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One of the really wonderful things about the book of Daniel and one of the reasons I love it so much is the fact that it is what is called an “apocalyptic book,” or “apocalyptic literature.” What is that? Take a look:

**Apocalyptic Literature:** is a genre of biblical literature revealing God's plan for the world, often using vivid symbolism combined with real events. The word: “apocalyptic” comes from the Greek word: “apokaluptō” meaning: to reveal or unveil.

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Now, apocalyptic literature is often seen as unusual or strange and that’s because it is often describing “end of time” events, and these events involve the supernatural...literally, the divine interacting with nature in order to bring about God’s reckoning of judgement on this earth for those who have rejected His Son. Apocalyptic literature is also heavy in symbolism. For instance, in the book of Revelation, John describes a woman clothed with the sun, in childbirth with a dragon waiting to attack her child. Well, that’s a symbolic description of Mary giving birth to Jesus with Satan (the dragon) wanting to devour him.

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So, as we arrive to Daniel chapter 7 today, and from this point forward in the Book of Daniel, we get down to the nitty-gritty in seeing the events that will lead to the return of Jesus Christ. Buckle-up...let the apocalyptic writing begin...

**Daniel 7:1-7**

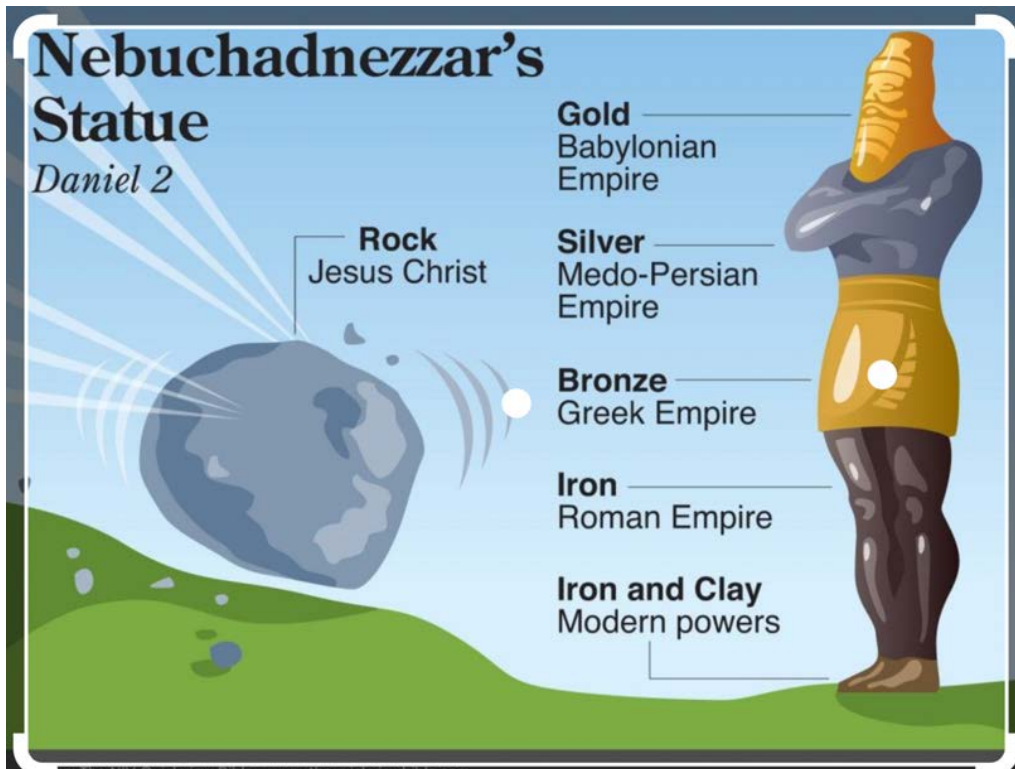
<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. <sup>2</sup> Daniel declared, <sup>3</sup> “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. <sup>4</sup> And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. <sup>5</sup> The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. <sup>6</sup> And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh.’ <sup>7</sup> After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. <sup>8</sup> After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

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Now let’s talk chronology...the book of Daniel is NOT written chronologically. Let me explain. Last week in Daniel 6, Daniel was thrown into the Lion’s Den by Darius (Duh-rye-US), but Daniel 7 and 8 don’t come after that event...no...these two chapters (7-8) go back almost 20 years to before the downfall of Belshazzar (the King who saw the handwriting on the wall). So, when Daniel had this dream/vision, this was while Belshazzar was still on the throne.

