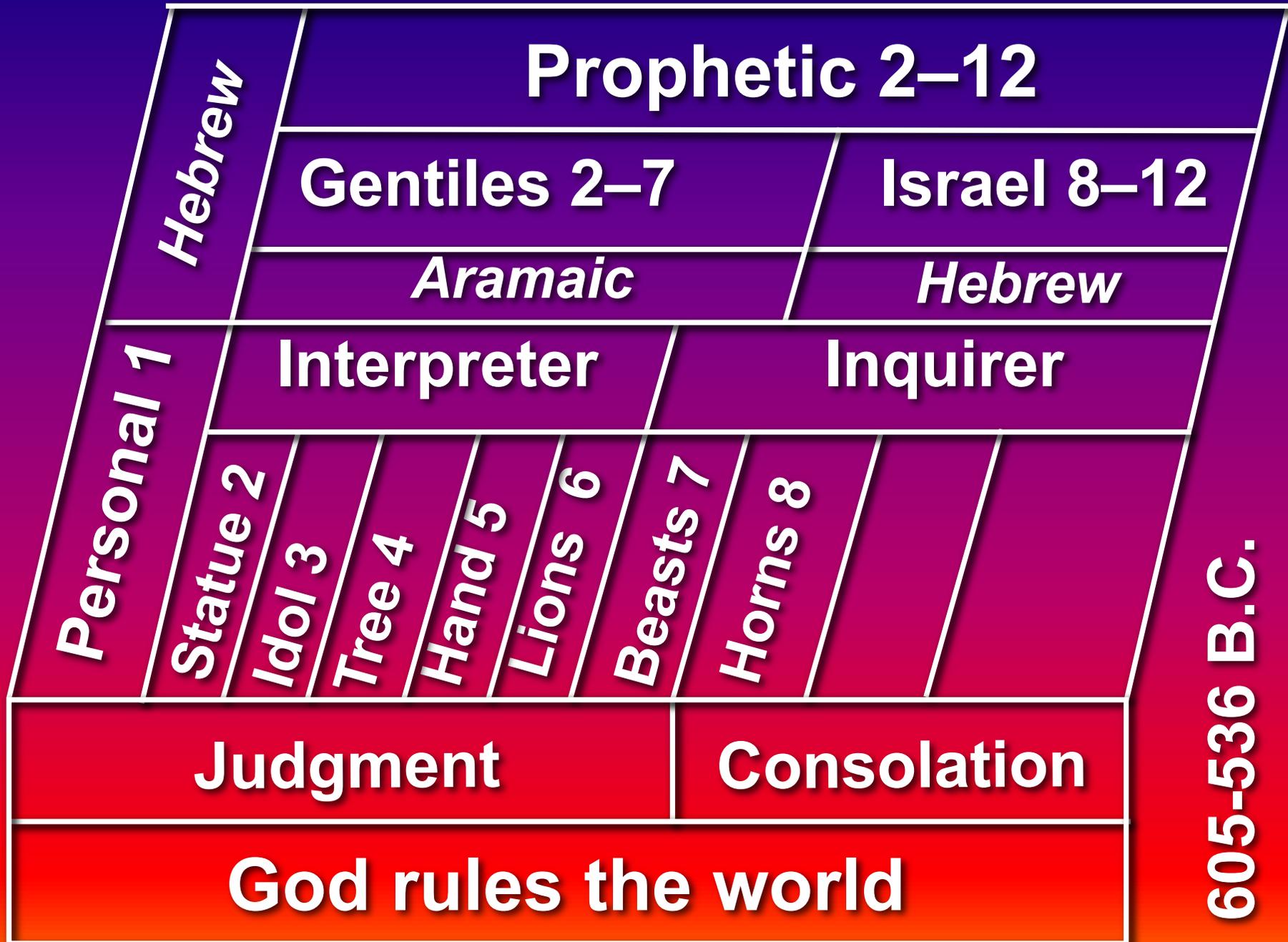
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# Daniel

# Daniel 8



605-536 B.C.

# THEOLOGY OF DANIEL 1-7

The King of Babylon  
(605-562) said:



"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar  
praise, exult and honor  
the King of heaven, for  
all His works are true and  
His ways just, and He is  
able to humble those  
who walk in pride."

(Daniel 4:34-37)

Darius the Mede  
(son of Ahasuerus)  
ruled after the death  
of Belshazzar, said:



"I make a  
decree that in  
all the  
dominion of my  
kingdom men  
are to fear and  
tremble before  
the God of  
Daniel."

(Daniel 6:26-27)

# I. GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL PEOPLE

1. King Nebuchadnezzar's act of besieging the Jerusalem was not only by his own might and strength, but it was God who had given King Jehoiakim into his hand (1:1-2).

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.

2. God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials, when Daniel steadfastly resisted the cultural pressure to compromise (1:9).

Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials

# I. GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL PEOPLE

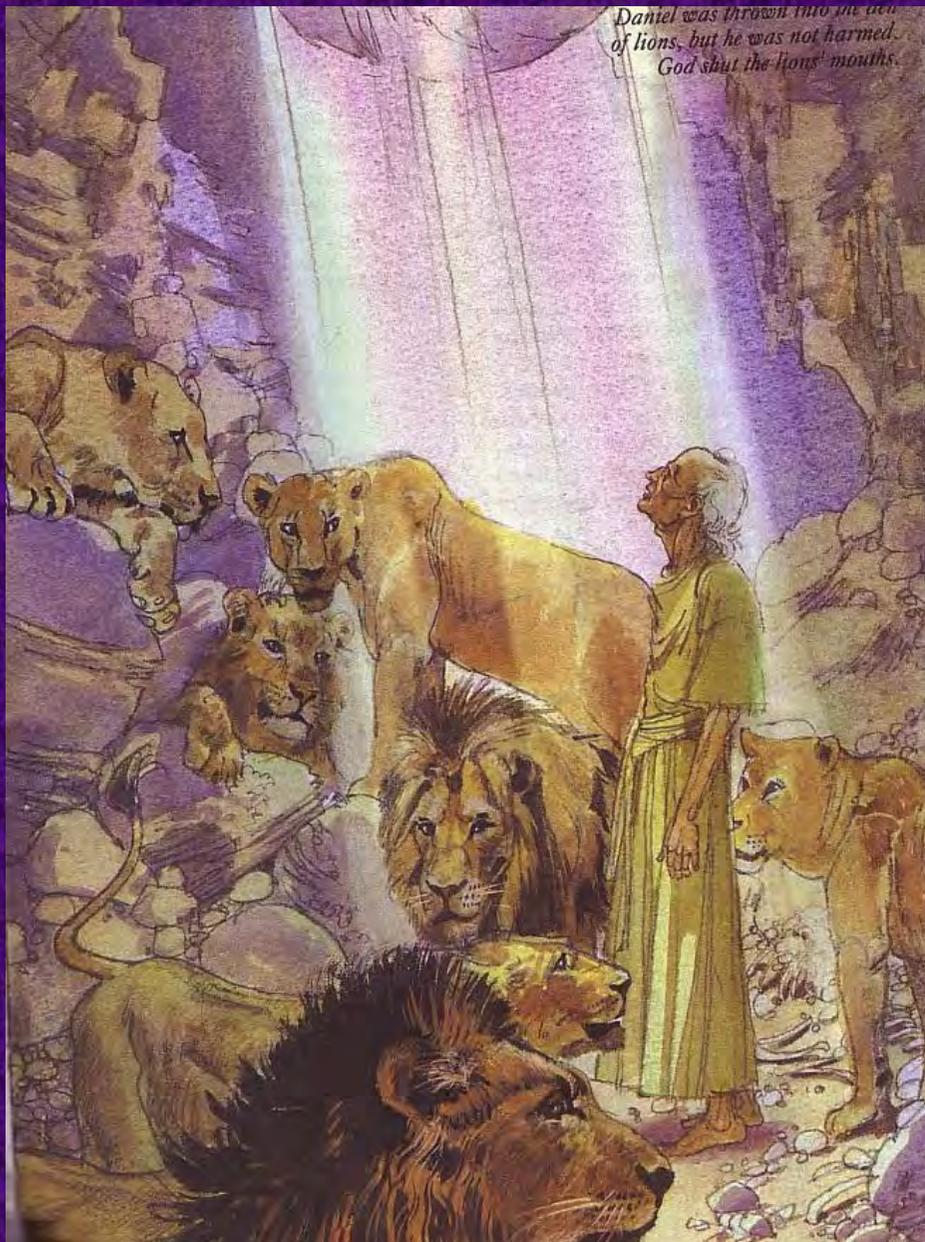
3. God gave the four Jewish youth intelligence in many fields and Daniel could understand all visions and dreams.

**"As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every [branch of] literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all [kinds of] visions and dreams" (1:17).**



4. The God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego controlled the forces of nature to humble Nebuchadnezzar through the furnace (ch. 3) and Darius through Daniel in the lions' den (ch. 6).

# I. GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL PEOPLE



**5. God gave Daniel ability to interpret dreams and visions that perplexed the nobles and wise men in Babylon (chs. 2, 4, 5)**

**6. By handwriting on the wall God showed His sovereign control over nations and individual rulers (ch. 5)**

# I. GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL PEOPLE

7. Daniel not only prophesied against Babylon but also later empires that opposed God and oppressed His people everywhere (ch. 2). Rulers of the world fight against the kingdom of God!

**Daniel answered the king, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians [nor] diviners are able to declare [it] to the king. 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" (2:27-28).**

8. Daniel had a vision of four beasts (nations) that threatened to exterminate God's people. But the Ancient of Days prevailed to establish an eternal kingdom for his people. Thus, God's sovereignty is shown in human history (ch. 7).

## II. PERSECUTION OF THE FAITHFUL



**Daniel's friends:** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.

If it be [so], our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But [even] if [He does] not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

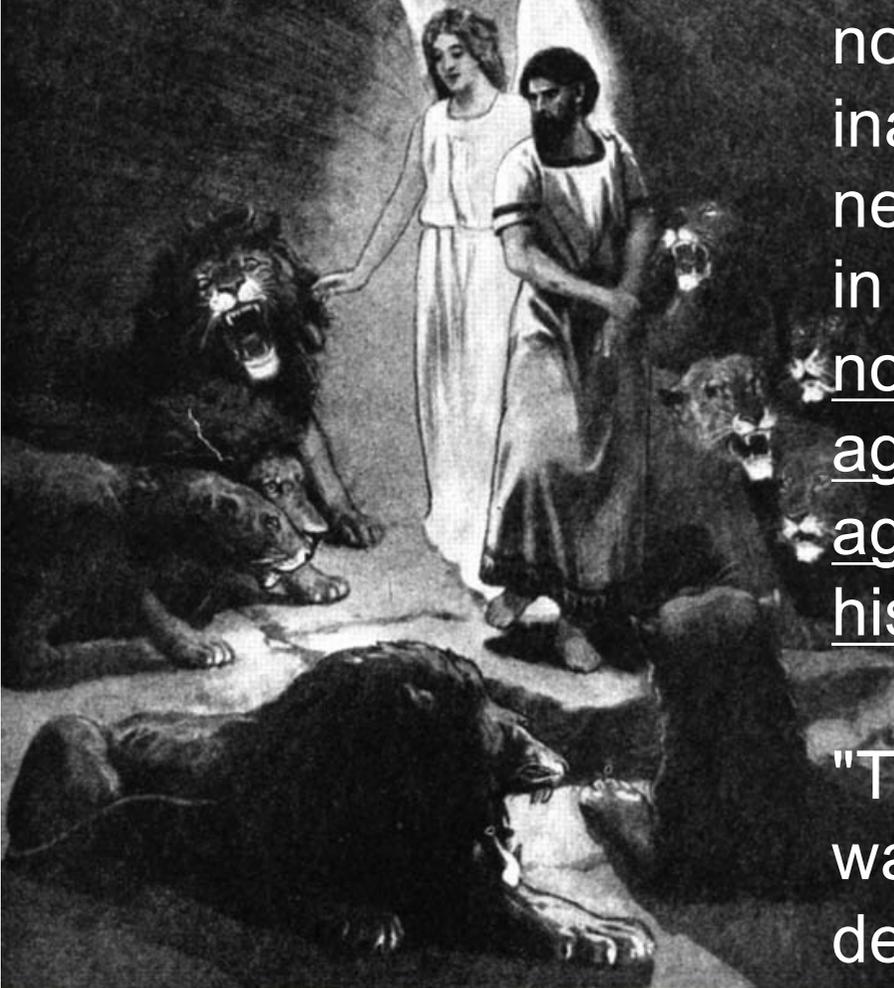
**Daniel 3:16-18**

... and they were thrown into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire

## II. PERSECUTION OF THE FAITHFUL

"Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or... corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was... found in him. Then these men said, 'We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find [it] against him with regard to the law of his God.'...

"Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king... said to Daniel, 'Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you'" (Daniel 6:4-5, 16).



## II. PERSECUTION OF THE FAITHFUL



**WHY?**

... were they thrown  
into the midst of the  
blazing furnace?



... was Daniel cast  
into the lions' den?

