

DANIEL

# Daniel and the Four Kingdoms

Daniel 2 & 7



THE BOOK OF  
**DANIEL**





# Daniel at Qumran

DANIEL

- Due to the amount of Daniel fragments found in various caves near Qumran, it appears that this prophetic book was one of the most treasured by that community.
- For whatever reason, Daniel was peculiarly safeguarded to the extent that we have at our disposal parts of all chapters of Daniel, except chapters 9 and 12.
- As in the case of Isaiah, before Qumran there were no extant manuscripts of Daniel that dated earlier than the late tenth century A.D.

# Furthermore...

- There are clear indications that the book of Daniel was considered “canonical” for the Qumran community, which meant it was recognized as an authoritative book on a par with other biblical books.
- **The canonicity of Daniel at Qumran is indicated, not only by the prolific fragments, but by the manner in which it is referenced in other materials.**

If the book wasn't written until well into the 2nd century B.C., then how did it gain such prominence in the community?

# Did You Know?

DANIEL

The men of Qumran were extremely apocalyptic and eschatological in their thinking and writing.

Why?



Because they could do math!



## Daniel 2:31-33

**31** “You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. **32** The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, **33** its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.





**Daniel 2:37** You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; **38** and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.



**Daniel 2:39a** After you there will  
arise another kingdom inferior  
to you

## Daniel 2:39b

then another  
third  
kingdom of  
bronze,  
which will  
rule over all  
the earth.



# Daniel 2:40-43



**40** Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. **41** In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. **42** As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. **43** And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

**50 YEARS  
LATER**

# Daniel 7



## Daniel 7:2-3

## DANIEL

**2** Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. **3** And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

# Four Great Beasts

DANIEL

- This stirred-up sea produced four startling creatures, one after the other, each more frightening than the preceding one.
- In 7:17, Daniel is told that “These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.”



## Daniel 7:4

“The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.”





**This Beast  
Sounds  
Familiar...**

**In Daniel 4:33  
Nebuchadnezzar's "hair had  
grown like eagles' feathers and  
his nails like birds' claws."**

## In Daniel 7:4...

- The 1st beast “was like a lion, and had the wings of an eagle,” and then just as Nebuchadnezzar was restored to humanity in chapter 4, “I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.”
- This beast, then, symbolizes the king of Babylon and the era of his kingdom.

# The Babylonian Empire

DANIEL

- Babylon conquers Assyria in 612 B.C.
- Jerusalem is conquered in 605 B.C., and many of Judah's elites are taken to Babylon.
- Babylon finally destroys Jerusalem and the Temple in 586 B.C.
- Babylon is conquered by Cyrus the Great and the Medo-Persian Empire in 539 B.C.

# THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE 6-7TH CENTURY B.C.

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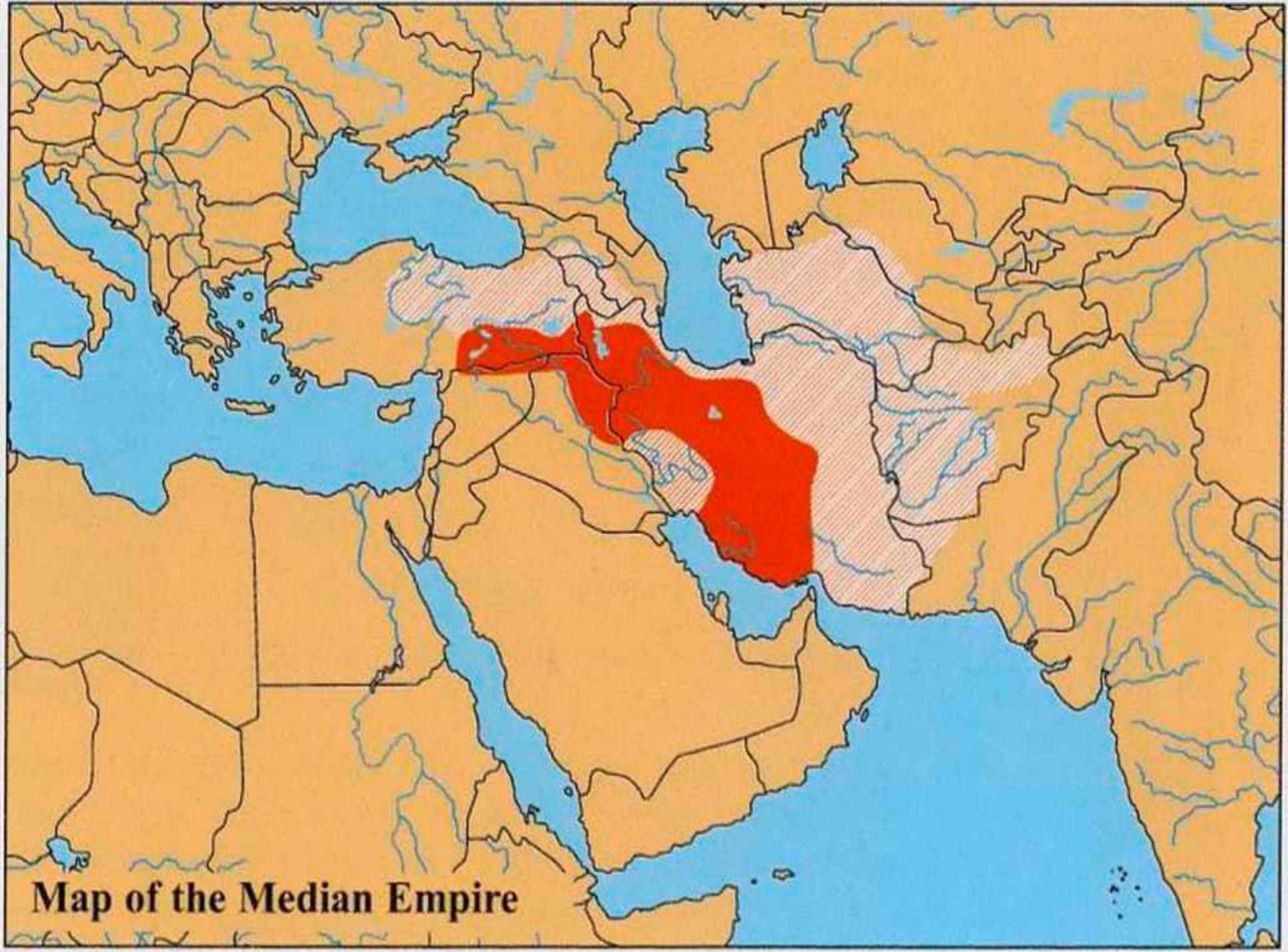
**Daniel 7:5**

