

DANIEL 2:1-49—VISION OF WORLD HISTORY

***See Appendix A

1. The Dream and Image (refer to picture)

- Verse 2
 - Magicians—sacred scribes
 - Enchanters—ones who used incantations
 - Sorcerers—pronounced curses
 - Chaldeans—aristocrats
- Verse 27
 - Soothsayers—stargazers, astrologers (Is. 47:13)

2. Nebuchadnezzar's Decree

- Nebuchadnezzar demands they reveal and interpret the dream
- Daniel and his friends pray
- God reveals it to Daniel who takes no credit
- Interpretation: from Nebuchadnezzar to Second Coming of Christ
- Times of the Gentiles—605 BC to Second Coming of Christ

3. The Dream (refer to picture)

- Great Empires
 - i) Head of Gold
 - Nebuchadnezzar 605-562 BC.....539 BC
 - Babylon
 - ii) Breast and Arms of Silver
 - Medo-Persia
 - 539-330 BC
 - iii) Belly and Thighs of Brass
 - Greek Empire
 - 330-63 BC
 - iv) Legs and feet of iron and clay
 - Roman Empire
 - 63 BC
 - v) Toes represent last stage—future
 - Stone cut without hands
 - Messiah—Ps. 118:22; Isa. 28:16; Isa. 8:14
 - Destroys world history
 - Sets up everlasting kingdom
 - vi) Stone cut without hands
 - Messiah—Ps. 118:22; Is. 28:16; Is. 8:14
 - Destroys world history
 - Sets up everlasting kingdom

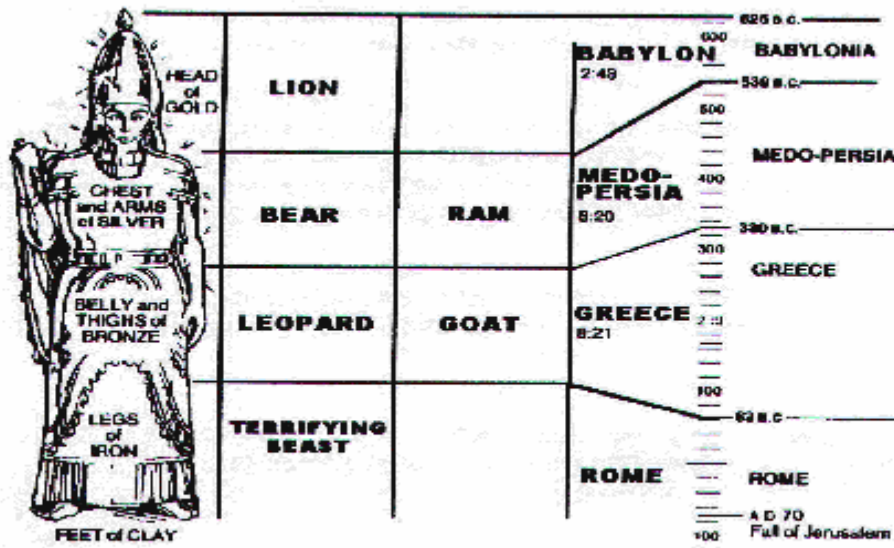
- Note the progressive deterioration of the four kingdoms as represented by the progressively lower value of the metals (gold, silver, bronze, iron, clay). At the same time, however, the metals increase in strength. This seems to suggest that as the personal authority of monarchs decreased in each succeeding empire, the power of their armies increased.

BABYLONIAN KINGS

Nebuchadnezzar	605-----562 B.C.
Evil Merodach	562----560 B.C.
Neriglissar	560-----556 B.C.
Labashi-Marduk	556 B.C.
Nabonidus	556 B.C.-----539 B.C.
Belshazzar	553 B.C.-----539 B.C..

IDENTIFICATION OF THE FOUR KINGDOMS

Dan. 2 Dan. 7 Dan. 8 Identification Chronology of Major Empires in Daniel



The Chaldeans, while continuing the militaristic tradition of Assyria, created an astonishing renaissance of Sumero-Akkadian civilization. Led by Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 BC), the Neo-Babylonian empire saw a building program of canals and monuments that was ambitious in the extreme.

Classical authors rhapsodized about the capital city astride the Euphrates: A four-horse chariot could turn atop the high hundred-gated walls. Babylon also boasted one of the world's seven wonders, the famed Hanging Gardens, as well as a staged temple-tower 295 feet high and, according to Herodotus, several colossal gold statues weighing many tons.