

Daniel Handout #2

Daniel 7 epexegetical of Daniel 2

<u>Chapter 2</u>	<u>Chapter 7</u>	<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Dispensational</u>
Gold	Lion	Babylon	Babylon	Babylon
Silver	Bear	Medo-Persia	Media	Medo-Persia
Bronze	Leopard	Greece	Persia	Greece
Iron/Clay	Dreadful	Rome	Greece	Roman and Revived Roman Empire
Stone	Son of Man	Christ's Kingdom	Earthly Kingdom of God	(Earthly) Millennial Kingdom

Succession of World Empires

Babylon (612-539 B.C.) Map #1

Medo-Persia (539-331 B.C.) Map #2

Greece and Derivatives (331-146 B.C.) Map #3

Rome (146 B.C.-476 A.D.) Map #4

Kingdom of Christ/Kingdom of Heaven

Early Church Fathers

Hippolytus (c. 170-236 A.D.), On Daniel 2 and 7

The “golden head of the image” is identical with the “lioness”, by which the Babylonians are represented. “The golden shoulders and the arms of silver” are the same with the “bear”, by which the Persians and Medes are meant. “The belly and thighs of brass” are the “leopard”, by which the Greeks who ruled from Alexander onwards are intended. The “legs of iron” are the “dreadful and terrible beast”, by which the Romans who hold the empire now are meant. The “toes of clay and iron” are the “ten horns” which are to be. The “one other little horn springing up in their midst” is the “antichrist”. The stone that “smites the image and breaks it in pieces” and that filled the whole earth, is Christ, who comes from heaven and brings judgment on the world (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*, 5:178-79).

Jerome (ca. 347-419/20 A.D.), On Daniel 2:31-40

Now thou art the head of gold. “The head of gold,” he says “is thou, O king.” By this statement it is clear that the first empire, the Babylonian, is compared to the most precious metal, gold.

Verse 39. *And after thee there shall arise another empire inferior to thee, made of silver.* (The Vulgate LXX does not include “made of silver.”) That is to say, the empire of the Medes and Persians, which bears a resemblance to silver, being inferior to the preceding empire, and superior to that which is to follow.

And a third empire of bronze (the Vulgate LXX has “made of copper”), *which shall rule over the entire earth.* This signifies the Alexandrian empire, and that of the Macedonians, and of Alexander’s successors. Now this is properly termed brazen, for among all the metals bronze possesses an outstanding resonance and a clear ring, and the blast of a brazen trumpet is heard far and wide, so that it signifies not only the fame and power of the empire but also the eloquence of the Greek language.

Verse 40. *And there shall be a fourth empire like unto iron. Just as iron breaks to pieces and overcomes all else, so it shall break to pieces and shatter all these preceding empires.* Now the fourth empire, which clearly refers to the Romans, is the iron empire which breaks in pieces and overcomes all others. But its feet and toes are partly of iron and partly of earthenware, a fact most clearly demonstrated at the present time. For just as there was at the first nothing stronger or hardier than the Roman realm, so also in these last days there is nothing more feeble, since we require the assistance of barbarian tribes both in our civil wars and against foreign nations. However, at the final period of all these empires of gold and silver and bronze and iron, a rock (namely, the Lord and Savior) was cut off without hands, that is, without copulation or human seed and by birth from a virgin’s womb; and after all the empires had been crushed, He became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This last the Jews and the impious Porphyry apply to the people of Israel, who they insist will be the strongest power at the end of the ages, and will crush all realms and will rule forever (slight revision of Gleason L. Archer [translator], *Jerome’s Commentary on Daniel*, 31-32).

7:4—“human mind” (“heart”, margin)

7:5—“one side”

“three ribs”

7:6—“four”

7:7—“iron”

“ten horns”

7:8—“little horn”

4 Kingdoms	Prophetic →	Incarnation	World	Recapitulation →	Son of	Eternal
World	Projection	“Kingdom of	Powers		Man	State
Powers		Heaven at	Reprised		Appears	
		Hand”				
		†				

612B.C. → 33 A.D. → ?

Daniel 5

Historicity

Older Liberal View

Archaeological discoveries about 1860 and later: Neo-Babylonian Texts

“... me, Nabonidus, king of Babylon . . . as regards Belshazzar [Bel-sar-usur], my first born . . .” (cited in D. W. Thomas, *Documents from Old Testament Times* [1958] 90).

Nabonidus Chronicle (NB: contains Nabonidus’s name and refers to the “prince”, i.e., Belshazzar, who stayed in Akkad, i.e., Babylon)

http://www.livius.org/cg-cm/chronicles/abc7/abc7_nabonidus5.html

Conclusion: Co-Regency between father and son

Nabonidus (553/52-539 B.C.)

Belshazzar (co-regent ca. 549-539 B.C.)

Daniel 5:7, 16, 29—"third ruler in the kingdom"

Nabonidus and Teima (pronounced TAY-mah) Map #1

Archaeology:

1994—sculpture figure on a rock in Edom plateau. Identified as Nabonidus.

Occasion: his military campaign against Edom (ca. 552 B.C.)

1999—two inscriptions from North Arabia: "Nabonidus, the king of Babylon".

2009—cunieform fragment found at Teima contains the name "Nabonidus"

Why? (suggestions)

Structural Suggestions

Chap. 3—supernatural preservation via supernatural person/being ("one like a son of the gods," 25)

Chap 4—supernatural voice (v. 31)

Chap. 5—supernatural finger (v. 5)

Chap. 6—supernatural preservation via supernatural person/being ("angel" of the Lord, 22)

These four chapters are set off from the prophetic material of the book. They are sandwiched by the recapitulatory chap. 2 and chap. 7.

Prophetic Supernaturalism (2)

Narrative Biographical Supernaturalism (3-6)

Prophetic Supernaturalism (7-12)

Bracket: chaps. 3 and 6 are focused on humble believers

Chaps. 4 and 5 are focused on arrogant rulers