Something else that’s interesting...is the fact that the dream that Daniel had here in chapter 7, parallels the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had in chapter 2. Remember this statue...

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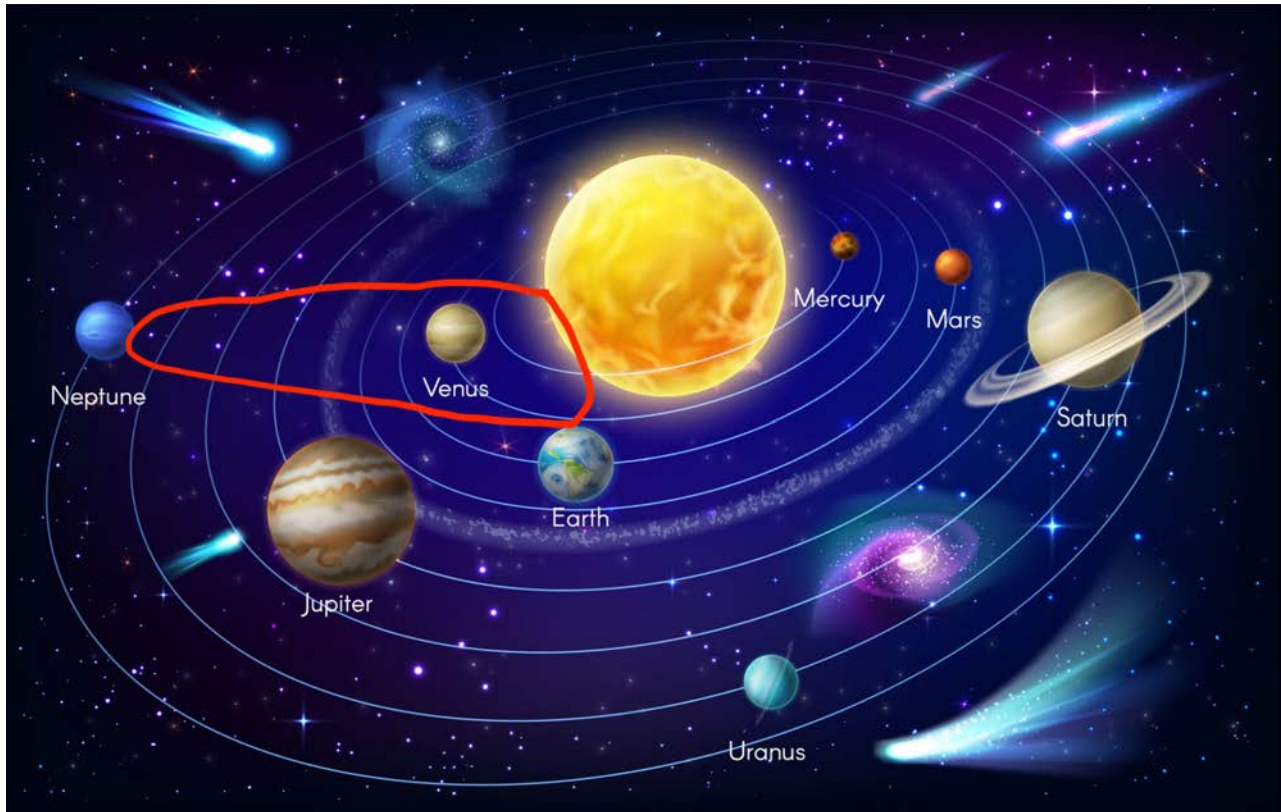


It depicts the fall of the Gentile kingdoms leading up to the return of the rock, Jesus...the stone from heaven...the stone



that will hit the statue and topple it. And church, every bit of this has come true in time and history...and that's because anything the Bible says is going to happen IS GOING TO HAPPEN! And this confirms the veracity, authority and trustworthiness of the Bible as God's Word. Church, fulfilled prophecy is one of the main reasons we trust the Bible. These prophecies/predictions are given to us in advance so that when they come to pass, we see the evidence that God was behind all of these fulfilled predictions. Prophecy is a confirmation of the voice of God predicting that which has not yet occurred, in order that the people who hear the prophecies and then see them come to pass, might be convinced that God's word can be totally and unequivocally trusted!





