

1. Last week I completed a study of Rev 12:1-2. When time expired we were about to begin an analysis of Rev 12:3-4.
2. Before continuing, I want to provide “1Jo 1:9 time” as may be necessary.
3. The first “half” of the book of the Revelation is closed.
4. Before beginning new material let me give you an expanded translation of Rev 12:1-2.

Expanded Translation

Rev 12:1 I then saw an exciting and wondrous scene in heaven; it was obviously a sign: there I could see a woman representing Israel; she was clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head; these things representing the twelve tribes who will ultimately rule.

Rev 12:2 The woman Israel was pregnant; she cried out in pain as she was about to give birth to the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. Now for an analysis of verses three and four.

KJV

Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Rev 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

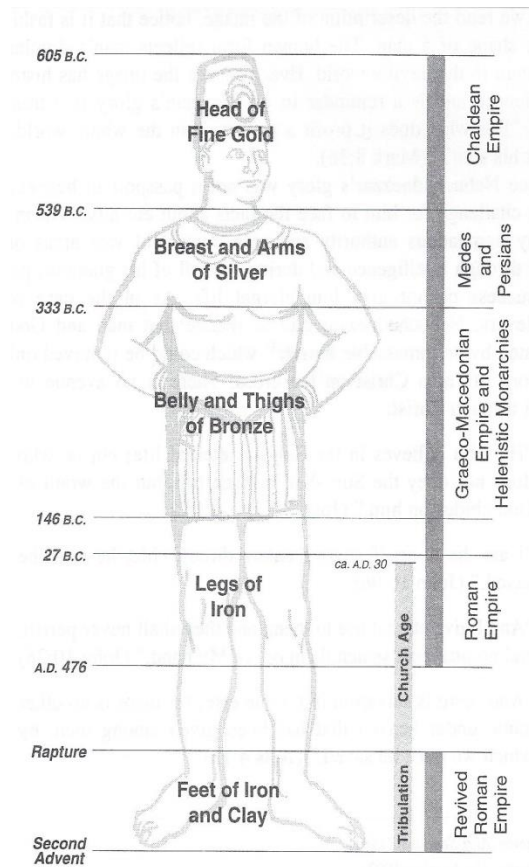
1. The second great sign appearing in heaven is described as a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns upon his heads.
2. From the similar description given in Rev 13:1 and the parallel references in Daniel Chapters two and seven, it is clear that the revived Roman Empire is in view as the last of some five listed Gentile world empires in prophecy.
3. Let's first take a look at how God has juxtaposed Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures with remarkable accuracy though spanning many years.
4. The years span from c. 600 B.C. to A.D. 96 or from Nebuchadnezzar to the Apostle John.

Expanded Translation

Rev 13:1 The devil looked out on planet earth's swirling mass of humanity; he viewed the confusion of the Gentile world as opportunity. Then I saw the Antichrist arise out from the confused skein of the nations. There was a ten nation federation ruling Europe and out from one of the smallest of the ten the Antichrist rose to power. Soon the Antichrist took over two other nations and then finally he became ruler over all ten; each of the ten leaders served as blasphemous heads of state in open opposition to God.

Expanded Translation

Dan 2:31 “What you saw, O King, was this: there before you stood a great statue. This great image was awesome in brightness; its colorful appearance signified several future glamorous empires and its form was terrifying, but a symbol of the great power of the empires to come.



NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S IMAGE

Dan 2:32 The golden head represents you, O King, as ruler of Babylon. The breast and arms of silver represents the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians to follow, and the belly and thighs of bronze represents a Grecian Empire that will supplant the Medo-Persians.

Dan 2:33 The legs of the image were made of iron, representing a future Roman Empire, and the feet were made of both iron and clay, representing an even more distant and powerful Revived Roman Empire with ten supporting nations.

Dan 2:34 Then you saw a large uncut stone rolling down a steep grade; it struck the base of the image, and the iron and clay were smashed into many pieces. The stone represents Jesus Christ at His Second Advent.

