

Daniel Chapters 4-5-6

Well, we start off with another dream by Nebuchadnezzar that has to be solved by God for Daniel.

Daniel Chapter 4

Daniel 4:1-3: The chapter begins with a formal proclamation from King Nebuchadnezzar praising the Hebrew God and declaring that Gods Kingdom will continue forever such was the favorable solution of his first dream where he was identified as the supreme ruler over all of the earth. This seems like an unlikely statement from a person who worships idols. But it is a way stating that the prophecy God has established His kingdom, and it will last forever. Isa 9:6-7 prophecies also that a child will be born whose name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. I became interested in the periods of time that some of these prophets were ministering, not meaning to include Nebuchadnezzar as a prophet. See Below BC:

In Israel – Amos 767 – 753

Hosea 755- 725

Jonah 790?

In Judah - **Isaiah 745-685** Isa 9:6-7

Micah 740-700

Nahum 640?

Joel 620?

Habakkuk 630?

Zephaniah 630?

Jeremiah 627-560

Obadiah 586

Ezekiel 593-570

Daniel 603-535

Zachariah 520-518 Only the last 3 were after the time of Daniel.

Haggi 520-519

Malachi 425

Daniel 4:4-18: So, we begin with the King chilling out in his house probably with a wine in his hand and snacking on Doritos. He had another dream that was alarming, so he called for his garrison of wise men to interpret the dream. They could not so Daniel was enlisted once again. This time he described the dream of a tree and an iron and brass band, but even Daniel was alarmed at the interpretation.

Daniel 4:19-27: So, the dream with its meaning: This tree was a tall tree reaching toward heaven, seen from all directions, and full of branches and leaves that provided shelter, food, and shade. A holy one from heaven was commissioned to cut it down. Babylon as the only kingdom is likened to this great tree and thus the meaning between the two, a mighty nation, and a symbol the great tree, begins to unfold. Recognize that God demonstrates that He is in control of the political affairs of mankind. Daniel was given the meaning of the dream within 1 hour. The great tree was Nebuchadnezzar who would be driven out of his position as King and then live like the beasts of the earth, eating grass like an animal until 7 years passed. After which he would give glory to God and be restored to his kingdom. All the major Biblical Empires of the world still exist except Babylon which is now a part of Iraq and Babylon is not often used in a description of that part of the world. In one of Joel Rosenberg's fiction novels and of course the Left Behind book series the Babylon Kingdom is designated as a revived kingdom of the Antichrist. In the dream when the tree is severed, the stump remained with its roots in the earth **(important to note, the connection for physical life is in the earth – man was made from the soil of the earth and all life of animals and man require the earth to survive)**. And notice that an iron and brass band still encircled the trunk which equates to the **iron** and **brass** included in the earlier dream of the king depicting the Greece and Roman empires. But **silver** is missing designated as the Persian empire which succeeded the Babylon empire. Going forward to Daniel 7:19-20 we find "Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful with its teeth of **iron** and its claws of **brass**, and which devoured, crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet. And then the meaning of the 10 horns **(now we are into the 10 kings)** that were on its head, and the **other horn** which came up, and before which 3 of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts, and which was larger in appearance than its associates." Notice that Daniel seems to jump around going forward and then backward to grab something said in many verses. The **iron** is definitely a symbol of the Roman Empire which today includes Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Turkey, Northern Iraq, Romania, Bulgaria, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, France, Italy, and Greece. The **brass** is identified as the Grecian Empire that spread under the dominion of Alexander the Great and it included all of the above nations except for Italy, France, Spain, and Great Britain. However, it did include **Iran** (the remains of the Persian empire), Afghanistan, and Pakistan. This prophetic dream is significant because it reflects the days of Nebuchadnezzar translated to the days of the **End of Time**. Babylon is noted in the Book of Revelation in Chapter 17 as a city of harlotry, and in Chapter 18 as an economic center. Thus, this dream of the stump and the metal bands can indicate that a new and revived Babylon will rise again, in a predominately Muslim world to reunite the areas of the old Roman and Grecian empires under one man, the antichrist.

Daniel 4:28-37: In verse 31 Nebuchadnezzar's sovereignty is removed as king of the known world. He is displaced for 7 years to eat grass as an animal and thus have the life as an insane man as in verse 15-17 per the decree of the angelic watchers and command of the holy ones that he might know that The Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind. Nebuchadnezzar served his time and when he recognized the King of Heaven maintained him, he was returned to rule over his kingdom. During this period of time Nebuchadnezzar was humbled to recognize that the King of Heaven with all of **His works are true, His ways are just, and He is able to humble those who work in their pride.** It is likely that Daniel ruled the kingdom in the absence of the king for 7 years as he was given great authority from the king. But

Nebuchadnezzar's son Nabonidus, had challenged his father in a court conspiracy at some point in this scripture and ruled for 17 years – he might have been a substitute for his father without authority during those 7 years. Nabonidus when ceded to the throne, lost support of the people, left the throne to his son, Belshazzar, and went on an eleven-year military campaign against the Medes and Persians who eventually took Babylon down. The Medes were an ancient Persian peoples who spoke the Median language and who inhabited an area known as Media between western and northern Iran. They were known principally about 1100 BC to occupy the mountains now of northwestern Iran.