## II. PERSECUTION OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Suffering persecution will occur in each believer's life who is standing on the law of God. Loyalty to God's Word brings us even death (chs. 3, 6), but God will vindicate us through resurrection and judgment at the end as ch. 12 depicts.

2. Through every circumstance of life it is possible to live a life of faith and victory with God's help (3:24-27; 6:19-24). This is living under the sovereignty of God.



## II. PERSECUTION OF THE FAITHFUL

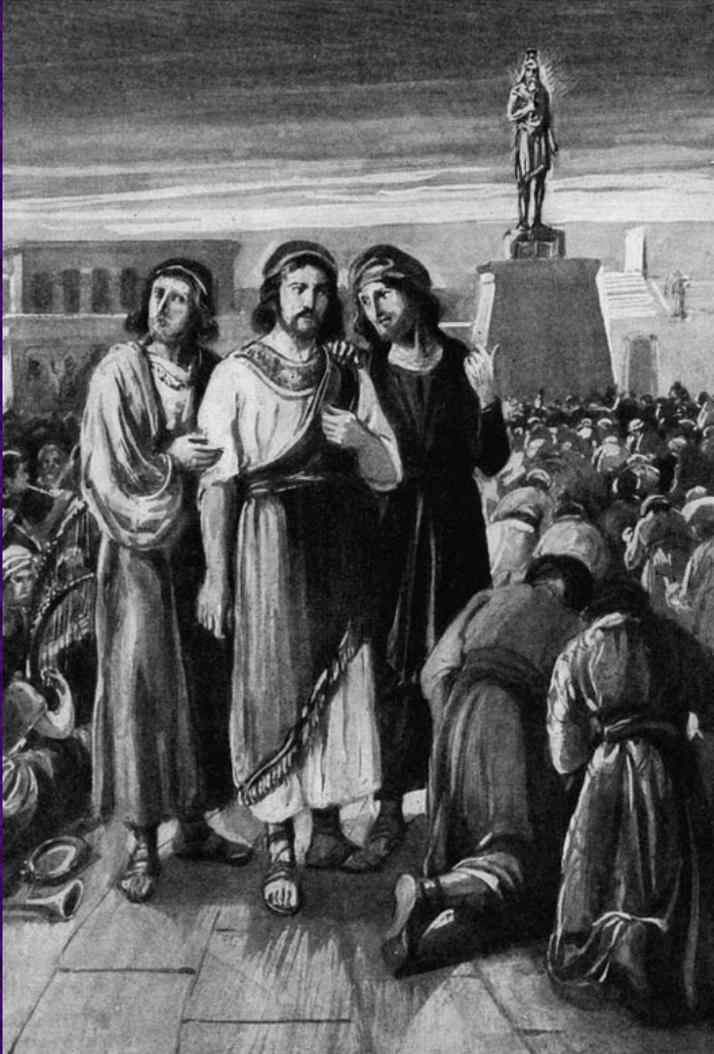
1. Persecution will occur in each believer's life who is standing on the law of God. Loyalty to God's Word brings us even death (ch. 3, 6), but God will vindicate us through resurrection and judgment at the end as ch. 12 depicts.
2. Through every circumstance of life we can live a life of faith and victory with God's help (3:24-27; 6:19-24). This is living under the sovereignty of God.
3. The NT teaches even more on the suffering of God's people:
  - "Blessed are the persecuted ... for theirs is the kingdom of God" (Matt. 5:10-12)
  - "All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Tim. 3:12)

## II. PERSECUTION OF THE FAITHFUL



"...If they persecuted Me they will also persecute you..."  
(John 15:20)

### III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD



Nebuchadnezzar said:

"Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ... But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?"

Daniel 3:14-15

### III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD



Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which [was] in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.

They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone...

That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.

# III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD

MAN'S PRIDE... refuses to depend on God and be subject to Him, but attributes to self the honor due to him, This the very root... of sin."

## Chapter 1:

God sent Babylon to besiege Jerusalem because of Judah's pride

This contrasted with the obedient people of God. Daniel and his three friends did not want to go against the law of God.

Woe to the rebellious children...  
Who proceed down to Egypt  
Without consulting Me,  
To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh  
And to seek shelter in the shadow of  
Egypt! (Isa. 30:1-2)

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help. [And] rely on horses, and trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord! ...  
Return to Him from whom you have deeply defected, O sons of Israel  
(Isa. 31:1,6)

# III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD

## Chapter 2:

1. Nebuchadnezzar's dream was revealed to Daniel by God alone. This contrasts with human pride which has no ability to discern God's message.

**"The Chaldeans answered the king and said, 'There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has [ever] asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean.'**

**'Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with [mortal] flesh'" (2:10-11).**

2. The mighty kingdoms are destroyed by other kingdoms, but God's kingdom will never be destroyed. Human pride will finally be destroyed!

### III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD

In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and [that] kingdom will not be left for another people; **it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms**, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.

Daniel 2:44-45

# III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD

## Chapter 3:

Nebuchadnezzar's pride is subdued by God's miraculous work in protecting Daniel's 3 friends.

His arrogant proclamation in v. 7 is contrasted with his humble proclamation in v. 29.



### Verse 7:

"Therefore at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and [men of every] language fell down [and] worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up."

### Verse 29:

"Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

### III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD

"The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and was visible to all the earth and whose foliage [was] beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which [was] food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt and in whose branches the birds of the sky lodged-- it IS YOU, O KING; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky and your dominion to the end of the earth."

4:20-22



### III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD



"This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place **BE WITH THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD**, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, **UNTIL YOU RECOGNIZE THAT THE MOST HIGH IS RULER OVER THE REALM OF MANKIND** and bestows it on whomever He wishes" (4:24-25).

# III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD

## Chapter 5:

Belshazzar's arrogance was subdued, for he was using the temple vessels and praising gods of idolatry.



מֵנֵא מֵנֵא תֵקֵל וּפְרָסִין:

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

"This is the interpretation of the message:

`MENE'--God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

`TEKEL'--you have been weighed on the scales and found

deficient. `PERES'--your kingdom has been divided and given

over to the Medes and Persians... That same night Belshazzar

the Chaldean king was slain" (5:26-28, 30).

# III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD

## Chapter 6:

Daniel's fellow officers were jealous of Daniel and tricked King Darius to cast Daniel into lions' den. The death of the his accusers in the same den instead of Daniel contrasts human pride with honoring God.



"The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones" (6:24).

# III. GOD JUDGES THE PROUD

## Chapter 7:

Four great beasts in Daniel's vision symbolize kings or kingdoms who will arise from the earth. But these kingdoms will be finally destroyed. God will give His people an everlasting kingdom when Jesus returns and establishes it. Human pride will be destroyed.