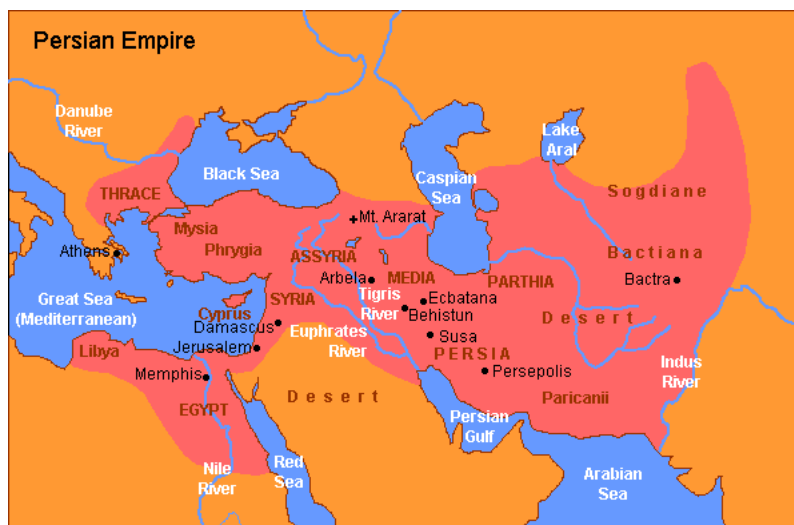
Dan 2:35 As a result of the Stone striking the image, the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold were broken into pieces, and a great wind blew them away. Not a trace of the shards could be found: and the Stone became a great mountain and filled the entire earth. His rule was recognized by all the nations of the world.

Dan 2:36 “Now, my King, with reference to what you dreamed, I shall provide further interpretation.

Dan 2:37 You, Nebuchadnezzar, are unique, for the God of the universe has given you a remarkable kingdom; a kingdom of glamour and military power.

Dan 2:38 God has given you authority over the entire earth; yes, O King, you are the head of gold.

Dan 2:39 But after you, O King, there shall rise an inferior kingdom consisting of the Medes and Persians.



In short order, the Persians shall dominate the Medes, and after the Persian Empire shall rise-up a Greco-Macedonian kingdom, led by a remarkable young man named Alexander the Great.

Dan 2:40 And then the Roman Empire, a fourth kingdom, strong like iron, shall break and subdue all things; the iron empire shall bruise all peoples, especially my people, Israel, who will in A.D. 70 be severely punished by these Romans.



Dan 2:41 “And then you saw the feet and toes made partly of potter's clay and partly of iron. The feet represent a revived Rome and the ten toes represent a ten-nation federation. When the Rapture of the Church occurs, the feet, partly of iron and partly of clay, will consolidate into the Revived Roman Empire. The Revived Roman Empire (or Rome II, as it is also called) will be under the control of the Satan-indwelt Antichrist, headquartered in Rome.

Dan 2:42 The ten toes were partly iron and partly clay, so shall the kingdom be partly strong and partly broken, the clay being dominated by the stronger iron.

Dan 2:43 You saw iron mixed with clay, so the people of the ten nations shall serve the Romans under a Satan-indwelt Antichrist who will form a union of religious and political institutions, but they shall not completely adhere, even as iron does not mix with clay. Soon the Antichrist will destroy all ties with the inferior nations and their religious affiliations.

Dan 2:44 At the end of the time of Jacob's trouble, the Tribulation, God shall set up the Kingdom of Christ, which shall never be destroyed; it shall consume all the nations aligned with the Antichrist. Christ's kingdom shall stand forever.

Dan 2:45 “This is the meaning of the gigantic stone, the Messiah Christ Who was cut out of the mountain, a giant stone made not with the hands of man, but solely a product of God; as you saw, the Great Stone broke in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver and the gold. The God of the universe has made known to Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. The dream is accurate and the interpretation of it is sure.”

Dan 2:46 Then the king fell on his face to worship Daniel and commanded others to worship him also.

Dan 2:47 And he said, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings; He is a revealer of secrets, having revealed my dream to you.

Expanded Translation

Dan 7:1 In the first year of the Babylonian co-regency of Nabonidus and Belshazzar, in c. 556 B.C., I had a dream. I was lying on my bed when I saw several visions. I recorded the visions, in summary fashion, in my diary.

Dan 7:2 I, Daniel, was lying in my bed. I looked up and saw the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. It was clearly the Mediterranean Sea.

Dan 7:3 Four dreadful creatures, each different from the other, came out of the sea; the sea represented the vast confused gentile world.

Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion; it had wings like an eagle. This first creature represented Babylon. I watched until its wings were ripped off and it was made to stand on its two back feet like a man. The heart of a man was given to it. The bizarre series of events pointed to Nebuchadnezzar's bout with his zoanthropy, his temporary demise as ruler of Babylon and his recovery after his regeneration.

Dan 7:5 I saw a second awful creature; it looked like a bear. The second beast represented the Medo-Persian Empire. The giant grizzly rose up on one of its sides. Between its teeth, and protruding from its mouth, were three ribs. The three ribs represented Babylon, Lydia and Egypt; these were three nations recently conquered by the Medo-Persians. It was then I received a command from one of the angels standing nearby, he declared, “Get up and eat more!”