all the way to the sun...93 million miles away and then go to Neptune, the 8<sup>th</sup> planet from the sun, which is 2.8 billion miles from the sun and then come back to the earth, 2.7 billion more miles...and then fill that sphere with silver dollars and mark just one of them and put a blindfolded person in spaceship and have them pick that one "marked" silver dollar...and that's the odds that Jesus is NOT the Messiah. That's impossible...do you understand that. And that's the point. And that's the fulfillment of just 10 of the 300+ prophecies of Christ. Jesus is the Son of God and Isaiah the prophet...the one who prophesied that Jesus would be born of a virgin said this:

**Isaiah 46:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' <sup>11</sup> calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

God will accomplish His purposes and nothing will stop that! You see, God gave Daniel visions/prophecies about the future, "things not yet done," and that's what we're going to see throughout the rest of this book, beginning with this dream of Daniel's.

**Daniel 7:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. <sup>2</sup> Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea."

Now let me show you a map.



See the Mediterranean Sea in blue. It was often called the Great Sea in Bible times. Daniel would have known it well. He sees in his vision that this sea is in turbulence, being tossed “to and fro” violently. And it’s the four winds of heaven that are doing it. Those winds come from north, south, east and west. And in Scripture, the sea most often represents humanity. This is very common in the Bible. For instance, during the end times in the book of Revelation.

**Revelation 17:15**

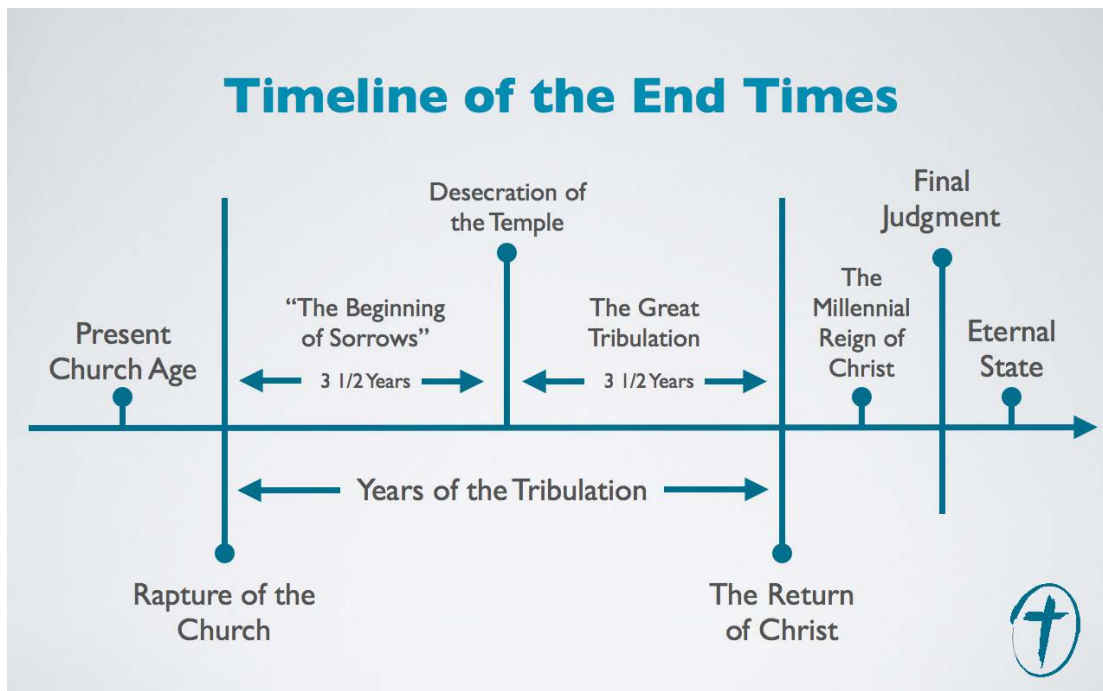
**5 And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.”**

The Sea represents people and BTW that prostitute mentioned there in Rev. 17:5 has a name. Her name is: Babylon... See it...same chapter, verse 5.