**"Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of [all] the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom [will be] an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him"  
(Dan. 7:27; Rev. 13)**

A satellite-style image of the Middle East region, showing the Mediterranean Sea to the west, the Red Sea to the south, and the Persian Gulf to the east. The land is depicted in shades of brown and tan, while the water is dark blue. A thin, curved pink line arcs across the top of the image. Text is overlaid on the image in white and yellow.

Israel saw their  
Messiah as only over  
**Israel** and victorious  
over Israel's enemies.

**ISRAEL** □

**THE NATIONS**

The Book of Daniel  
corrects this narrow view  
by presenting the Messiah  
as **universal** and victorious  
over evil in general.

## IV. GOD'S MESSIAH OF THE WORLD

"And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and [men of every] language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed."

Dan. 7:13-14



# Four Beasts of Daniel 7



# Beast 1: Winged Lion (Babylon)



# Beast 2: Bear (Medo-Persia)



# Beast 3: Leopard (Greece)



# Beast 4: Terrifying (Rome)



**Daniel 7:7**

# Little Horn on Beast 4 (Antichrist)



**Daniel 7:8**

# Little Horn on Beast 4 (Antichrist)



**Daniel 7:8**

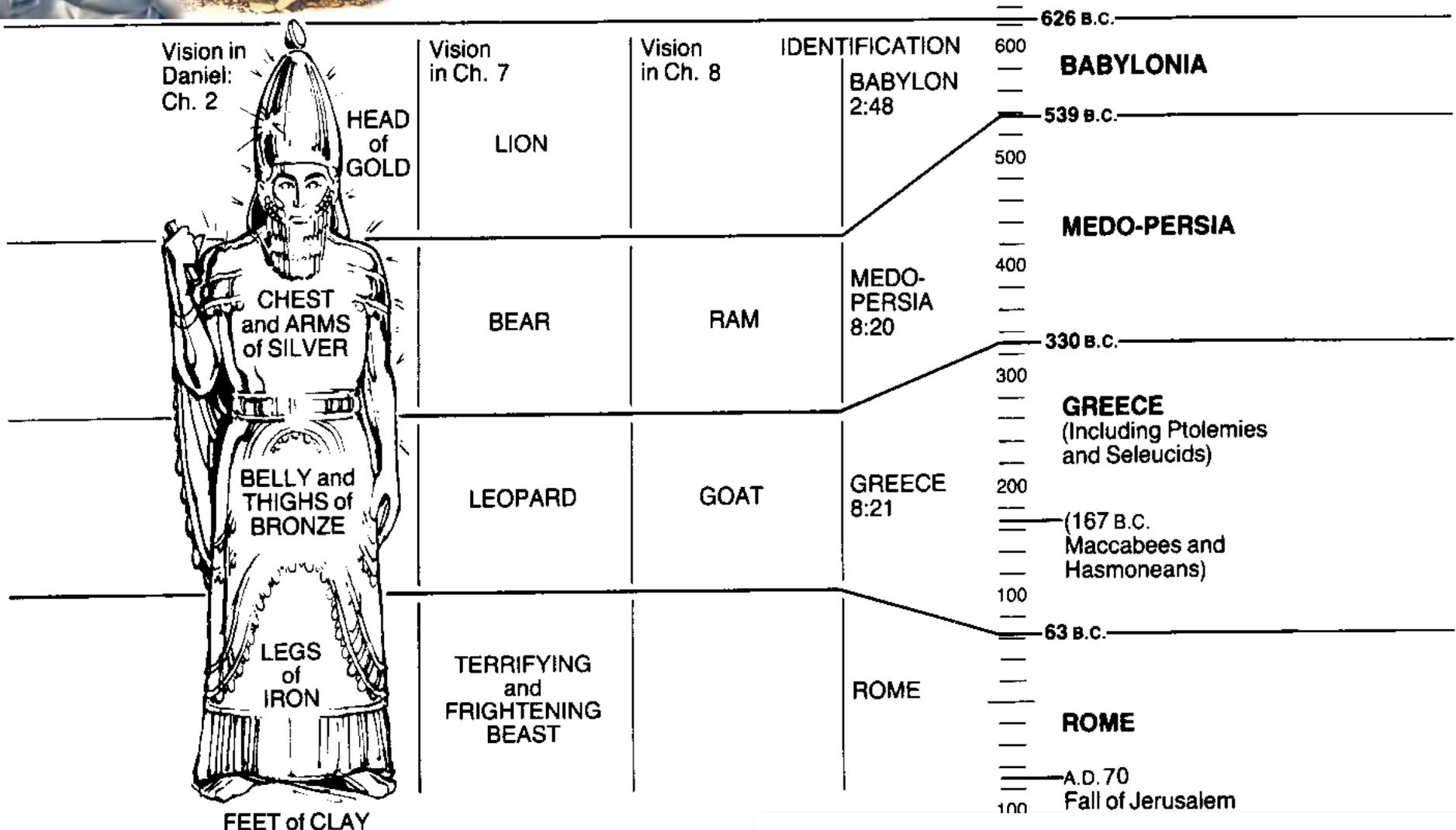


