

(Painting stylized by Charles Williams)

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WHY STUDY DANIEL?

QUESTIONS:

1. How can something written so long ago be relative to my life today?
2. What does it have to do with solving my problems 2,550 years later?
3. What solutions does it have to offer to solve any of the world's problems?
4. What does it have to do with the saving of souls which is the work of the church?
5. What does this have to do with the raising of my children in this modern culture today?

ANSWERS:


1. The book of Daniel can be a part of the solution to strengthening a person's faith; for, a study of the fulfillment of the prophecies in Daniel demonstrates the inspiration of the Bible and that Jesus is the Messiah.
 - a. Faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the word of God," Romans 10:17.
 - b. Many of the prophecies in Daniel are very specific and detailed.
 - c. Even when miracles occurred, prophets were quoted to prove the source, Acts 2:16
2. It is the solution to our moral dilemma.
 - a. Daniel is an example of faith, commitment, and conviction under difficult circumstances.
 - b. Daniel is an example to our youth that you can do the right thing under pressure.
 - c. Daniel is an example to politicians and people in high places that a child of God can remain faithful to God and his convictions when serving in government.
3. It is a solution to our lack of patience, comfort, and hope.
4. It demonstrates God's love for man and His desire to save man from sin; for, God speaks to Daniel of the Messiah who would give his life for our sins and establish the kingdom of God.
5. It emphasizes the fact that God is in control of nations; for they are His ministers, Romans 13:
6. It is a demonstration of the providence of God, "All things work to the good to those who love him..." Romans 8:28.
7. It emphasizes the urgency of the work of saving lost souls; for, the Messiah, the kingdom, and the New Testament are God's last installment in His plan to save men from sin, Hebrews 7-9.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL?

1. To show that God's promise to Eve, Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, and Jeremiah would be kept; Genesis 3:15; 12:1-3; Deut. 18:15, 18, 19; Gal. 3:7-9; Psalm 89; Acts 3:19-26; Daniel 2:44, Isaiah 45:1; 53:1-12, Jeremiah 50:29-34
2. To make clear that God is sovereign of the whole world no matter how bleak it might seem.
3. To make it clear to God's people that the Messiah's kingdom would not be established at the end of the Babylonian Empire, but would be 490 years later.

INTRODUCTION TO THE **BOOK OF DANIEL**

A MAN OF COURAGE AND DETERMINATION TO SERVE GOD IN A STRANGE LAND

NOTES: #1 In the Book of Daniel there are references to four world empires; Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greek, and Roman . Their histories are given in the framed sections  of this outline of the Book of Daniel.

#2 To understand the book of Daniel we must first examine briefly the history of the country into which he was taken captive as a young man.



BABYLON, THE GOLDEN CITY

(625-538 B.C.)

- I. The Territory of Babylon Has A Long History.
 - A. The city was built by Nimrod, the grandson of Ham (Gen. 10:10) about 2234 B.C.
 - 1. It was a wonder of the ancient world for more than a thousand years.
 - 2. The Tower of Babel was said to have been built within the walls of the city (Gen. 11:4).
 - B. In its glory days it was the favorite residence of kings on the lower Euphrates River.
 - 1. The wall around it was said to be 60 miles long and extending 35 feet underground.
 - 2. Herodotus, the Greek historian, said that it was 352 feet high and 85 feet thick.
 - 3. It was well protected with 250 towers, guard rooms for soldiers, 25 gates, moats, drawbridges and stone piers.