**Revelation 17:5**

**5 And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations.”**

The great mother of prostitutes... Babylon, represents the evil world evil world system that will one day be controlled by the Antichrist. That world system is a mixing of the political, economic and religious systems. The political and economic systems will commit spiritual adultery within the realm of the religion. The Antichrist will use this system to trick and dupe people during the Tribulation period. Let me show you a chart of a Timeline of the End Times:



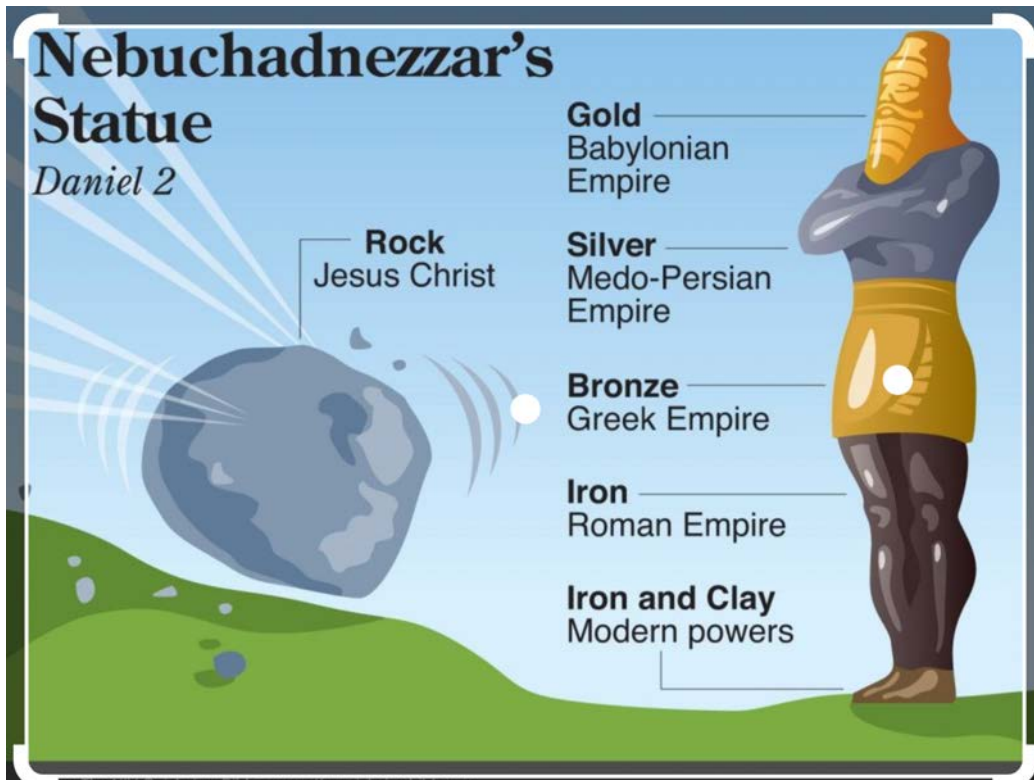
Today we're waiting for Jesus to come back in the clouds...it's called the Rapture and then that will set off 7 years called the Tribulation! That's when the Antichrist will wreak havoc on this earth. At the end of the 7 years, Jesus will come back to the earth and set-up His Millennial Kingdom for 1000 years. After those thousand years, (where Jesus keeps His promise to Israel to rule and reign on the throne of David from Jerusalem), Jesus will judge the lost at the Great White Throne Judgment and then the Eternal State will be ushered in. All of these are future events...but, Daniel will speak to each these as we move through this book.

For now, Daniel saw a convulsing, raging sea. And Church, this sea represents the upheaval and distress we see in people's lives on this earth. Daniel, in his dream, sees all of human history in turmoil. And he sees the ultimate destruction of man because of what man brings upon himself. Man stirs up his own mess by way of his sin and disobedience toward God. And judgment will ultimately come on this earth and its inhabitants. Let's see the four beasts.