Babylon 605 - 539 BC

# World Empires in Daniel

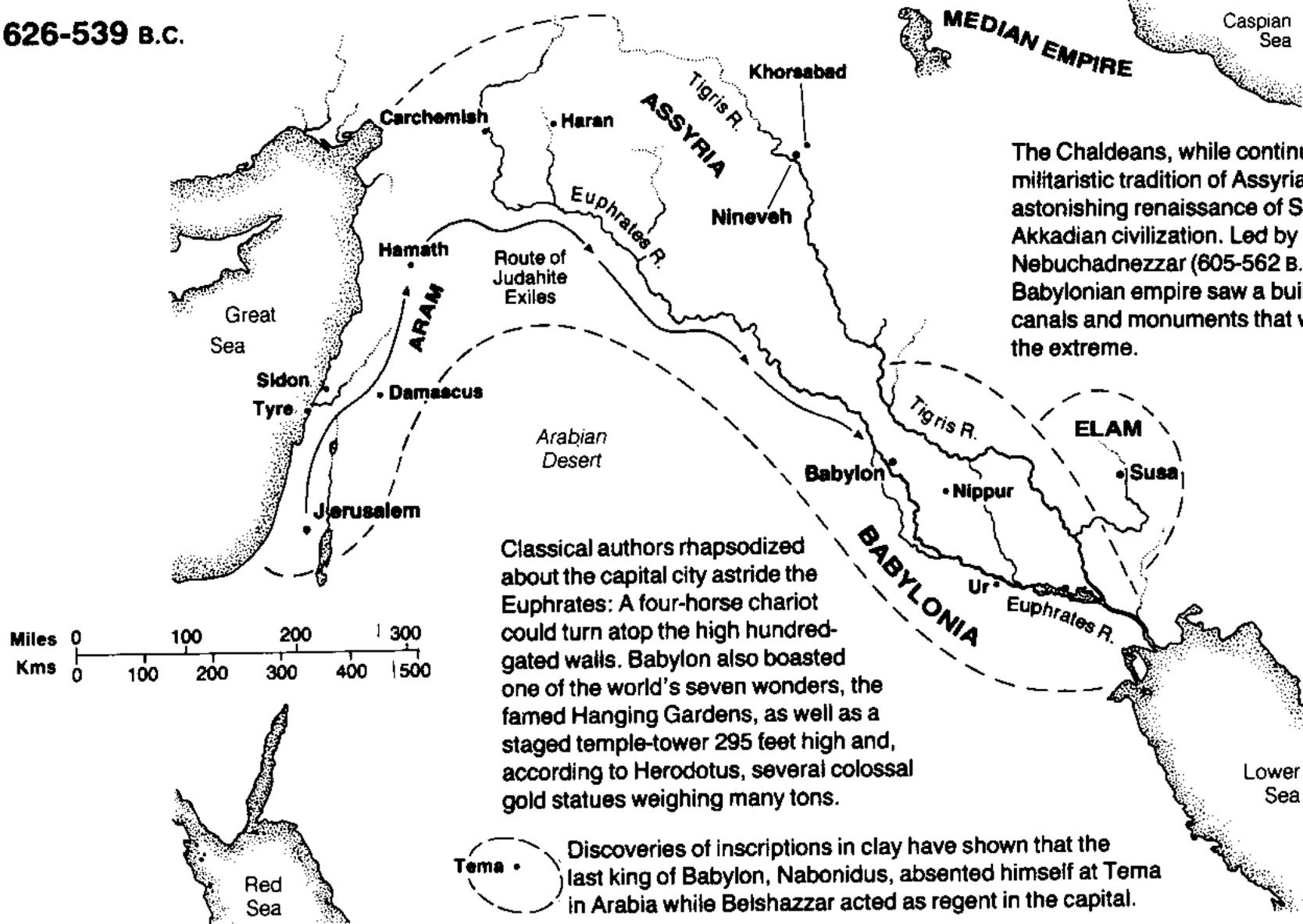
## the Four Kingdoms

Chronology of Major Empires in Daniel



# The Neo-Babylonian Empire

626-539 B.C.



The Chaldeans, while continuing the militaristic tradition of Assyria, created an astonishing renaissance of Sumero-Akkadian civilization. Led by Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 B.C.), the Neo-Babylonian empire saw a building program of canals and monuments that was ambitious in the extreme.

Classical authors rhapsodized about the capital city astride the Euphrates: A four-horse chariot could turn atop the high hundred-gated walls. Babylon also boasted one of the world's seven wonders, the famed Hanging Gardens, as well as a staged temple-tower 295 feet high and, according to Herodotus, several colossal gold statues weighing many tons.

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Control of the World  
Political System:

7 Heads

Roman

Consecutive

Past

Rev. 17:9-11

10 Kings

Worldwide

Simultaneous

Future

Rev. 17:12

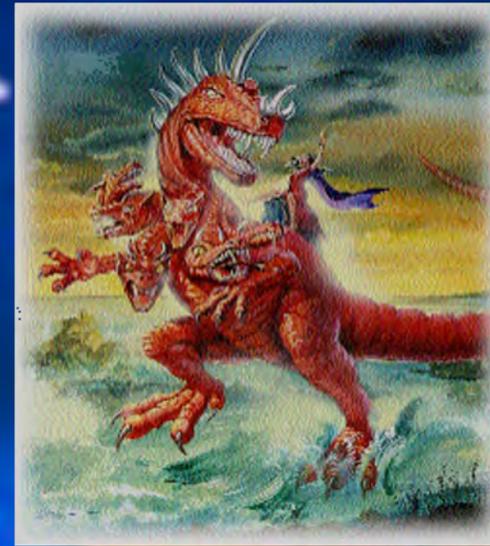
Beast (8th King)

Worldwide

Controls 10 Kings

Future

Rev. 17:13



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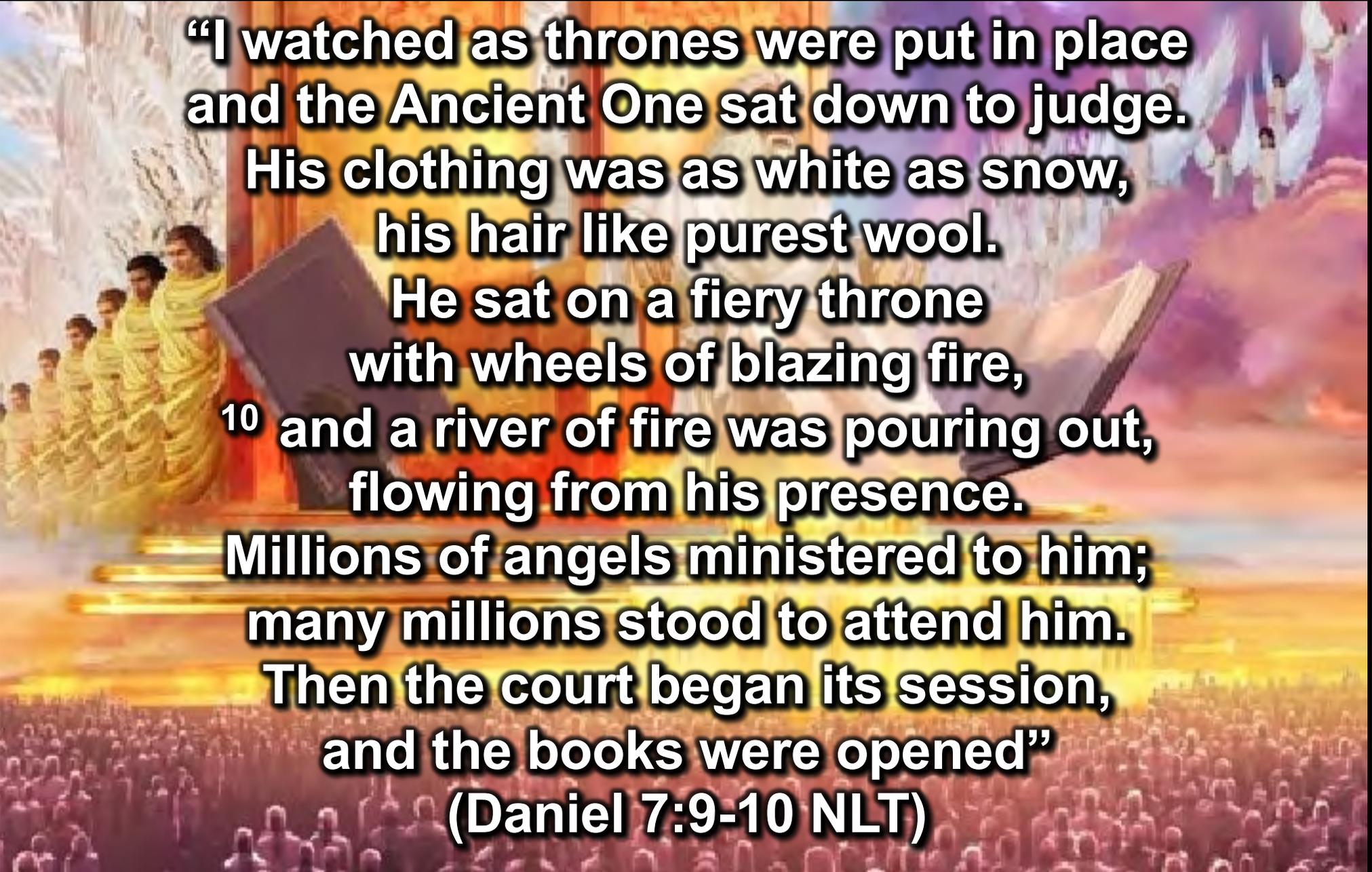
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# The Son of Man & Ancient of Days