4. Its interior included the Palace of Nebuchadnezzar, the Temple of their chief god Marduk, the Hanging Gardens, 53 temples, and 180 altars dedicated to their chief goddess Ishtar.
- C. During the time of the Assyrian Empire (1100-633 B.C.) Babylon had an intriguing history.
1. It was constantly exerting its political power and invading the territories of Assyria to its west and Elam to its east.
 2. It was conquered and reconquered by Assyria.
 3. Merodach-Baladan (721-709 B.C.) was a powerful leader in the old Babylonian Nation.
 - a. He had some success in throwing off the yokes of Assyria and Elam.
 - b. He is mentioned in 2 Kings 20 and Isaiah 39.
 - c. His contemporary was Hezekiah, king of Judah, who after being blessed by other nations because of his recovery from an illness, showed him all his treasures.
 - 1) Isaiah prophesied to Hezekiah that the country (Babylon) which Merodach-Baladan represented would one day conquer Judah and take all of her treasures.
 - 2) Isaiah told Hezekiah that he would not see these terrible events, but his descendants would.
- D. Babylon eventually conquered its age-old enemy Assyria when Nabopolassar (625-604 B.C.) rebelled and sent the Babylonian army under his son Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Nineveh, the capital of Assyria.
1. Nebuchadnezzar took over as king after his father died.
 2. Because of the rebellious behavior of the kings of Judah Nebuchadnezzar removed each succeeding king from his throne, thus controlling the territory from the Zagros Mountains (Elam Empire) to the Mediterranean Sea.
 3. Nebuchadnezzar reigned for 43 years and died at the age of 80.
 4. Nebuchadnezzar had the longest and most memorable reign of any of Assyrian or Babylon king.

II. The Babylonian Captivity of the Jews Lasted For Seventy Years.

A. It was foretold by Jeremiah in chapters 25-29 (25:12).

B. It was accomplished in three stages.

1. **First**, there was the captivity while Jehoiakim reigned in 606 B.C.
 - a. Vessels of Solomon's temple were carried to the Temple of Babylon.
 - b. The young and strong were taken to live in Babylon.
2. **Second**, there was the captivity which took all the talented artisans, carpenters, metal workers, etc. to live in the territory of Babylon.
3. **Third**, there was the final captivity of Judah under the reign of Zedekiah in 586 B.C. when Solomon's temple was destroyed and nothing but the poor, aged, and sick were left behind to live in Judah.

C. It required new ways of doing things and brought on complications.

1. The synagogue (a local congregation) came into existence in Babylon since it was impossible to go to Jerusalem to worship.
 - a. It became the Jew's center of worship and education.
 - b. It had six elders and a chief ruler when fully organized.
2. The lives of the Jews were complicated by living in a foreign land.
 - a. Their worship, the offering of animal sacrifices, etc. were interrupted.
 - b. They had to build their homes and establish their families in a strange and pagan society without being influenced by it.

III. The Babylonian Captivity Produced Its Heroes Among God's People.

A. Daniel was honored and respected by all the kings of Babylon.

1. He arose to great prominence under Nebuchadnezzar (ruler of territories) and Belshazzar (Third ruler of the kingdom).
2. He interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream of an image which represented **four world empires**.
 - a. The four world empires were The Babylonian Empire, Medo-Persian Empire, Greek Empire, and Roman Empire.
 - b. These were represented by an image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Dan. 2:32-44.

3. He also interpreted the handwriting that appeared on a wall before Belshazzar (The last king of Babylon, Dan. 5) which prophesied of his fall that night to the Medes and Persians in 538 B.C. (**the second of the four world empires**).

B. He remained faithful to God in spite of temptations and power.

IV. The Babylonian Empire Went Into Fairly Rapid Decline And Final Destruction After Nebuchadnezzar's Death.

- A. Nebuchadnezzar's son, Evil-Merodach, was murdered after two years on the throne.
- B. His successor, Laborosoarchod was murdered about a year later.
- C. His successor, Nabonadius reigned with his son Belshazzar (555-538 B.C.).
- D. Babylon was conquered by Cyrus of Persia under the leadership of Darius the Mede (thought to be Gobryas, governor of Elam) (Daniel 6).
- E. Cyrus of Persia, introduced a new way of conquering other nations.
 1. He gave amnesty to kings and officials in territories he conquered.
 2. He took no conquered people to other lands but allowed them to rule themselves as long as they behaved.
 3. He released those who had been captive to return to their homes.
 4. He gave assistance to the Jews under the leadership of Zerrubbabel to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.
 - a. This was prophesied by Isaiah 250 years before (Isa. 45:1-6).
 - b. Zerrubbabel is said to have shown the prophecies of Isaiah to Cyrus to encourage and hasten his action to let the Jews return.