Dan 7:6 And then I saw another beast rise out of the sea, one that looked like a leopard. On its back it had four wings. This beast also had four heads. It was given authority to rule. The nature of the leopard with its winged back spoke of Alexander the Great's speed of conquest.

He conquered the world in 12 short years. The four heads represented Alexander's four generals who, after Alexander's death in 323 B.C., ruled four Hellenistic empires.

Dan 7:7 In a terrifying night vision, I saw a fourth beast, more terrifying, and frightening and powerful than the other three. It had huge iron teeth. What it didn't grind with its teeth it smashed with its feet. It was different from all the former beasts; it had ten horns coming out of its head.

Dan 7:8 As I was thinking about these horns, a little horn appeared before me. Three of the beast's horns were pulled up by the roots to make room for it. This horn had the eyes of a man speaking boastfully of the things that it would do; the little horn was particularly critical of God.

Dan 7:9 Suddenly, my eyes were directed toward heaven. There I saw thrones being set in place by none other than God the Father, the Ancient of Days. He took His seat in the middle of the throne room. He wore a robe, as white as snow, signifying His absolute Righteousness; the hair of His head was white and thick like wool, a sign of His earned respect. His throne was elevated, surrounded by flaming fire. The throne had wheels that were all ablaze, as a symbol of His omnipresence and severe judgment upon all who deny His authority, rule and protocol.

Dan 7:10 I saw a river of fire flowing, like a sea of lava, from the throne room of God. Vast numbers of angels stood before Him. I estimate their numbers in the billions. It was announced that the Supreme Court of Heaven would soon be in session. A large set of books was brought into the heavenly court room.

Dan 7:11 I watched, in amazement, as the little horn, the Antichrist, boasted of his greatness and power. I kept on watching until he was slain at the Second Advent of Christ. I watched further, as Christ ordered that the Antichrist's body be thrown into the blazing fire of Hades.

Dan 7:12 Satan and his demons were allowed to live. They were chained for the greater part of one thousand years. At the end of the millennial reign of Christ, they were released, but only for a short period of time.

Dan 7:13 I continued to dream. I saw the Messiah. He looked like the Son of Man, the incarnate Christ. He came clothed in the clouds of heaven, and was led before the throne of the Ancient of Days.

Dan 7:14 The Ancient of Days gave Christ all authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language were required to worship Him. The dominion given Him was an everlasting one; one which would not pass away, a dominion that would never be destroyed.

Expanded Translation

Dan 8:1 In the third year of Prince Belshazzar's reign over Babylon, I, Daniel, had another vision. The year was approximately 550 B.C.

Dan 8:2 In my vision, I saw myself being transported both in space and time to a large palace in the city of Suza, in the province of Elam. In the vision, I was standing beside the Ulai Canal.

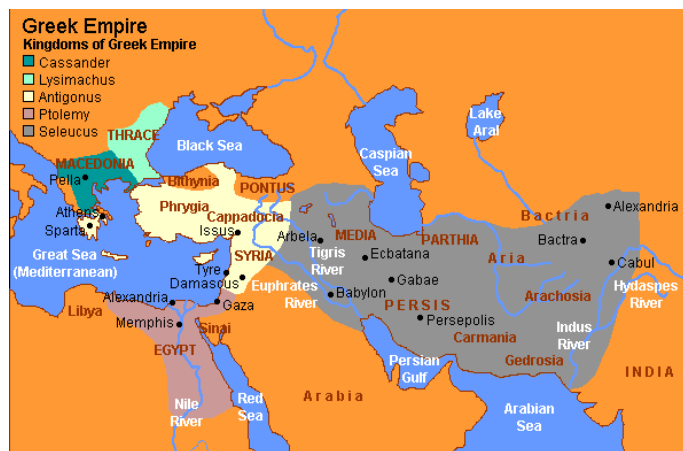
Dan 8:3 I, Daniel, looked up, and there before me was a ram (Medo-Persia) with two horns. The horns of the ram were long, but one of the horns (Persia) was much longer than the other. Somehow I knew the longer horn grew up out of the ram's head after the shorter horn (Medes).

Dan 8:4 I watched as the ram charged first toward the west, then the north and finally to the south. Strangely, the animal did not charge to the east. The ram was extremely powerful and dominant. There was nothing that could stand before him. All that got in his way succumbed to the ram's power. The dominant ram did as he pleased and became great.

Dan 8:5 As I was pondering what I had seen, a large male goat (Grecian Empire) suddenly appeared, with a prominent horn (Alexander) between his eyes. The goat had come from the west; I could see him bounding quickly across the whole earth. The goat moved with purpose and alacrity; so quick was his pace that his feet did not touch the ground.

