

Daniel Lesson 2 Lecture

Daniel 2

Let your astrologers come forward.....All of them go on in their error; there is not one that can save you. Isaiah 47:13b, 15b

- It is interesting to note that from Daniel 2:4 to Daniel 7:28, the book is in Aramaic, the language spoken by Nebuchadnezzar's tribe. The reason for this may be that these chapters were important to the Babylonians. Chapter 1 and chapters 8-12 are in Hebrew as they contain matters relative to the Israelites. However, the latter chapters deal with world history, which other nations should have found important.
- Daniel Chapter 2 opens with Nebuchadnezzar having a troubled mind. He could not sleep and, when he did, he had dreams, the details of which perhaps he could not fully recall.
- The year is about 603 BC. Why was Nebuchadnezzar troubled?
 - In 604 BC, Nebuchadnezzar had to fight another war in Syria, which he had previously attempted to fully conquer.
 - After the Syrian campaign, Nebuchadnezzar was forced to send an army to Ashkelon, the last of the 5 cities of the Philistine pentapolis, now part of what we know as the Gaza Strip in Israel.
 - The people of Ashkelon put up stiff resistance. Nebuchadnezzar burned and razed the city to the ground and took its surviving residents into exile.
 - In 603 BC, Nebuchadnezzar fought a 3rd war. Records about the location of this war have not survived.
- Nebuchadnezzar had only ascended to the throne in 605 BC. Is it any wonder that his mind was troubled after having to conduct 3 different campaigns in 2 years as well as run his empire?
- According to the Old Babylonian Omen Text housed at the Berlin Museum, the inability to recall a dream was ominous. "If a man cannot remember the dream he saw (it means): his personal god is angry with him."
- Clearly, Nebuchadnezzar's dream has unnerved him. He is clearly desperate. He calls all his wise men together – the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers – and demanded that they tell him what he dreamed and what the dream meant.
- We know based on Daniel 2:13, Nebuchadnezzar has forgotten about the prowess of Daniel and his 3 friends. They aren't in the group of wise men called by Nebuchadnezzar.

- How did dream interpretation work in ancient Babylon? The wise men used dream manuals which consisted of historical dreams and the events which followed them. One only had to search for the correct dream example in the books to interpret a dream. Babylonian religion held that one could determine future portents by analyzing dreams, astral events, and animal entrails.
- Remember that both the Bible and the Babylonians had dream interpretation. Divination, on the other hand, was strictly prohibited by Scripture.
- But, as the wise men protested, no one could interpret a dream without hearing it first! Nebuchadnezzar would be better served by consulting the gods!
- Chapter 2 reveals some of the pride and mental instability of Nebuchadnezzar. Here we see Nebuchadnezzar reacting violently and ordering the execution of all his wise men throughout the kingdom. Who would interpret his dreams then? In Daniel Chapter 4, we will see the king dip into a severe period of insanity.
- Returning to our story, we see Daniel, in verse 17 and 18, gathering his 3 friends and urging them to plead for mercy from God concerning this mystery. The mystery is the detail of the king's dream.
- Daniel knows that he cannot reveal the mystery alone. He turns to God for help.
- In this chapter, God is referred to as "God of heaven." This term is rarely used in pre-exilic texts. It has a likeness to "Baal Samen", the Phoenician Baal, referred to as "Lord of heaven." The Israelites would have been very careful not to use a word which would convey that Yahweh and Baal Samen were one in the same.
- "God of heaven", used here, would be fitting in the context of the Babylonian pantheon of gods, where astral worship was practiced. Yahweh is the creator of the earth and the heavens.
- Notice also that the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision, not in a dream. This is important, as it conveys that God has directly intervened in the situation to answer the mystery. Daniel's vision is a direct contrast to Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- Daniel 2: 28 is important.
 - but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.
 - God has been speaking directly to Nebuchadnezzar in the dream. What was God trying to tell Nebuchadnezzar?
- After Daniel interprets the dream for Nebuchadnezzar, the king does not ask the obvious question. "How long will my kingdom last before it is replaced by a lesser kingdom?" This shows Nebuchadnezzar's concerns only for his own greatness and the here and now.

- A king such as Nebuchadnezzar with such a lofty opinion of himself, would never have deigned to worship any man but himself. It is more the case that the king is honoring Daniel’s God by honoring his servant, Daniel, when he prostrates himself.
- Nebuchadnezzar gives Yahweh many lofty titles in verse 47, but he’s just another god among the gods. There is no statement that Yahweh is the one true God and that only he should be worshipped.
- Daniel has not forgotten his 3 friends. While Daniel’s honors included being ruler over the province of Babylon and overseeing all the wise men, his friends were given jobs as administrators, likely in country districts of the province of Babylon. The 3 friends would have been subject to Daniel, who remained at the king’s court, a Near Eastern idiom which suggests cabinet rank.
- Chapter 2 introduces us to the apocalyptic literature in Daniel. This predicts the end of the world.
- When trying to interpret apocalyptic literature, I like the statements by Tremper Longman III in his commentary on Daniel.
 - “Be reserved. That is, we must exercise caution in our interpretation of these highly metaphoric visions.”
 - The literature uses images which communicate truth but not with precision.
 - Numbers are symbolic.
 - Understand the Scripture in its original setting.
- The identity of the 4 kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream has been the subject of much debate. The interpretation of the 4 kingdoms of Chapter 2 is closely related to the 4 hybrid beasts of Daniel 7 and the ram and the goat in Daniel 8.
- The 2 interpretation views are the Greek view and the Roman view. The Roman view is the more traditional viewpoint and uses the New Testament for support. Here are the 2 views:

Statue Part	Greek View	Roman View
Head of gold	Babylonian empire	Babylonian empire
Arms and chest of silver	Mede empire	Medo-Persian empire
Belly and thighs of bronze	Persian empire	Greek empire
Legs of iron	Greek empire	Roman empire
Feet of Iron and Clay	Ptolemy/Seleucid empires	Roman empire
Stone/Everlasting Kingdom	Kingdom of God	Kingdom of God

- Notice that the metals go from weak to hard as you progress through the kingdoms from the top to the bottom of the chart. This expresses the relative strength of the empires until you get to the “feet of iron and clay.”
- The Archaeological Study Bibles states that the four kingdoms are becoming increasingly large, diverse, violent, and unstable.
- Here are a few maps of the various empires so that you can see the geographic changes.

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1. According to Daniel 2:1, what issue did Nebuchadnezzar face early in his reign?

2. Read Daniel 2:2-11.
 - a. How did the king propose to solve this issue?

 - b. What was unusual about the king's command?

 - c. What was the reward for success?

 - d. What was the penalty for failure?

 - e. What were the responses of all the king's Babylonian wise men?

 - f. What accusations did the king make against his Babylonian wise men?

 - g. What do you think was the king's motive?

3. According to Daniel 2:12-13,
 - a. What did Nebuchadnezzar do next?

 - b. Who was included in this decree and why? (Refer to Daniel 1:17-20 also.)

 - c. Read Isaiah 47:13-14a. Why did Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian wise men fail at the task set before them?

4. Read Daniel 2:14-23.
 - a. What was Daniel's reaction to the king's decree?

 - b. Why do you think Daniel reacted this way? Do you think his reaction was unusual?

 - c. What did Daniel ask the king for?

 - d. What did Daniel hope for with this request?

 - e. What did Daniel do next?

 - f. Read Isaiah 46:9-10. On whom are Daniel and his friends relying on to answer the king's command and save their own lives? Why can they rely on him?

- g. According to Daniel 1: 17, why was Daniel confident of his ability?

 - h. How does Deuteronomy 18:14 provide additional context?

 - i. What happens next in the story?

 - j. To whom does Daniel give glory?

 - k. List the different things in Daniel's praise.

 - l. What does this passage tell you about Daniel's faith?

 - m. What does this passage tell you about God's character?
5. Read Daniel 2:24-30.
- a. What is Daniel's first action?

 - b. Why do you think Daniel took this action?

- c. What does this say about Daniel's sense of justice?
 - d. Who is the "revealer of mysteries" in verse 29?
6. According to Daniel 2:31-35,
- a. What did the king dream?
 - b. Why would this dream have troubled Nebuchadnezzar?
 - c. Describe each body part in the statute. Give the material and what each part represented.
 - d. How would you describe the relative strength of each body part and what it represents as you progress from top to bottom?
 - e. What happened to the statue?

7. Read Daniel 2:36-45.

- a. Who is Nebuchadnezzar in the dream and how does Daniel describe him?

- b. How do you think Nebuchadnezzar reacted to this description?

- c. What does Daniel's interpretation state about the kingdoms after Babylon?

- d. What is the meaning of the rock in the dream?

- e. What does the rock do?

- f. Read Psalm 110:5, Isaiah 9:7, Isaiah 26:4, and 1 Peter 2:4-8. What does the Bible say about this rock and who it represents?

- g. What is the nature of the last kingdom?

- h. If the other exiles in Babylon heard about this dream and Daniel's interpretation, what would they think about them?

 - i. What is the key difference between the statue and the rock?
8. From Daniel 2: 46-49,
- a. What is Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to the dream interpretation?

 - b. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar responded in this way?

 - c. What does Nebuchadnezzar think about Daniel's God?

 - d. Do you think Nebuchadnezzar became a Hebrew convert?

 - e. What did the king do for Daniel?

 - f. What favor did Daniel ask of the king?

- g. According to Daniel 1, how were Daniel and his friends prepared for the ending of Daniel 2?
- 9. In Daniel chapters 1 and 2, we see Daniel growing in wisdom.
 - a. Who was the source of this wisdom?
 - b. How does Paul's commentary from 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16 provide context on such wisdom?

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Let your astrologers come forward.....All of them go on in their error; there is not one that can save you. Isaiah 47:13b, 15b

1. According to Daniel 2:1, what issue did Nebuchadnezzar face early in his reign?
In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled, and he could not sleep.
2. Read Daniel 2:2-11.
 - a. How did the king propose to solve this issue?
He summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed.
 - b. What was unusual about the king's command?
The king wanted the people he summoned to tell him what the dream was and interpret it. The "normal" process would have been for the king to tell them what the dream was and then they would deliver the interpretation.
 - c. What was the reward for success?
The person who did what the king asked would receive gifts, rewards, and great honor.
 - d. What was the penalty for failure?
They would be cut into pieces and their houses turned into piles of rubble.
 - e. What were the responses of all the king's Babylonian wise men?
The astrologers answered the king, "**There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. ¹¹ What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods,** and they do not live among humans." Daniel 2:10-11
 - f. What accusations did the king make against his Babylonian wise men?
The king accused the wise men of stalling for time and of conspiring against him by telling him misleading and wicked things.
 - g. What do you think was the king's motive?
The king was trying to test the genuineness of the advice / interpretations he was receiving from his wise men.

3. According to Daniel 2:12-13,

- a. What did Nebuchadnezzar do next?
Nebuchadnezzar became angry and furious. He ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon.
- b. Who was included in this decree and why? (Refer to Daniel 1:17-20 also.)
Daniel and his friends were also wise men. According to Daniel 1:20, they were 10 times better than all the magicians and enchanters in the entire kingdom.
- c. Read Isaiah 47:13-14a. Why did Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian wise men fail at the task set before them?
 - All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. ¹⁴ Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. Isaiah 47:13-14
 - The wise men failed because they were depending on their own wisdom and their wisdom books for answers. Their wisdom and answers were worthless.

4. Read Daniel 2:14-23.

- a. What was Daniel's reaction to the king's decree?
When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. ¹⁵ He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Daniel 2:14-15
- b. Why do you think Daniel reacted this way? Do you think his reaction was unusual?
 - Daniel was trying to understand why the king had issued such a harsh and all-inclusive decree.
 - Daniel did not want to further anger Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, and thus, the king, any further.
 - His calmness in the face of death seems unusual. The normal reaction would be fear and panic.
- c. What did Daniel ask the king for?
Daniel asked the king for more time so that he could interpret the king's dream.

- d. What did Daniel hope for with this request?
Daniel wanted more time for God to intervene in this situation and time for the king to calm down.
- e. What did Daniel do next?
Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ¹⁸ He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Daniel 2:17-18
- f. Read Isaiah 46:9-10. On whom are Daniel and his friends relying on to answer the king's command and save their own lives? Why can they rely on him?
- Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. ¹⁰ I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. Isaiah 46:9-10
 - They were relying on God.
 - God had protected them so far. God had gifted them with knowledge and understanding. God had gifted Daniel with the ability to understand visions and dreams. They knew God keeps his promises.
- g. According to Daniel 1: 17, why was Daniel confident of his ability?
To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.
- h. How does Deuteronomy 18:14 provide additional context?
The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so.
- i. What happens next in the story?
During the night, the mystery about the king's dream was revealed to Daniel in a vision.
- j. To whom does Daniel give glory?
Daniel gives the glory to God.
- k. List the different things in Daniel's praise.
- Wisdom and power belong to God.
 - God controls times and seasons.

- God deposes kings and raises up others.
- God gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.
- God reveals deep and hidden things. He knows what lies in darkness.
- Light dwells with God.
- God is the God of Daniels ancestors.
- God gave Daniel wisdom and power.
- God gave Daniel the contents of the king's dream, as they asked God to do.

l. What does this passage tell you about Daniel's faith?

Daniel's faith in God's power is strong. Daniel has confidence that God hears and answers prayers.

m. What does this passage tell you about God's character?

God is faithful. God is all powerful. God is good.

5. Read Daniel 2:24-30.

a. What is Daniel's first action?

He went to Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, and asked him not to execute the king's wise men. He asked to be taken to the king so that he could interpret the king's dream.

b. Why do you think Daniel took this action?

Daniel wanted to prevent bloodshed.

c. What does this say about Daniel's sense of justice?

Daniel did not want to see innocent men executed when he could fulfill the king's request.

d. Who is the "revealer of mysteries" in verse 29?

God Almighty

6. According to Daniel 2:31-35,

a. What did the king dream?

Nebuchadnezzar saw an enormous dazzling statue which was destroyed by a rock, uncut by human hands. The rock became a huge mountain which filled the whole earth.

b. Why would this dream have troubled Nebuchadnezzar?

Nebuchadnezzar likened the statue as himself and saw that he would be destroyed by some non-human force.

c. Describe each body part in the statue. Give the material and what each part represented.

- Head of pure gold
- Chest and arms of silver
- Belly and thighs of bronze
- Legs of iron
- Feet of part iron and part clay

d. How would you describe the relative strength of each body part and what it represents as you progress from top to bottom?

As you progress from top to bottom, the relative strength increases until you get to the feet. The amalgamation of iron and clay would be weak and easily broken.

e. What happened to the statue?

The statue was destroyed by a rock which was uncut by human hands. The feet were struck first, followed by the legs, belly, thighs, chest, arms, and head. The pieces became like chaff.

7. Read Daniel 2:36-45.

a. Who is Nebuchadnezzar in the dream and how does Daniel describe him?

- Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold.
- Nebuchadnezzar was the king of kings. God had given him dominion, power, might and glory. He was ruler over all mankind, birds, and beasts of the field.

b. How do you think Nebuchadnezzar reacted to this description?

Nebuchadnezzar reacted with pride and little modesty.

c. What does Daniel's interpretation state about the kingdoms after Babylon?

- The next kingdom after Babylon, of silver, will be inferior to it.
- The 3rd kingdom, of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.
- The 4th kingdom, of iron, will crush and break all other kingdoms.
- The 5th kingdom will be a divided kingdom, partly strong and partly brittle. The people will be a mixture and will not remain united.

- d. What is the meaning of the rock in the dream?
During the 5th kingdom, God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed nor will it be left to another people.
- e. What does the rock do?
The rock crushes all those kingdoms and brings them to an end. This kingdom of God, unbuilt by human hands, will endure forever.
- f. Read Psalm 110:5, Isaiah 9:7, Isaiah 26:4, and 1 Peter 2:4-8. What does the Bible say about this rock and who it represents?
- The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. Psalms 110:5
 - Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:7
 - As you come to him, the living Stone —rejected by humans but chosen by God 1 Peter 2:4
 - See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame. 1 Peter 2:6
 - The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." 1 Peter 2:7-8
 - **Jesus Christ is the Rock.**
- g. What is the nature of the last kingdom?
The last kingdom was created by God, will endure forever, and will destroy all man-made kingdoms.
- h. If the other exiles in Babylon heard about this dream and Daniel's interpretation, what would they think about them?
The other exiles might have mixed feelings about what they hear. On the one hand, they would be pleased to know that the Babylonian kingdom would not last forever and that the kingdom which follows it would be weaker than Babylon. On the other hand, the dream suggests that many kingdoms will come and go

before God establishes His kingdom which will destroy all other kingdoms and endure forever.

- i. What is the key difference between the statue and the rock?
 - The statue was man-made.
 - The rock was not made by human hands.
8. From Daniel 2: 46-49,
- a. What is Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to the dream interpretation?

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. ⁴⁷ The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." Daniel 2:46-47
 - b. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar responded in this way?
 - Nebuchadnezzar was pleased to learn that his kingdom was richer and stronger than the kingdom which would follow Babylon.
 - Nebuchadnezzar was grateful to Daniel, and indirectly to God, for the explanation of his dream.
 - Nebuchadnezzar was impressed with God's power.
 - c. What does Nebuchadnezzar think about Daniel's God?

Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges God as above all the other Babylonian gods and a great revealer of mysteries.
 - d. Do you think Nebuchadnezzar became a Hebrew convert?

No. Nebuchadnezzar just thinks of God as the greatest in the pantheon of gods. God has a great power, to reveal dreams, but Nebuchadnezzar does not state that he will worship God alone and that all other gods are false and unworthy of worship.
 - e. What did the king do for Daniel?

Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Daniel 2:48

- f. What favor did Daniel ask of the king?
 Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court. Daniel 2:49
- g. According to Daniel 1, how were Daniel and his friends prepared for the ending of Daniel 2?
- To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. Daniel 1:17
 - The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. Daniel 1:19-20
9. In Daniel chapters 1 and 2, we see Daniel growing in wisdom.
- a. Who was the source of this wisdom?
 God
- b. How does Paul's commentary from 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16 provide context on such wisdom?
- **I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.**
²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ **For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.** ²² **Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,** ²³ **but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,** ²⁴ **but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. 1 Corinthians 1:19-25
 - **We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.** ⁷ **No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.** 1 Corinthians 2:6-7

- What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ **This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.** 1 Corinthians 2:12-14
- The wisdom of the world is man's wisdom. This human wisdom is fleeting and has a weak basis. God's wisdom is deeper than man's wisdom and is eternal. God's wisdom is revealed to us through his son Jesus Christ, through his Word, and through the Holy Spirit.

Daniel 2

Language

- Daniel 2:4 – Daniel 7:28: Language is Aramaic, the Language of Nebuchadnezzar's Tribe
 - These Chapters Were Important to Babylon
- Daniel 1 and Daniel 8-12: Language is Hebrew
 - These Chapters Contain Matters Relative to Israel

A Troubled Mind

- Why Was Nebuchadnezzar Troubled in 603 BC?
 - 604 BC: Another War in Syria
 - 604 BC: War With Ashkelon
 - 603 BC: A 3rd War, Location Not Named

Babylonian Empire (Late 7th - Early 6th Centuries B.C.E.)



Map of Babylonian Empire Copyright:
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Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- Cannot Recall All the Details?
- Old Babylonian Omen Text:
 - “If a Man Cannot Remember the Dream He Saw (it Means): His Personal God is Angry With Him”
- The King is Unnerved and Desperate
- Call in ALL the Wise Men (Except Daniel and Friends)



A Babylonian Omen Text, Circa 1900-1700 BC
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A Babylonian Dream Tablet, Circa 15th Century BC

Copyright: Penn Museum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Babylonian Dream Interpretation

- Dream Manuals With Historical Dreams and the Events Which Followed Them
- Search the Books; Find the Correct Dream Example to Interpret a Dream
- One Could Determine Future Portents by Analyzing Dreams, Astral Events, and Animal Entrails
- The Bible and Babylonians Both Had Dream Interpretation
- Divination Was Strictly Prohibited by Scripture
- No One Could Interpret a Dream Without Hearing it First; Nebuchadnezzar Should Consult the Gods!

Daniel and the King's Dream

- Chapter 2 Shows Nebuchadnezzar's Pride and Mental Instability
- Who Will Interpret Your Dreams if You've Executed All the Wise Men?
- In Chapter 4, the King Dips Into Severe Insanity
- In 2:17-18, Daniel Gathers His 3 Friends and Urges Them to Plead for Mercy From God Concerning the Mystery, Which is the Detail of the Dream
- Daniel Turns to God for Help

“God of Heaven”

- Term Used in Chapter 2 is Rarely Used in Pre-exilic Texts
- A Likeness to Baal Samen, the Phoenician Baal, Referred to as “Lord of Heaven”
- The Israelites Would Have Been Careful Not to Use a Word Which Conveyed that Yahweh and Baal Samen Were One in the Same
- Used in Chapter 2, It is Fitting in the Context of the Babylonian Pantheon of Gods, Where Astral Worship Was Practiced
- Yahweh is Creator of the Earth and the Heavens

The King's Dream

- The Mystery Revealed to Daniel in a Vision, Not in a Dream
- God Intervened Directly to Answer the Mystery
- Daniel's Vision is a Direct Contrast to Nebuchadnezzar's Dream
- Daniel 2:28; God Has Been Speaking Directly to Nebuchadnezzar in the Dream
- What Was God Trying to Tell Nebuchadnezzar?
- After the Interpretation, the King Does Not Ask, "How Long Will My Kingdom Last Before it is Replaced?"
- He is Focused on Himself and His Kingdom

The King Prostrates Himself

- No King Like Nebuchadnezzar Would Worship Any Man But Himself
- The King is Honoring Daniel's God by Honoring His Servant, Daniel
- The King Calls Yahweh By Many Lofty Titles, But He is Just Another God Among the Gods
- There is No Statement That Yahweh is the One True God and That Only He Should Be Worshipped

The Rewards

- Daniel Made Ruler Over the Province of Babylon
- Daniel Oversees All the Wise Men
- Daniel's 3 Friends Given Jobs as Administrators in Country Districts of the Province of Babylon, Likely Subject to Daniel
- Daniel Remained at the King's Court, a Near Eastern Idiom Which Suggests Cabinet Rank

Daniel 2: Apocalyptic Literature

- Daniel 2 Introduces Us to Apocalyptic Literature Which Predicts the End of the World
- Tremper Longman III Regarding Apocalyptic Literature:
 - Exercise Caution With These Highly Metaphoric Visions
 - The Images Communicate Truth, But Not With Precision
 - The Numbers are Symbolic
 - Understand the Scripture in its Original Setting

The 4 Kingdoms

- The Identity of the 4 Kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Has Been the Subject of Much Debate
- The Interpretation of Chapter 2 is Closely Related to the 4 Hybrid Beasts of Daniel 7 and the Ram and Goat of Daniel 8
- 2 Interpretation Views
 - Greek View
 - Roman View



The Statue from Daniel 2 and the Beasts
From Daniel 7

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The Greek and Roman Interpretations

Statue Part	Greek View	Roman View
Head of Gold	Babylonian Empire	Babylonian Empire
Arm & Chest of Silver	Mede Empire	Medo-Persian Empire
Belly & Thighs of Bronze	Persian Empire	Greek Empire
Legs of Iron	Greek Empire	Roman Empire
Feet of Iron and Clay	Ptolemy/Seleucid Empires	Roman Empire
Stone/Everlasting Kingdom	Kingdom of God	Kingdom of God

The 4 Kingdoms

- Notice That the Metals Go From Weak to Hard As Your Progress Through the Kingdoms Top to Bottom
- This Expresses the Relative Strength of the Empires Until “Feet of Clay and Iron”
- Archaeological Study Bible:
 - The Four Kingdoms Are Becoming Increasingly Large, Diverse, Violent, and Unstable
- A Few Maps of the Various Empires Follow to Show the Geographic Changes



The Neo-Babylonian Empire

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Neo-Babylonian Empire Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar II, Nabonidus, Belshazzar (625-539 BC)

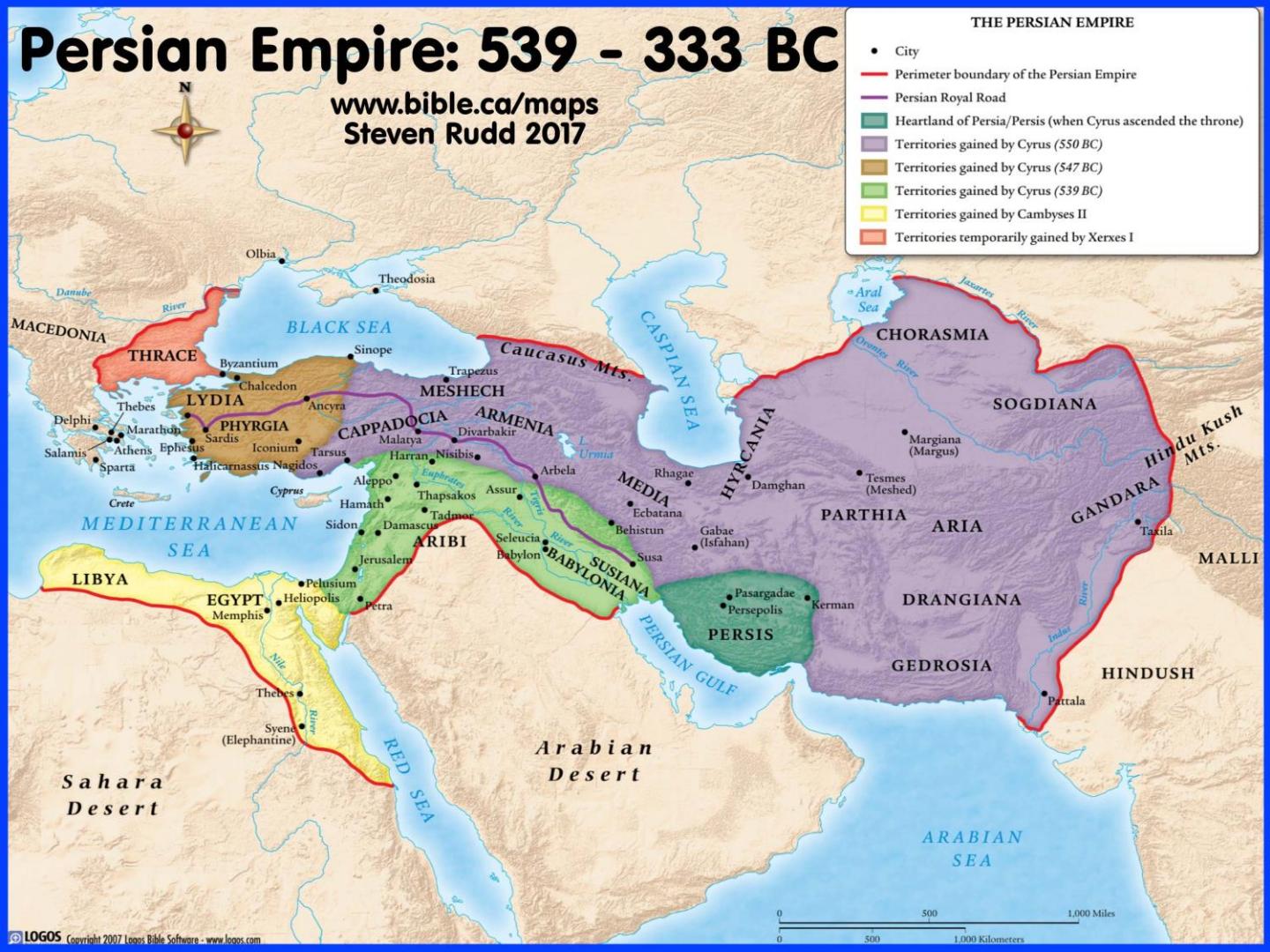


Persian Empire: 539 - 333 BC

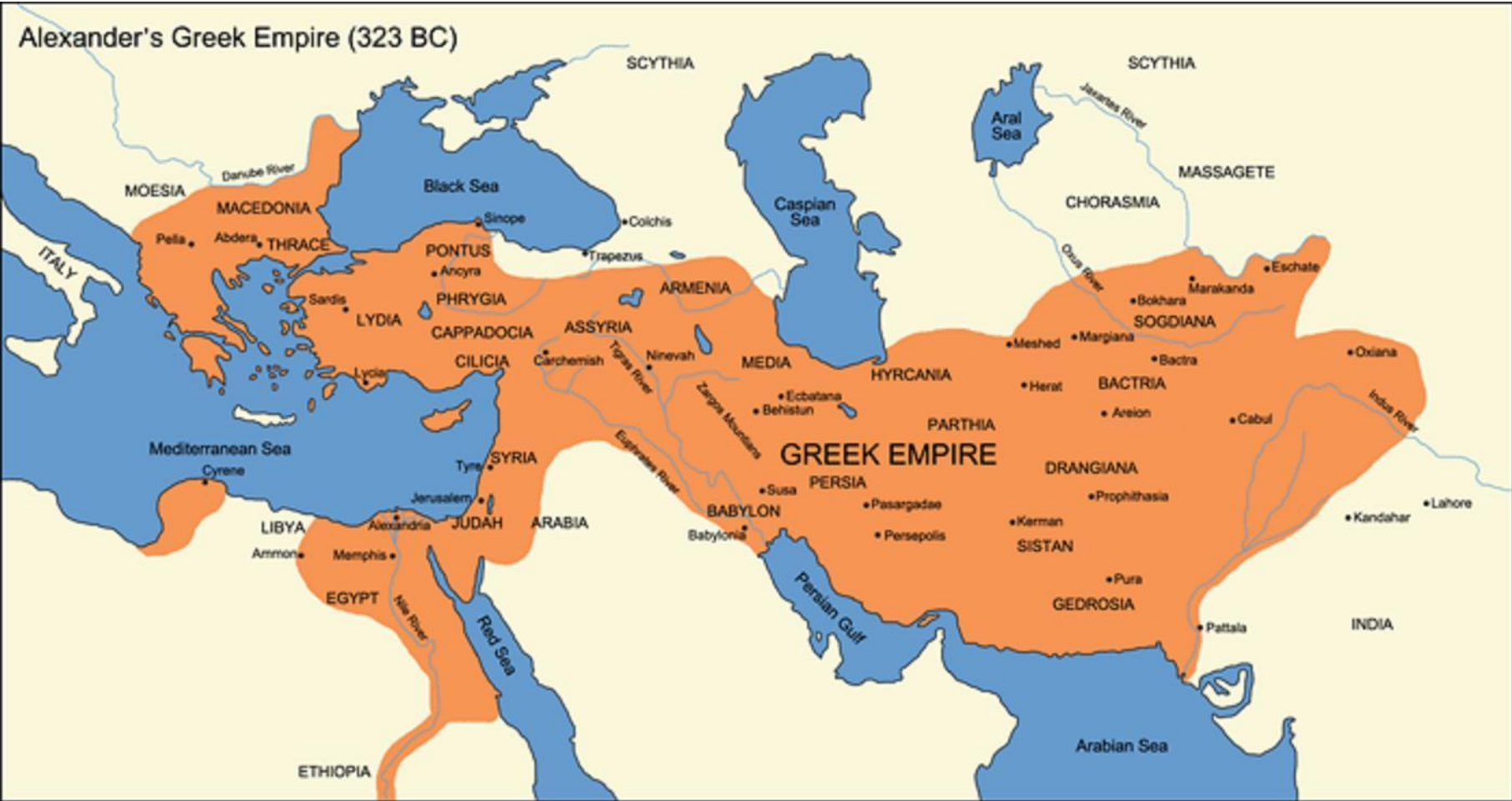
www.bible.ca/maps
Steven Rudd 2017

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

- City
- Perimeter boundary of the Persian Empire
- Persian Royal Road
- Heartland of Persia/Persis (when Cyrus ascended the throne)
- Territories gained by Cyrus (550 BC)
- Territories gained by Cyrus (547 BC)
- Territories gained by Cyrus (539 BC)
- Territories gained by Cambyses II
- Territories temporarily gained by Xerxes I



The Persian Empire 539-333 BC
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Map of the Greek Empire at its Height (Alexander the Great)

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Map of the Kingdoms of Ptolemy and Seleucids after Alexander's Death
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