“And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, ‘Arise, devour much meat!’”

# Media (Northwest Iran)

DANIEL

- **Rebelling against the crumbling Assyrian Empire, the Medes capture Nineveh in 612 B.C., and as a result, they are able to establish their Median kingdom with Ecbatana as their royal center.**
- **They existed as an ally to Babylon from about 616-550 B.C., and the Median kingdom was eventually conquered in 550 BC by Cyrus the Great, who established the Persian Empire.**



**Map of the Median Empire**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Beast: Medo-Persia

DANIEL

- The phrase, “it was raised up itself on one side” means it was either poised and ready to spring or grotesquely deformed. Many scholars think the raised up side suggests the unequal power of the two countries combined in the Medo-Persian Empire.
- **Notice the three ribs in the mouth of the bear—Persia conquered three major nations: Lydia (546 B.C.), Babylon (539 B.C.), and Egypt (525 B.C.).**

# Isaiah 45:1-6 (c. 700 B.C.)

DANIEL

**1** Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him And to loose the loins of kings; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: **2** “I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars. **3** “I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden wealth of secret places, So that you may know that it is I, The Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name. **4** **“For the sake of Jacob My servant, And Israel My chosen one, I have also called you by your name;** I have given you a title of honor Though you have not known Me. **5** “I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; **6** That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other

# Medo-Persian Empire

DANIEL

- Dates of Persian lordship over the region: 539-333 B.C.
- 538 B.C. – Cyrus' decree sending Jews back to Jerusalem
- The book of Esther occurs during this empire
- The entire period of restoration that occurs in Ezra and Nehemiah fell within the period of Persian control

# THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE 4-6TH CENTURY B.C.

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## Daniel 7:6

“After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.”

# Philip of Macedon

DANIEL

- Laid the foundation for the Greek Empire; he succeeded where others had failed before him in uniting the Greek city states under a single ruler.
- Upon his death, his ambitious son, Alexander, takes over, and he immediately looks eastward to the vast areas controlled by the Greeks' ancient enemy, the Persians.

# Alexander the Great

DANIEL

Was only 20 when his father was murdered, but managed to consolidate his hold on Greece and to unify the Greeks with “rage” over the way the Persians had been attacking them and meddling in their affairs for the previous two centuries.



**More on this in Chapter 8!**

# Why the Leopard?

- Leopards are known for speed, keen eyesight, and keen hearing, allowing them to stalk their prey and pounce unsuspectingly, but the four wings emphasize even more the element of speed, which corresponds well to Alexander the Great's conquest of the known world by age 32.
- **Alexander invaded Asia Minor in 334 B.C., and within 10 years had conquered the entire Persian Empire (including Israel in 332 B.C.).**

# THE GREEK EMPIRE 4TH CENTURY B.C.

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## Daniel 7:7

“After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.”

# “Strong as Iron”

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom in Daniel 2:33 –
- “its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron...”
- Daniel 2:40 –
- “iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.”
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Beast in Daniel 7:7 –
- “and it had large iron teeth”
- Daniel 7:7 –
- “It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet”

# 4<sup>th</sup> Beast: Rome

DANIEL

- The Roman Empire was significantly different than the earlier empires, for it far surpassed them in power, longevity, and influence.
- **The world had never before seen anything like it (“it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it”).**
- Greece was largely subjugated to Rome by about 167 B.C after the Macedonian Wars.
- **Rome defeats Greece once and for all in 31 B.C. at the Battle of Actium.**

# The Roman Empire

DANIEL

- Would dominate the known world through the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- The Empire would split into the eastern and western Roman Empires in 395, and the western empire (Rome) would fall in 476.
- The eastern empire (Constantinople) would exist until 1453, when it fell to the Ottoman Turks.

# THE ROMAN EMPIRE 1ST - 2ND CENTURY A.D.

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“These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth.”

**Daniel 7:17**

# The 4 Beasts of Daniel 7

DANIEL

1. “like a lion and had the wings of an eagle”

**Babylon**

2. “resembling a bear...three ribs were in its mouth”

**Medo-Persia**

3. “like a leopard which had on its back four wings of a bird”

**Greece**

4. “dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth”

**Rome**



Next Week: | **Cyrus**

DANIEL