CAPSULE INTRODUCTION: BOOK OF DANIEL

1. Historical information: Nation of Judah, Daniel, and Nebuchadnezzar.

- a. The rulership of Israel (southern kingdom of Judah) became very corrupt after the reign of Hezekiah.
- b. Josiah attempted to reform the people but they were bent upon wickedness.
- c. Jehoahaz, the son of Josiah was the next king but he was replaced with Jehoiakim by the powerful Egyptian king Pharaoh-Necho (2 Chron. 36).
- d. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated Necho and Jehoiakim became a vassal of Nebuchadnezzar.
- e. Necho engaged Babylon in several battles one of which was indecisive.
- f. This caused Jehoiakim to trust in Necho for help, but Nebuchadnezzar defeated Necho once and for all, marched through Palestine took Daniel along with a number of other choice captives (2 Kings 24:7; Daniel 1:1-3).
- g. This was the first of three deportations, and it took place in 608-607 B.C.
- h. His son Jehoiachin (Jehoiachin or Coniah, or Jeconiah) ruled for only three months when the second carrying away took place in 598 - 596 B. C. (Jer. 22:24-30).
- i. Ten thousand artisans were carried away. The priest Ezekiel along with the king were among the captives (Ezk. 1:1-3; 2 Kings 24:8-16).
- j. Nebuchadnezzar appointed Zedekiah the next king. He rebelled in his 9th year (Jer. 24; 2 Kings 24:17-20).
- k. The third and final carrying away was in January 10, 587 – July 9, 586 B.C. when Jerusalem was destroyed and only a pitiful few (sick and aged) were left in Judah (2 Kings 25:1-12; 2 Chron. 36:11-23).
- l. Jeremiah the prophet preached and prophesied during these years warning the people of what was to come.
 - 1) The people ignored his preaching and persecuted him.
 - 2) He prophesied that they would be in captivity for seventy years (606-538 B.C., *civil period*; 587(6) – 516 B.C., *ecclesiastical period*)

- l. Later, while in captivity and just before it ended, Daniel asked God what was to follow the seventy years which Jeremiah prophesied about (Daniel 9:2).
 - 1) Daniel thought that perhaps it was time for the Messiah to come and the Kingdom to be built which the prophets such as Isaiah and others had proclaimed and described.
 - 2) The angel tells him that it was many years away.
 - 3) This time period of many years included the Inter-Testament period.
- n. Daniel was taken into captivity at the probable age of twenty-one.
 - 1) He lived throughout the times of all the kings of Babylon and into the third year of Cyrus, the first king of the Medo-Persia Empire.
 - 2) Daniel lived to be about ninety years of age (626 – 536 B. C.).
- o. The last prophet among the Jewish people was Malachi (400 B.C.).
- p. The **Silent Years** or **Inter-Testament Period** then begins, lasting until the birth of Christ where Matthew and Luke begin their gospels in the New Testament.
 - 1) It should be pointed out that although Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are considered a part of the New Testament, the New Testament era itself or Christianity did not actually begin until the Day of Pentecost as recorded in chapter two of the book of Acts.
 - 2) Jesus was born under the law of the Old Testament and he died under the law of the Old Testament (Galatians 4:4).
 - 3) We consider the birth of Christ to simply be the end of the silent years and Inter-Testament history since we have the records of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

2. Purposes:

- a. God's purposes were being completed in the seventy years of captivity in Babylon.
 - 1) To chasten Israel until they repent of their idolatry.
 - 2) To prepare the Gentiles for inclusion as part of God's chosen in the latter days of the Old Testament period.
 - 3) To establish the synagogue as a blueprint and stepping stone for the establishment of congregations in the Lord's church in the first century A.D.

- b. The interpretations and prophecies of Daniel are to inform the Jews of the time for the coming of the Messiah and the kingdom, and comfort them in the mean time through the Inter-Testament period.