Daniel Chapter 5 Now we look at the rule of Belshazzar with Daniel still in a position of power.

Daniel 5:1-5: So, Belshazzar sponsored a major final banquet of his being king to thousands of his lords, ransacking the Jewish temple of its gold and silver vessels to drink from. They praised the gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone. This orgy was his last as the Medes and Persians would overthrow Babylon before the next day. During the drinking binge a man's hand appeared on the wall opposite a candlestick – may have been one of the 10 golden menorahs from Solomons temple with Gods writing on the wall.

Daniel 5:6-24: The King called for all the soothsayers of the kingdom to interpret the writing which they could not do, so the queen suggested Daniel, for he had interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dreams. Daniel reminded Belshazzar of all the distress that his grandfather had experienced before he realized God was talking to him to correct his evil ways. So, God interrupted his party.

Daniel 5:25-31: Thus, Daniel interpreted the 4 words written on the wall: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and UPHARSIN. ---MENE (twice) – God has numbered your kingdom and finished it, TEKEL - you are weighed in the balance and found wanting, UPHARSIN (PERES) – the kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians. Daniel was honored once again and told he would be the 3rd ruler of Babylon not yet to be considered. Belshazzar was slain that night in the Medes and Persian invasion and Darius the Median became ruler of Babylon. The best translation of many scholars is that these words are forms of weights, as noted, and values at that time for the sum of the weights equated to 2520. This is noteworthy as the 7-year Tribulation is also 2520 days.

Summary Daniel Chapter 5

Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 BC. Evil-Merodach (Awful Marduk) his son took the throne and was assassinated 2 years later. He was succeeded by Nerigilissar, his father, who took the throne in 560 BC, and then he died 4 years later. Then Nabonidus, mentioned earlier assumed power after which he appointed his son Belshazzar who later died at the hands of the Media-Persians. The Media-Persians in 539 BC after many battles and on the night of Belshazzar's drunken brawl, dug a canal under the walls of Babylon diverting the waterway such that the Media Persian army marched into the city and killed Belshazzar. He had taken the Medes idols from their shrines and moved them to Babylon professing that the Babylonian idols were the only ones to be worshipped.

The story of how the Persians captured Babylon in 1 day is quite interesting. Isaiah in 2 Kings 20:16-18 had predicted all that would happen to the Israelites in the Babylon invasion and in Isa 13:17-22 and 13:6, 9-11, 150 to 180 years beforehand the fall of the Babylonian Empire to the Persians. Jer 52 also predicted this outcome 65 years before it occurred.

I went through this translation to exemplify the evil family that ruled Babylon during the first greatest Empire on earth that then was no more until, as you will see, The End of Time.

Daniel Chapter 6

The almighty God knew that the Babylonians would never release the Jewish fugitives in order to bring to power kings that would release them after 70 years of captivity, so Darius was placed King over the whole kingdom which began the Silver empire of the Persians.

Daniel 6:1-28: Daniel in the “Lion’s Den” a story to itself:

Fulfilling Gods warning the kingdom was divided into 120 provinces under 120 princesses while Darius killed all of the Babylonian rulers except Daniel. These provinces were placed under 3 Presidents of which Daniel was one of them. Daniel proved better than the other 2 so the other 2 plotted to find a reason to discredit Daniel when he was selected to even rule over the other 2 Presidents. So, they proposed a royal statute that everyone who did not profess their god, as only Darius, within 30 days, would be thrown into the “Lion’s Den”. Daniel was observed in praying to his God of Heaven and Earth, taken before Darius, who did not want to condemn Daniel. But because of his own edict he had to obey his own law and had to carry out the verdict. He told Daniel that the God that Daniel served would deliver him from the lion’s den (**sometimes it pays to have friends in high places**). Darius was completely broken by his decree and could not wait until the next morning to be relieved to see Daniel alive and well. So, Darius declared that the God of Daniel be feared throughout the kingdom “for He is the Living God, and steadfast forever, and his kingdom (Darius) shall not be destroyed, and his domain shall be even to the end”. Notice 2 Gods/gods are now in play. But Daniel continued as a ruler through Darius and Cyrus to follow.

Josephus has an interesting notation about Daniel in the Lion’s Den. The accuser explained that the lions had been well fed before Daniel was thrown in and thus not hungry as the reason Daniel was not eaten. But the King out of his abhorrence to their wickedness had Daniels accusers, and their wives and children thrown to the lions where they were torn to pieces and consumed by the lions.