**Daniel 7:3**

<sup>3</sup> And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

Now, most Bible scholars agree, that these four beasts parallel the statue of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel chapter 2. Remember, Nebuchadnezzar saw this colossal image...



of gold, and silver, and bronze, and then iron, and then a mixture of iron/clay.

Now you and I can look at that statue and see it as beautiful...but, I want to tell you how God sees it. He sees beasts. Look at this...



What the world sees as beautiful and wonderful...God sees it for what it is: EVIL. And that's why Daniel sees beasts. Man sees his kingdoms as marvelous and amazing! Things he has built. God sees man's kingdoms as his attempt to remove Him. No...man doesn't see things the way God sees them. To man, our kingdoms are right and good and impressive, powerful and strong...things that

WE HAVE ACHIEVED ON OUR OWN. Yet, God will destroy this pagan regimes, just like he did Nebuchadnezzar's statue.

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Can I be honest with you. We're full ourselves, as humanity! Mankind believes they don't need God. We've been brainwashed into this kind of thinking for decades...with our millions of years, evolution, secular humanism, babies are blobs of tissue...and sexuality is fluid. Be whatever you want to be...just don't mess up my pronouns...because I'm in charge... The world is SO upside-down. Our kids are mesmerized with Tik-Tok...taught to see others as valued or not valued by their skin color...our education system in this country isn't neutral, it's secular...and I want to warn you: more and more liberals are finding their way into our county every year...and nobody does anything about it, because they're afraid of the raging sea of the WOKE AGENDA.

Parents, you need to understand unless you begin to speak up and complain about what you are seeing...the beginning of the liberal fog that wants to saturate our county...within the next 10 years, I predict every school in Wilkes County will be overrun by the Woke agenda. And the good teachers will all get out and leave it for the "Wokies." Mark my words... Am I against these people? No. I don't hate the liberals... I just hate what they stand for...they're loud and proud and their agenda will destroy our children...because it's godless...it's a raging sea...just like what Daniel saw...with beasts...


**Daniel 7:4**

**4 The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.**

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Take a look at this chart...

## Four Beasts in Daniel 7

	<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Like a Lion</li><li>• With eagle's wings</li><li>• Wings plucked later</li><li>• Lifted up from earth</li><li>• Man's heart given</li></ul>		<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Like a Bear</li><li>• Raised up on its side</li><li>• Had 3 ribs in its mouth</li><li>• Was told to arise and devour much flesh</li></ul>
	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Like a Leopard</li><li>• With 4 fowl's wings</li><li>• Had 4 heads</li><li>• Given dominion</li></ul>		<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exceedingly dreadful, terrible beast</li><li>• Iron teeth, brass nails</li><li>• Had 10 horns</li><li>• A little horn, which plucked 3 horns</li></ul>

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Top-left...see the lion...with eagle's wings... Lions were symbolic of the Babylonian Empire and of course, as they were back then, they still are today...the lion is considered the King of the Jungle...at the top...and that corresponds to the head of gold of Nebuchadnezzar's statue. And you'll notice it had eagle's wings...which speaks of the swiftness of Nebuchadnezzar's conquering abilities. But the wings were plucked. That was Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation. God struck him with insanity. And God sent him out of the palace to eat grass like an ox, and his fingernails became like bird's claws. Yet,



God restored him after 7 years...and he was given: "the mind of a man," and his kingdom was restored, and that's when I believe he came to know the one true God.

