

1. Last week I exegeted Dan 2:29-31.

2. I am now ready to teach Daniel chapter two verse thirty-two. Daniel will continue to tell the king about his dream and its interpretation.

3. Before continuing I want to review an expanded translation of Dan 2:24-31.

Dan 2:24 Because Daniel's mind was full of information about the King and his dream, he asked Arioch to spare the wisemen and take him to Nebuchadnezzar's quarters. He had earlier informed Arioch that he knew what Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed and was ready to interpret the dream for the great King.

Dan 2:25 Seeking further prestige for himself, Arioch hastened to the king with Daniel, asserting "I have found a man of the captives of Judah who will tell you the interpretation of your dream."

Dan 2:26 Calling Daniel by his Chaldean name the king said "Belteshazzar have you come to tell and interpret my dream?"

Dan 2:27 Daniel was quick to answer "I know the wisemen, the astrologers, the magicians and priest have been unable to tell you what you dreamed!

Dan 2:28 But let me make clear Oh King! There is a God in heaven Who reveals secrets and makes known that which will come to pass and this He has elected to do, just for you."

Dan 2:29 O king, you dreamed about several future events. While you slept on your bed the God of heaven chose to reveal to you and you only certain secrets; mainly things which will come to pass hereafter.

Dan 2:30 As for me, these secret things were not revealed because I am wise or wiser than other member of your staff, but rather the revelation came so that you as the king might know the thoughts of your own right lobe and thus understand what went through your mind as you slept.

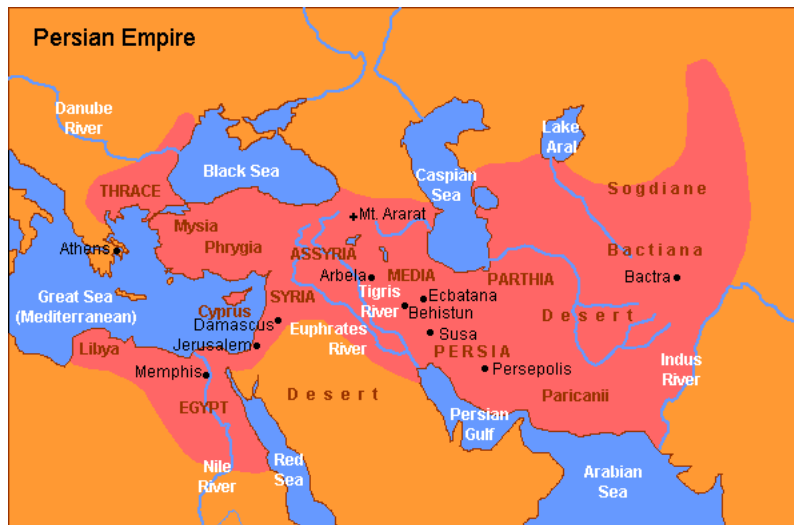
Dan 2:31 What you saw Oh King was this: there before you stood a great statue. This great image was awesome in brightness; its colorful appearance signified several future glamorous empires; its form was terrifying; a symbol of the great power of the empires to come.

4. Before we return to our study of Dan 2:32 I want to give you several points of introduction:

1. The demise of Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's descendent, came in approximately B.C. 539 at the hands of an alliance of Medo-Persian military forces.

1.1 By B.C. 536 the kingdom known as the Medo-Persian Kingdom had become a Persian Kingdom.

1.2 The Persian bear had eaten its Median ally.



2. A point or two about the Kings of Babylon and Persia might here prove helpful.

2.1 Nebuchadnezzar was the son of Nabopolassar an Assyrian nobleman.

2.2 Nebuchadnezzar died and rulership fell to Abel or Evil Marduk (often written Mardok) who ruled for two years.

2.3 Evil Marduk was assassinated by his brother Neriglissar who exiled all the magicians (probably to include Daniel) from the Kingdom.

2.4 At the death of Neriglissar a commoner soldier by the name of Labashi Marduk took the throne.

2.5 At the demise of Labashi Marduk a co-regency consisting of Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law Nabonidus and Nabonidus' son Belshazzar were in place in what might have been called a co-regency.

2.6 Nabonidus was an adventurer who loved to lead his military in the field thus he was often away from the capital; he spent most of his time leading the army against the Medes and the Persians.

2.7 While Nabonidus was away, Belshazzar ruled the Kingdom.

2.8 Belshazzar was the resident ruler in Babylon when Darius the Mede (who led the siege) conquered the city. His victory was the "immediate" fulfillment of the prophecy found written on the wall and described in Daniel chapter five.

2.9 The Medes will rule for a short time; they will give way to Persia under Cyrus the Great.

3. Now back to our verse:

1. The two arms represented the Medes and Persians respectively and the chest represented the consolidation of the two into what was known as the Persian Empire.

2. We can look to Daniel chapter eight verses eighteen through twenty where we learn of the Medes and Persians in yet another vision.

Dan 8:18 Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.

Dan 8:19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.

Dan 8:20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

2.1 Recall in this vision, the ram is attacked and defeated by strong goat who comes with great speed from the west.

2.2 Gabriel tells Daniel the goat will be a Grecian force.

2.3 Some 300 years later this prophecy comes to pass.

3. Let's see what the Grolier Encyclopedia has to say of ancient Persia.

3.1 The name Persia is derived from the ancient province of Persis; (modern Iran); it was later a name applied given by the Greeks to the entire land occupied by various Iranian tribes from which the Persian dynasty arose.