**“I watched as thrones were put in place  
and the Ancient One sat down to judge.  
His clothing was as white as snow,  
his hair like purest wool.  
He sat on a fiery throne  
with wheels of blazing fire,  
<sup>10</sup> and a river of fire was pouring out,  
flowing from his presence.**

**Millions of angels ministered to him;  
many millions stood to attend him.**

**Then the court began its session,  
and the books were opened”**

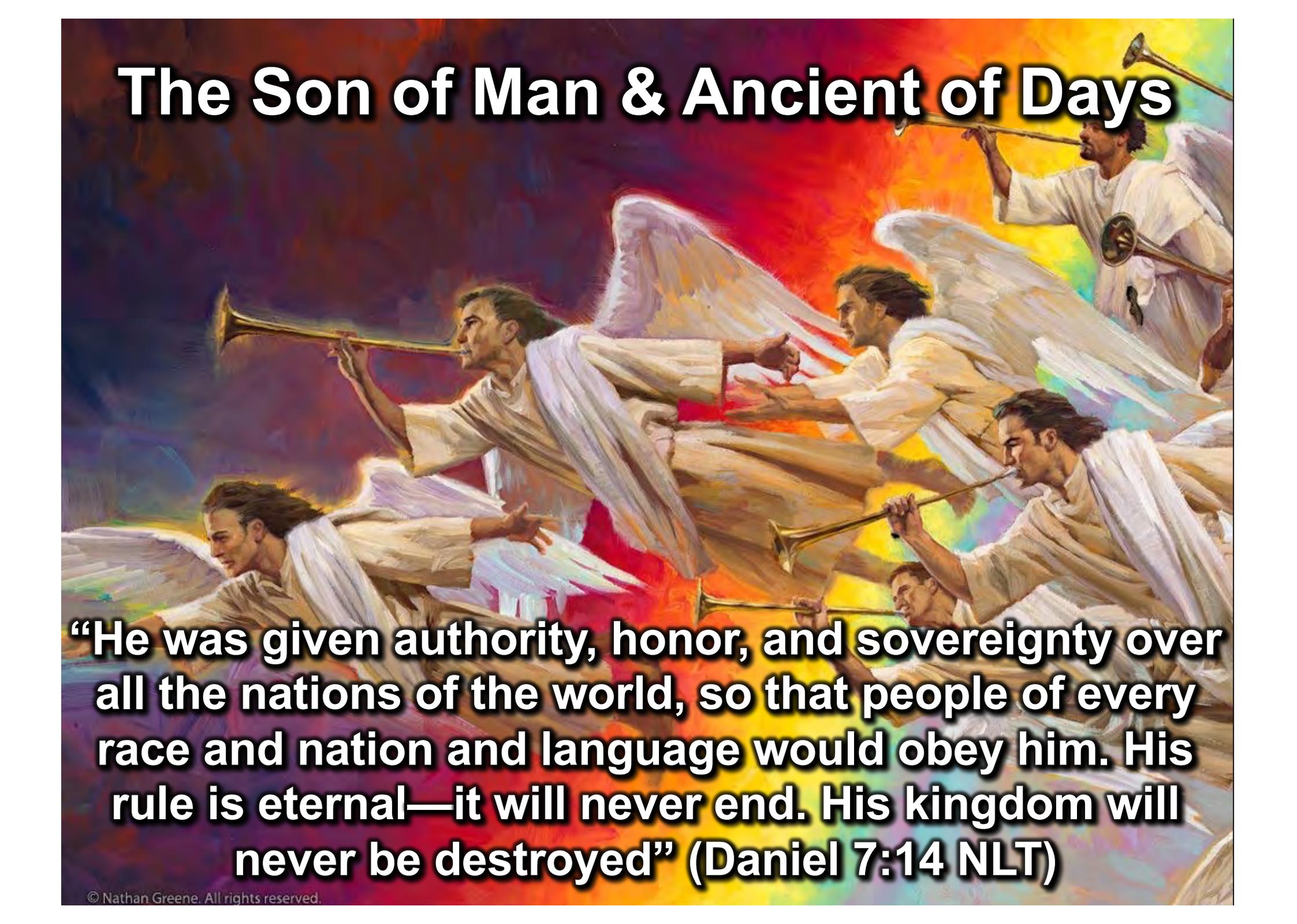
**(Daniel 7:9-10 NLT)**

# The Son of Man & Ancient of Days



**“As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence” (Daniel 7:13 NLT)**

# The Son of Man & Ancient of Days



**“He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed” (Daniel 7:14 NLT)**

# Applying Daniel 2–7

**Be confident that God still rules  
over all nations today.**





What do you need to know  
to be *truly* **confident**?

# I. God rules over **you** (Dan 1).



# II. God rules over all **nations** (Dan 2–7).



# III. God rules over **Israel's** future (Dan 8–12).



# The Point of Daniel 8–12

The exiles could confidently trust God's sovereignty over Israel in "the times of the Gentiles" by being faithful to his covenant (Dan 8–12).

***Daniel saw Jewish history  
—in advance!***



What do you need to know  
to be *truly* **confident**?



God **controls** each level.

——Main Idea of Daniel——

# I. God rules over **you** (Dan 1).



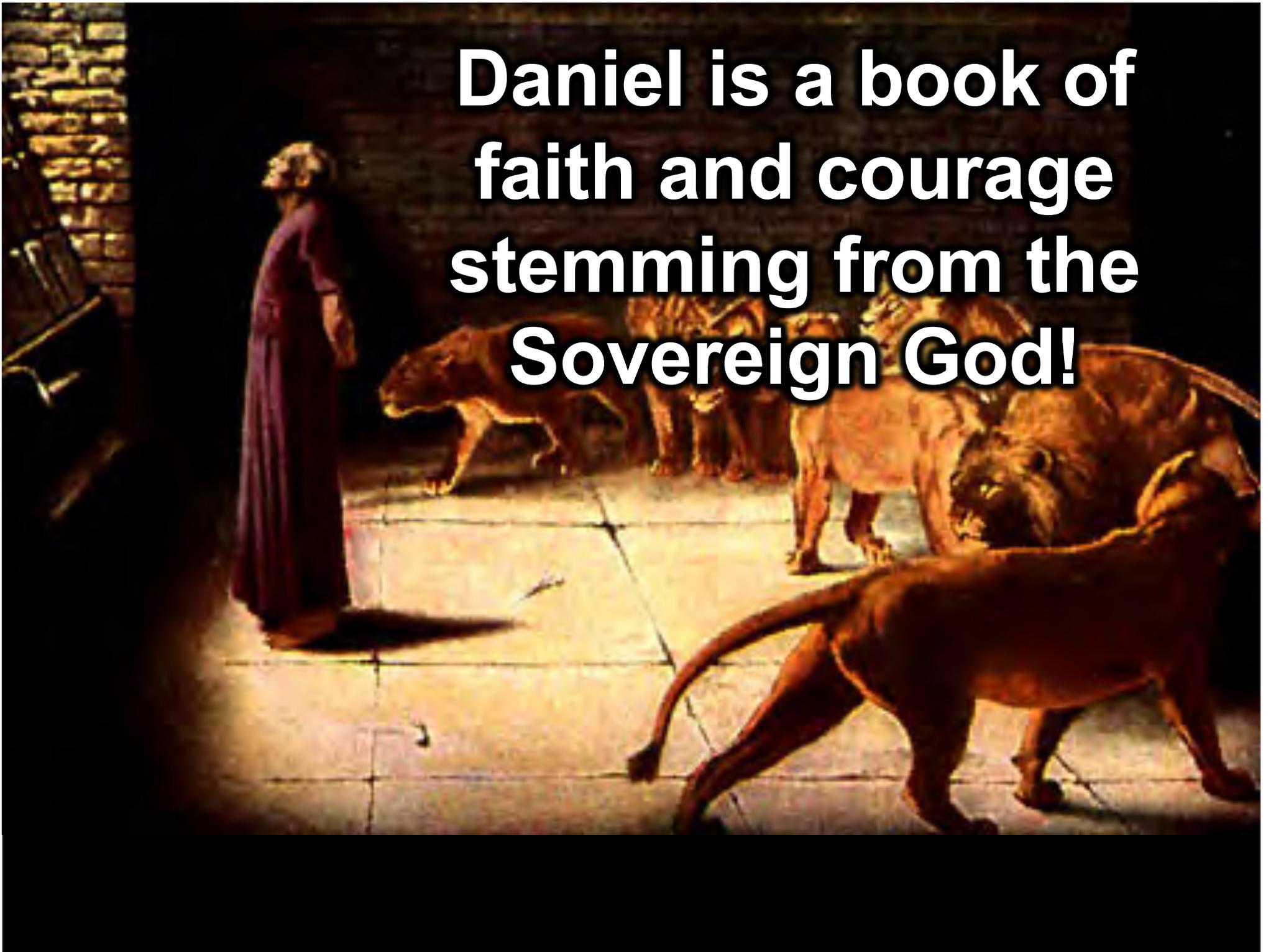
# II. God rules over all **nations** (Dan 2–7).