**Daniel 7:5**

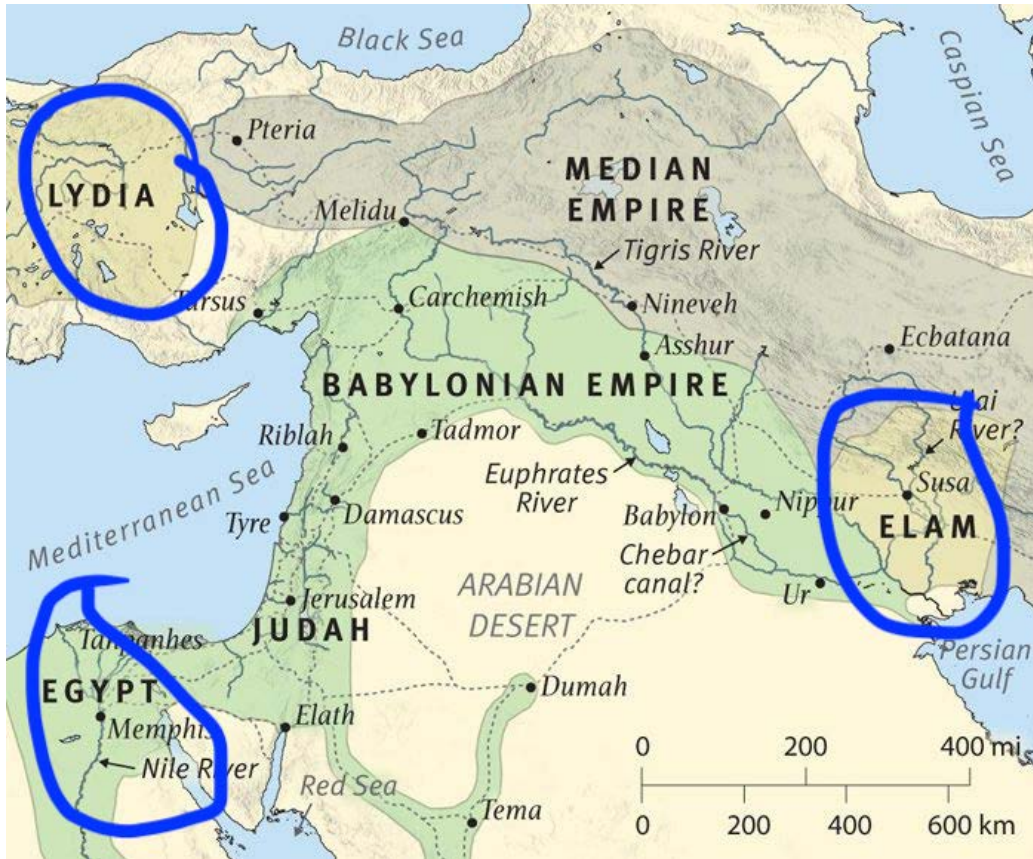
**5** And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'

## Four Beasts in Daniel 7

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See the chart...top right...that bear represents the Medo-Persian Empire, strong as a bear, but "raised up on one side." What is that? Scholars say that raised side represents the fact that the Persians became stronger than the Medes. In fact, Cyrus the Persian would take over and he would be the one who, (because Daniel was in his ear), allowed the Hebrews to return to their homeland after 70 years of exile. Also, did you notice: three ribs were in the bear's mouth? Scholars believe this is the eventual conquering of Egypt, Lydia and Elam. See the map...



Indeed, as verse 5 says, it “devoured much flesh.” It was ferocious, powerful empire and grew larger than Babylon. It continued for 200 years, and it was succeeded by another. The third beast.

**Daniel 7:6**

**6 After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.**

## Four Beasts in Daniel 7



1

- Like a Lion
- With eagle’s wings
- Wings plucked later
- Lifted up from earth
- Man’s heart given



2

- Like a Bear
- Raised up on its side
- Had 3 ribs in its mouth
- Was told to arise and devour much flesh



3

- Like a Leopard
- With 4 fowl’s wings
- Had 4 heads
- Given dominion



4

- Exceedingly dreadful, terrible beast
- Iron teeth, brass nails
- Had 10 horns
- A little horn, which plucked 3 horns

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See our chart, bottom-left... The leopard...much faster than the bear...it’s amazingly agile as it hunts its prey. This is the nation of Greece, which followed the Medo-Persian Empire. It too, had wings on its back. Greek Empire was ruled by the monarch Alexander the Great, who conquered the world

faster than anyone in history. In fact, he started his conquests at the age of 22 in 334 BC and by the time he was 32, he had conquered the known world!

Did you notice this leopard had four heads? That meant it could see in all directions at once. Alexander was in total control of the world, but he died at the age of 33 of malaria...known as a glutton and a drunkard. Where is he now for all that power? Ultimately, those four heads also represented the fact that Alexander in his untimely death had his world empire divided among his four generals. But those men fell to a fourth beast... The worst of all...