3.2 It is the land of present-day Iran and Afghanistan, geographically the Iranian plateau.

3.3 In the south were the Elamites, whose principal city, SUSA, was on the plain of Mesopotamia.

3.4 Later in the 2nd millennium B.C. the Elamites were found throughout southern Iran.

3.5 To the north in the mountains lived the Kassites who also descended onto the plains of Mesopotamia.

3.5.1 In present-day Azerbaijan lived people called Manneans.

3.5.2 South of the sea that bears their name lived the Caspians.

3.6 Thus the western part of the Iranian plateau was inhabited by various peoples whose relationships to each other and whose languages are hardly known.

3.7 The first kingdom, more like a federation of tribes, was created by the Iranians in about 700 BC in western Iran. They were known historically as the Medes.

3.8 The rise of Media was hindered by invasions from north of the Caucasus Mountains, first by a Thracian people called Cimmerians, followed by Iranian nomads called Scythians.

3.9 About 625 B.C. a new attempt was made by the Medes to form a united kingdom, and after defeating the Scythians, the Medes turned against Assyria.

3.10 An alliance was made between the Babylonians, Scythians and the Medes; these unlikely allies stormed and destroyed the Assyrian capital of Nineveh, in about 612 B.C.

3.10.1 The B.C. 612 date is used today by the Kurds, who claim descent from the Medes, to begin their Kurdish era of time reckoning.

3.11 The Median influence continued until the last Median king was defeated by Cyrus the Great who consolidated the Kingdoms of Media and Persia into the now famous Persian dynasty.

3.11.1 Most agree the consolidation was made firm in B.C. 536.

3.12 The last prince of Persia, Darius III Codomannus, assumed the throne in 336. He was defeated twice by Alexander The Great in about 330 B.C.

3.13 Now let's continue our study of the third empire mentioned in verse thirty-two as the "belly and . . . thighs of brass."

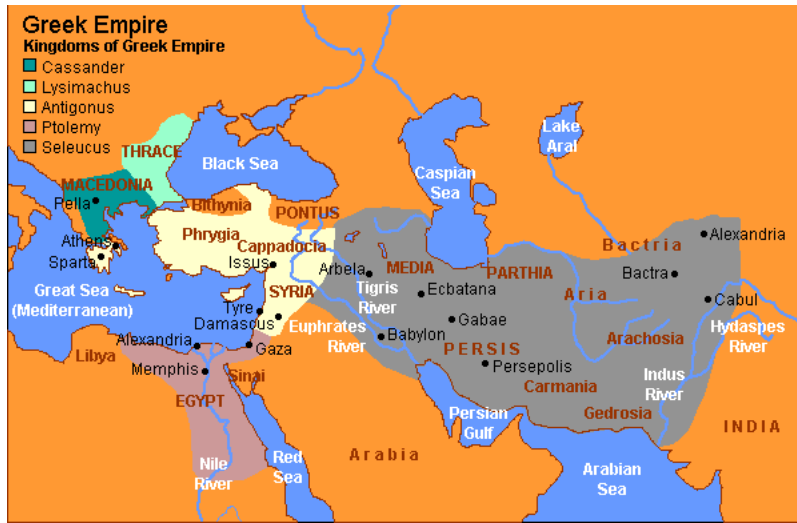
4. Daniel 2:32 in the KJV recall is as follows:

Dan 2:32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

1. Before preceding let me give you an expanded translation of verse thirty-two:

Dan 2:32 The golden head represented you Oh King as ruler of Chaldea, the breast and arms of silver represent the Kingdom of the Medes and the Persians to follow and the belly and thighs of bronze represent a Hellenistic empire whose Kingdom will supplant the Medo-Persians.

2. The term brass in the KJV can better perhaps be rendered as "bronze."
 3. That we have a twofold power in verse thirty-two would seem clear.
 4. After all we have a belly and two thighs.
 5. That the belly and thighs of bronze represent the Greeks is not argued.
 6. There is question as to the specific symbols; for example Col. R. B. Thieme Jr. would seem to argue for the belly representing Alexander the Great and the Thighs representing "all future Hellenistic powers like the Ptolemies, Seleucids etc.
 7. There are those who contend the belly represents Greece and one thigh represents Philip of Macedonia, the father of Alexander, and the other thigh representing Alexander the Great himself.
 8. Whatever the specific representations, we can be certain the image anticipates a significant Hellenistic Empire which reached its zenith under Alexander the Great.
 9. Again in a separate vision recorded in Daniel chapter eight we have a prophecy of Alexander defeating the Medo-Persians in rapid fire order.
- Dan 8:20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.
- Dan 8:21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.
- Dan 8:22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.
- 9.1 The four kingdoms as earlier studied refer to the four successors of Alexander. The four recall were Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus.
10. As we have earlier studied the four generals who eventually rule what is left of Alexander's empire are mentioned in Dan 8:22.
- Dan 8:22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.
11. As is prophesied there that the four will not be as powerful as Alexander but none the less they collectively will rule the world.
 12. In Daniel chapter seven verse six, the "belly and thighs" (Greece) are represented by a winged leopard. Let's look at the Grecian Empire just after Alexander's death.



12.1 That the four beast (the lion, the bear, the leopard and the terrible beast unlike the rest) represent four Kingdoms to come is made clear in Daniel chapter seven verses fifteen through seventeen.

Dan 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. . .

Dan 7:15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

Dan 7:16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

Dan 7:17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

End Lesson Taught 11-5-2000