# III. God rules over **Israel's** future (Dan 8–12).

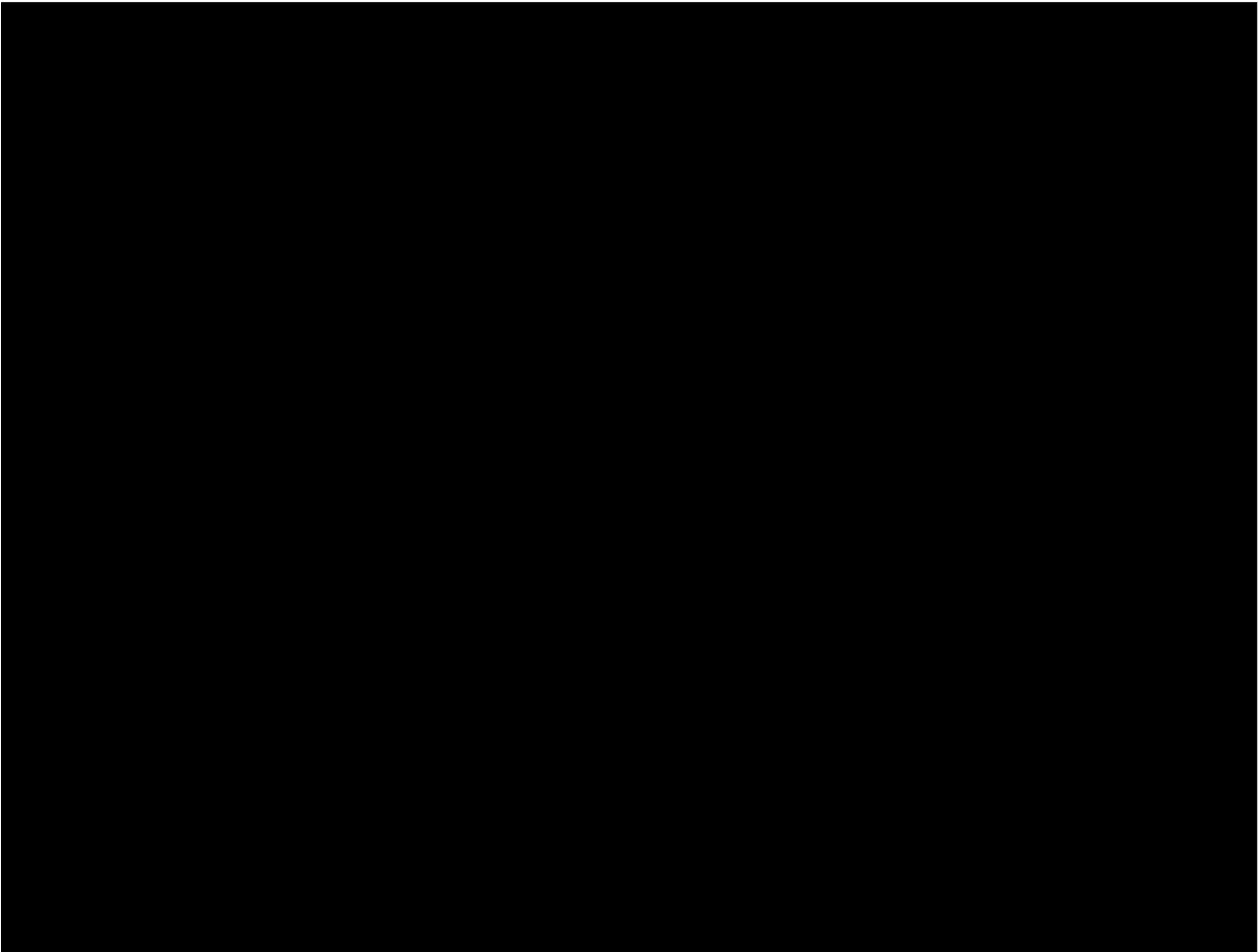


**Daniel is a book of  
faith and courage  
stemming from the  
Sovereign God!**



# Application

- **Recognize God's sovereignty over all authority in history**
- **Resist evil without compromising**
- **Trust God for your ultimate salvation so that you can endure to the end (12:2, 3, 12; cf. Rev. 12:11)**
- **Seek God in prayer and intercession**
- **Live a godly life**



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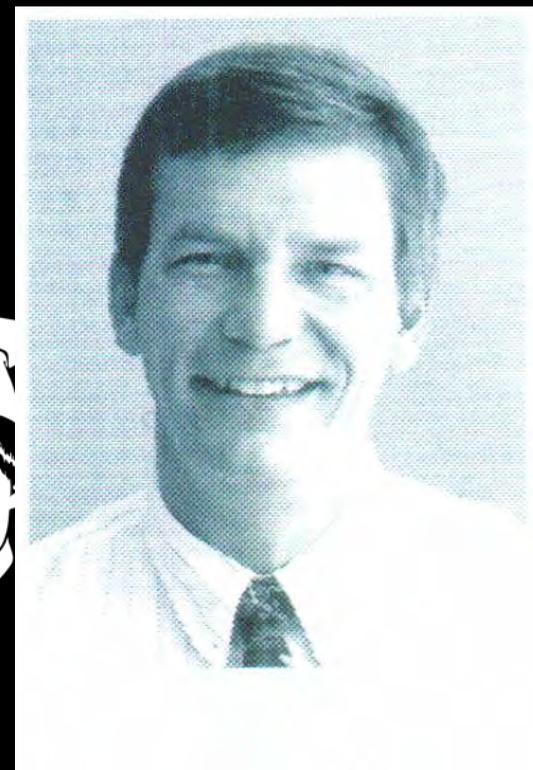
# Babylon & Us

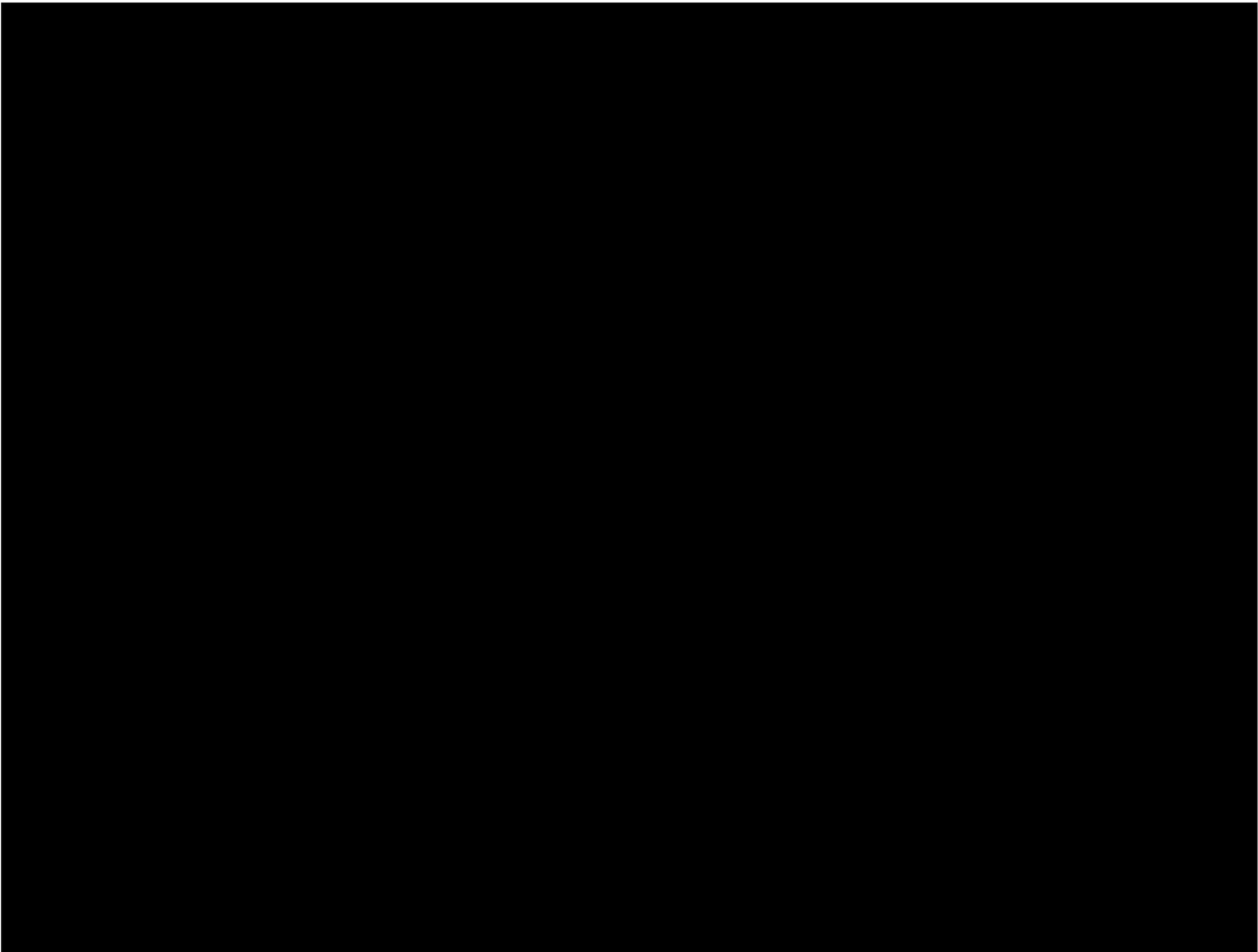


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