Dan 8:6 The two-horned ram was still standing beside the canal outside the city of Suza. The goat, without breaking stride, suddenly charged in a fit of rage.

Dan 8:7 The large male goat attacked the ram, shattering the ram's two horns. The defenseless ram was powerless to stand against the goat. The ram tried to fight back, but the goat repeatedly knocked him to the ground. No one could rescue the ram from the power of the goat.



Dan 8:8 The male goat became the leader of a formidable empire, but at the height of his power, on a return trip from conquering Pakistan, the large horn, representing Alexander the Great, was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up. These four horns represented four generals who took over from Alexander. The goat's kingdom was divided among the four. The four were Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus.

Dan 8:9 From one of the horns, the horn of Seleucus, came an infamous horn, Antiochus Epiphanes. He started small but grew in power to the south, to the east and toward the land of Israel. Antiochus reigned from c. 175 B.C. to c. 150 B.C.

Dan 8:10 The horn grew until it reached the heavens, representing the meteoric rise to power of Epiphanes. The horn soon began a systematic persecution of God's people in the land that God had given Israel.

Dan 8:11 The horn, Antiochus Epiphanes from the line of Seleucus, thought of himself as the Lord God. In Israel he stopped all worship in the Temple. He even stopped the daily sacrifices and desecrated the Temple with, first, the blood of pigs and later the blood of Jewish children. Antiochus Epiphanes was a type of Antichrist to come.

Dan 8:12 Under the permissive will of God, Antiochus dominated Israel. He took complete charge of the Temple liturgy, demanding Israel worship the Greek pantheon. For a time, he prospered in everything he did. His ultimate demeaning of Israel and Jehovah God came when he had pig blood smeared in the Holy of Holies.

Dan 8:13 I heard one of the angels say to an angel standing nearby, "How long will it take for this awful vision to be fulfilled? When will the vision concerning the cessation of the daily sacrifice, the desolation of the Temple and the surrender of the sanctuary to foreigners come to pass?"

Dan 8:14 The angel turned to me, as though I had asked the question. "It will take twenty-three hundred days from the desecration of the Temple until its cleansing. "I, Daniel, thought long and hard as to the meaning of the twenty-three hundred days.

Dan 8:15 While I was trying to understand the meaning of the vision, I suddenly saw the figure of a man standing in front of me. He looked like a man, although he could have been an angel, or a Theophany.

Dan 8:16 I heard another man call from across the river, "Gabriel, tell Daniel the meaning of the vision."

Dan 8:17 Gabriel walked toward me. As he approached, I was too frightened to stand. I fell flat on my face.

"Son of man," he said, "you must understand that the events you have seen in your vision will not take place until the last days."

Dan 8:18 Strangely enough, while on the ground I passed out. Gabriel revived me with a touch. He assisted me to my feet.

Dan 8:19 "I am here," he said, "to tell you what is going to happen during the Great Tribulation. What you saw pertains to the final events of planet earth."

Dan 8:20 I was told the two-horned ram represented the kings of Media and Persia.

Dan 8:21 The goat, with the large horn, was said to represent the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes represented the first king, Alexander the Great.

Dan 8:22 The four horns that replaced the one broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from Alexander's Greece; the four, will not, however, be as powerful as Alexander.

Dan 8:23 Now at the end of the reign of the four Greek kings, when the gentile world has become particularly morally rotten, a very angry king shall rise to power. His name historically is Antiochus Epiphanes, a type of Antichrist; he will be very shrewd, cruel and intelligent, just as will his final gentile successor, the Antichrist of the Tribulation.

Dan 8:24 Both Antiochus and the Antichrist will become very strong, but not by their own power. Each will be indwelt by Satan. Both will cause terrible devastation and will succeed for a short time. They will attempt to destroy God's people, Israel.

Dan 8:25 Each will cause deceit to prosper, and both will consider each other superior, not only to other men, but each will think himself greater than God. They will destroy many and take a stand against God Himself. Yet both will fail. Antiochus will be defeated by the Maccabees and the Antichrist will be destroyed by Christ at His Second Advent.

Dan 8:26 "The vision given you is true, but keep it to yourself, for it concerns the distant future."

Dan 8:27 I, Daniel, was absolutely exhausted, and for several days I retired to my bed, too sick to perform my duties. After I recovered, I went back to work as the king's chief administrator; however, I continued to anxiously ponder the vision. The whole prophecy was beyond my understanding.

End Lesson Taught 4-26-2017

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