**Daniel 7:7**

**7** After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

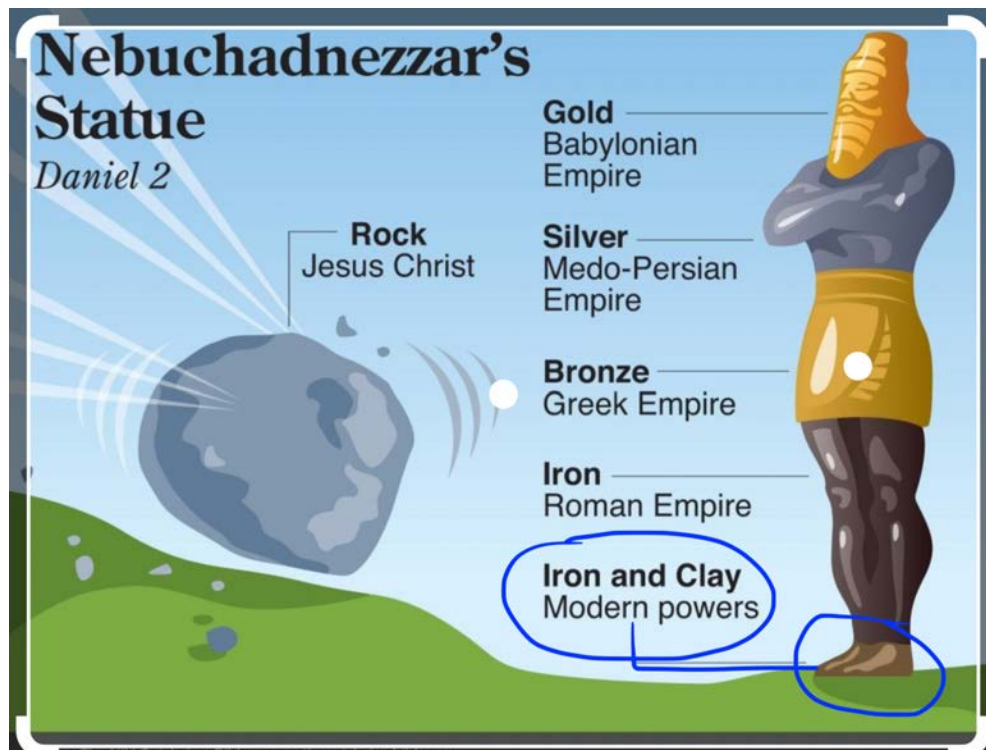
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See the bottom-right. This beast is considered the Roman Empire...and remnants of that Empire still exists today in many of the world's modern forms of government...but one day, all the world powers will coalesce around one leader. More on that in a moment.

You'll notice this beast doesn't look like any animal that we know of. It's amazingly terrifying...something you might see Hollywood dream up for a movie. It's grotesque. It's exceedingly strong with iron teeth, and it broke its prey into pieces and stomped what was left into the ground. And it has ten horns...and that corresponds to the 10 toes...the Modern Powers from Nebuchadnezzar's statue. See the blue circle at the bottom...



This beast had 10 horns, but all of a sudden, a smaller one sprouted up...

**Daniel 7:8**

<sup>8</sup> 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.

This little horn coming from this beast is the same beast we find in Revelation 13. That beast will be a powerful world leader who will rise up, seemingly from out of nowhere to bring all the world powers together under one economic, political and religious system. His name is: the Antichrist...and he is the worst of the worst, for he embodies all of the beasts and we'll see this more in our next message.

For now, how do we apply this? Well, there are many applications...but, my mind was led to what Daniel knew. What did Daniel know? He knew that one empire was going to be replaced by another and he saw it all...from the fall of Nebuchadnezzar's Empire (Babylonians) by way of Belshazzar, who was killed by Darius the Mede, all the way to reign of Cyrus the Persian. All of this made clear to Daniel, and we've seen this over and over. What have we seen?

**GOD CONTROLS THE RISE AND FALL OF NATIONS AND RULERS**

And that includes America. Ultimately, God is in control and whatever He says in His word will happen. All Bible prophecies come true...and so will the remaining ones that have yet to be fulfilled concerning Jesus. As sure as you can go outside on a clear night and look into the sky and see the stars and pick out the five planets we can see with our naked eyes:

