

# The Book of Daniel-Chapter Two (Part Thirteen)

## Dr. Luther Ray Smith Jr.

### Pertinent Questions

Why does it switch from Hebrew To Aramaic in verse 4?

Is the switch of the language random or is it coordinated?

If the language is coordinated, why is it coordinated?

### My Conclusion

1. **Aramaic was the dominant language that used when Israel was in captivity in Babylon.**
  - a. Daniel's language was to communicate to the Babylonians and Persians *through their rulers* throughout time and memoriam that the God of the Hebrews was the Living God (King Nebuchadnezzar, King Belshazzar, and King Darius).
  - b. The Jews who were unaware of their native language would still hear about the "God of Daniel" and "the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego."

### How Do I know This?

**Jeremiah 10:11 NASB95:** "...Thus you shall say to them, "The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth will perish from the earth and from under the heavens..."

This is the *only* verse in the **entire book of Jeremiah** that is written in Aramaic. I am convinced the reason this is written in Aramaic is God had already told them they would going into captivity. So, this statement they would be saying be communicating to them would not be in Hebrew, but in Aramaic—the language they would be adopting while living in captivity.

2. **The language was a reminder that solidified the Jews and their time in Babylon that was complete (or came to pass).**
3. **It reinforced that God also had a plan for the Gentile empires that he discussed using their native language—which was once more a full-throated attack on the false god Marduk.**
4. **Switching back to Hebrew underscored how important to discuss the destiny of Israel as a nation in their own native language and the Messiah that would rule over the nations (notice the Hebrew begins in chapter 8 discussing one like a son of man who is given an everlasting kingdom).**

### Pertinent Questions: What are the "Kingdoms" of King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream?

First Kingdom: Nebuchadnezzar (Babylonian Empire)  
Region & City of Babylon (605-561 BC) (Gold) (Dan. 2:37)

Second Kingdom: Cyrus The Great (Persian Empire) Region &  
City of Babylon (539 BC) (Silver) (Dan. 2: 39a)

Third kingdom: Alexander the Great (Grecian Empire) Region &  
City of Babylon (334 BC) (Bronze/Brass) (Dan. 2:39a)



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**Supplemental Questions:** What is the fourth kingdom?

*The fourth kingdom is the Parthian Empire*

**Supplemental Questions:** Why is this an alternative to the Roman Empire?

**Possible Implications of This Explanation:**

- Those who may interpret this as Rome may do this because they observe Christ being born in the Roman Empire (i.e., a **Christocentric** view of the text).
- Those who may interpret this as Rome may do this because they observe Christ being born in the Roman Empire (i.e., a Christocentric view of the text).
- This explanation may be convinced that the Roman Empire may continue but is a different form of some sort (i.e., the Roman Catholic Church, America, American Evangelicalism, the WHO, etc.).
- This may cause one to allegorize certain texts when cross-referencing it with this one (e.g., Revelation 17 Babylon = the revived Roman Empire from Daniel 2).

### **Babylon**

Remember Babylon is a region located in Mesopotamia. Even when the city was gone, the region was still known as Babylon.

Babylon was a stronghold for defense and commerce. Whoever controlled Babylon controlled trade and commerce in the fertile crescent.

Rome was a significant kingdom and plays a role in Biblical history. However, There is no record of Rome ever ruling over the people or the city of Babylon.

Babylon much like the word Israel, when and where the word occurs in Scripture HAS ALWAYS MEANT THE GEOGRAPHICAL REGION.

### **Why This Makes Sense That it is Parthia**

- The dream is given to Nebuchadnezzar who is the king of the region of Babylon.
- The other two kingdoms that are described in this text have do to with the city and the region of Babylon.
  - Medio-Persia (539 BC)**
  - Greece (Alexander The Great) (331 BC) (In fact, Alexander the Great was buried in Babylon)**
- It makes no sense that it is Roman Empire when Rome never captured Babylon.
- It could be possible that this passage of Scripture has been influenced by a person's theological perspective.
- I am convinced based upon the language within the text this is discussing the influence of kingdoms, however, I believe it is in relation to Gentile history (specifically the land of Babylon).
- If the land of Babylon is considered, this keeps in line with the normal way that Babylon is understood with the view of the writer.

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Fourth Kingdom: Mithridates (Parthian Empire) Region of  
Babylon (171-141 BC) (Iron) (Dan. 2:40)

Fifth Kingdom: The Conqueror (Satanic Empire) Region of  
Babylon (?) (Iron & Clay) (Dan. 2:41-43)



### The Fourth Kingdom

We have almost come to the end of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. From looking closely at (and slowly through) the Aramaic, it would seem that the kingdom of "iron and clay" is not a revived Roman Empire, but it would appear to be the kingdom of the conqueror that is detailed in the book of Revelation.

### Qualities of Babylon

The region of Babylon includes the Euphrates and the Tigris, which is a central focus of commerce and trade for his region. Each of these kingdoms had conquered Babylon from the other (except for the fifth kingdom). Each of these kingdoms felt Babylon was important when it came to their kingdom. This is important for *Babylonian* history (that parallels with Israelite history)

### Facts of The Islamic Empire

- The Islamic empire began around 622 A.D. with the Islamic prophet Mohammed who had what is described as a "spiritual awakening" during this time."
- The greatest expansion was in 750 AD." The capital is Mecca, which is in Saudi Arabia, which is nowhere near Babylon.

**Once more this "empire" was established after the economy of grace. Additionally, Babylon is not the central focus of this empire.**

### Facts of The Ottoman Empire

- The Ottoman empire began around 1299 A.D. with the capital of the empire was Constantinople (Turkey).
- The Ottoman empire ended around 1922 more than 600 years with the defeat in WWI.

**Once more this "empire" was established after the economy of grace. Additionally, Babylon is not the central focus of this empire.**

### Facts About The European Union

- The European Union is an agreement between countries concerning their economy and resources and that an independent country could not use their resources for war. This does not fit the criteria of a kingdom. However, let us say for the sake of argument that the formation of the European Union was a kingdom (or empire).

**This "empire" would have been established after the economy of grace. Additionally, Babylon is not the central focus of this empire.**

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## What About America?

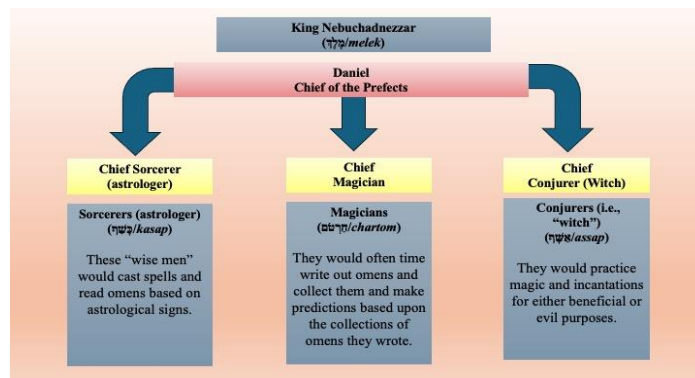
- America's government, ought to be a *constitutional republic*, not a *kingdom*.
- Presidents are to be *representatives* of the nation, they are not titled monarch, emperor, or have "kingly" power or influence.
- Presidents are supposed to be voted into office by the citizens who they want to represent.
- America fails to meet all the criteria for a kingdom (as this land has no king).
- For the sake of argument even if America *was* a kingdom, it was still established in this economy of grace, therefore it fails in this aspect.

Once more this "empire" was established *after* the economy of grace. Additionally, Babylon is not the central focus of this empire.

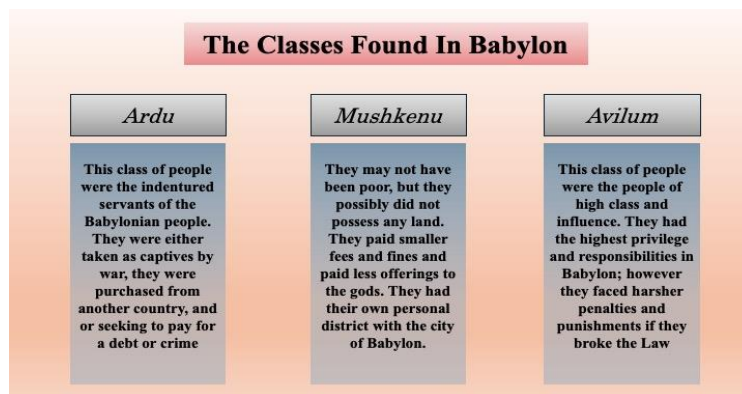
### Supplemental Questions: What is a prefect?

*A prefect is an overseer or a person who has authority over a group of people.*

### Supplemental Questions: What does a prefect do?



**The Importance of This Move:** Remember, the wise men represent not only their "abilities" but the gods who grant them these abilities. Since it is the "God of heaven" that has revealed this to Daniel, this shows that in the revealing area Daniel's God is reliable. Therefore, to appease Daniel's God (Since Daniel's God is the God of gods—with the exception of Marduk) Nebuchadnezzar elevates him as the overseer of all wise men in Babylon. This means that when a matter similar to this concerns the king *all prophecies, requests, and explanations of those prophecies must come through Daniel BEFORE they are told to King Nebuchadnezzar!*



**The Point of This:** It appears with this statement by Daniel that Nebuchadnezzar gave Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-nego kingly influence "over" (with the Aramaic preposition ܠܘ/al, which is the same preposition that is used in v.47 with Daniel) the province of Babylon itself. This is important because his companions were elevated to the position of a nobleman or *Avilums* in Babylon.

Onward to Chapter Three