3. The man, Daniel:

- a. He was taken to Babylon during the first deportation by Nebuchadnezzar – 608-607 B.C.
- b. He was of the royal or King's seed of Israel.
- c. He was given the gift of interpretation of dreams and visions.
- d. He was a man of tremendous faith, courage, and conviction.

OUTLINE TO THE **BOOK OF DANIEL**

I. Chapter 1:

- A. Daniel and others are deported to Babylon in the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah (First Carrying Away, 607-606 B.C.).
- B. The young men were educated in the Chaldean language and ways for three years.
- C. Daniel rejects any food that would defile him as a Jew or that which is offered to idols; 'Daniel purposed in his heart to do the will of God.'
- D. They were given greater skills in learning and wisdom.
- E. Daniel was given understanding of all visions and dreams.

II. Chapter 2:

- A. The king had a dream and demanded his wise men to tell him his dream.
- B. They could not; so, he demanded that they all be slain.
- C. Daniel asked that he be given the opportunity to reveal the dream, and in a night vision it was revealed to him by God.
- D. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that the God in heaven had revealed the dream to him, and that it was about things which would take place in the last days (last day of the prophets and the beginning of the church age (See Gen. 49:1; Acts 2:17).
- E. In his vision the king saw a great image; the head was gold, breast and arms were of silver, the belly and sides were of brass, the legs were iron and the feet were of iron and clay (SEE THE FIGURE "**DANIEL CHAPTER 2**").
- F. He then saw a great stone hit the image and break it into pieces and then become a great mountain which filled the earth.
- G. Daniel tells the king that the four sections of the image represent the four world empires beginning with his own.
- H. These kingdoms would be Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
- I. In the days of the kings of the last empire (Rome) the God of heaven would set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed (Matthew 16:18-19).

- J. Jesus is the rock or stone, (Isaiah 8:14; 28:16; 1 Peter 2:4, 6, 8; Psalm 118:22; Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; Isaiah 2:2).
- K. In Mark 1:15 Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel,” and in Mark 9:1 he said, “Verily I say unto you, there be some of them that stand here, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”
- L. The kingdom of God was established during the days of the Roman Empire, (Acts 2:29-30; Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:5-6).
- M. Daniel is made ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

III. Chapter 3: Three Hebrews Refuse to Bow To An Idol.

- A. Nebuchadnezzar had an image of gold made and ordered that everyone bow down to it or otherwise be cast into a fiery furnace.
- B. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow.
- C. Nebuchadnezzar gave them another chance, but they still refused.
- D. He had the furnace made hotter and then had them bound and cast into the fiery furnace.
- E. He was astonished to see them loose and walking in the fire with a fourth like a son of the gods (an angel, see v. 28).
- F. They came forth, God’s name was praised by Nebuchadnezzar, and the three men were made to prosper in Babylon.
- G. This chapter and the next two are a historical demonstration of the central truths of the apocalyptic (figurative) sections, God’s sovereignty (No matter who is king, God is in charge) and the saint’s triumph (in the end God’s saints will win).

IV. Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar is Taught That God Is Over Every Kingdom.

Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and calls for his magicians, astrologers, etc. to interpret the dream, but they cannot.

- A. Daniel is told the dream: a tall and large tree with beautiful leaves and much fruit which provided shelter and food for all; one who comes down from heaven and

- orders the great tree to be cut down and its fruit scattered but its roots and stump to be left with a band of iron and brass around it in the tender grass; it would be wet with dew and live with the beasts of the field and act like a beast; this would last seven times.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar says that the spokesperson in the dream proclaimed that the purpose of the dream was to let men know that God rules over the kingdoms of this world.
 - C. Daniel, though troubled, gives him the meaning: the tree is Nebuchadnezzar whose kingdom was fruitful and had grown; he will, however, be driven from men by his enemies and be like a donkey and ox and eat grass in the fields until he knows that God rules over the affairs of men; the stump, however, indicated he will still have his kingdom.
 - D. Daniel calls upon him to repent.
 - E. After twelve months while walking in his palace Nebuchadnezzar boasted about his might and power.
 - F. While still boasting, a voice from heaven declares that he shall now live as a beast in the fields until he acknowledges the most High as the true ruler of all. (NOTE: It is believed he had a disease called Lycanthropy)
 - G. That same hour he was driven from men, ate grass as oxen, and later his hair grew as eagle's feathers and his nails like bird claws.
 - H. At the end of the days Nebuchadnezzar's understanding returned; he praised God and acknowledged Him as the King of heaven and over all.

V. Chapter 5: The Babylonian Empire Ends.

- A. Belshazzar, son of Nabonidus, and co-regent king with his father, made a great feast.
- B. He commanded that the gold and silver vessels which his father (grandfather) Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought to the feasts that they might be used.
- C. In that hour a hand appeared and wrote on the wall of the king's palace.
- D. He called for his magicians to translate but they couldn't.

- E. The queen mother reminded him of Daniel who interpreted the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar.
- F. Daniel is brought in and reminds the king of how his grandfather was humbled by God, but king Belshazzar has lifted himself up against God.
- G. Daniel tells him the meaning of the words, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN, "You have been weighed in the balances and are found wanting. Your kingdom shall be divided and given to the Medes and the Persians."
- H. Daniel was then clothed in scarlet, a golden chain put around his neck, and made third ruler of the kingdom; The 1st ruler was Nabonidus; the 2nd ruler was Belshazzar, the son of Nabonidus, and the 3rd ruler was Daniel.
- I. Belshazzar was killed that night.

VI. Chapter 6: The Medo-Persian Empire Begins And There Is Jealousy Against Daniel.

- A. Daniel was made the chief of three presidents over the Chaldean realm.
- B. The presidents and princes tried to find fault with Daniel but failed.
- C. They used the conceit and self-adoration of Darius to ensnare him to make a law that Daniel would have to disobey and still remain faithful to God; that is, that anyone who petitioned any god or man except the king for the next thirty days would be cast into the den of lions.
- D. Daniel, knowing the decree had been signed, prayed to God three times each day as had been his practice.
- E. The plotters caught Daniel and reminded the king of his ruling which could not be changed.
 - 1. In the Babylonian realm the law was subject to the king.
 - 2. Under the Medes and Persians everyone was subject to the law, including the king.
- F. Though displeased with the task the king eventually had to carry out his own law and cast Daniel into the den of lions.
- G. The next morning the king discovers that Daniel was saved by an angel who closed the mouths of the lions.

- H. Daniel's accusers and their families were thrown into the den of lions and consumed.
- I. Darius decreed that the people of his kingdom tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.
- J. Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius the Mede and into the third year of Cyrus the Great, the first ruler of the Medo-Persian Empire.



NOTE: IN ORDER TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE VISIONS THAT DANIEL HAS IN THE NEXT CHAPTERS, WE MUST TAKE A BRIEF LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF THE NEXT EMPIRE AFTER THE BABYLONIANS, THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE. DARIUS THE MEDE, MENTIONED IN CHAPTER SEVEN, LED THE MEDE AND PERSIAN ARMIES AGAINST BABYLON AND CONQUERED THEM. HE IS MADE GOVERNOR UNTIL CYRUS BECOMES THE FIRST KING OF THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE. DANEIL LIVES INTO THE THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF CYRUS.

THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE, THE SILVER KINGDOM

(538-334 B.C.)

- I. The Medo-Persian Empire Followed The Babylonian Empire.
 - A. Daniel's interpretation of the graven image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel chapter 2 called for a second kingdom to follow the fall of Babylon.
 - 1. This was represented by the breast and arms of silver in the image.
 - 2. This was the kingdom of the Medes and Persians.

B. The king of the Medo-Persian Empire was **Cyrus the Great**.

1. He was no doubt an instrument of God (See Jeremiah 24, 25; Ezra 1:1-3; 2 Chron. 36:22-23. Look also in the Apocrypha, 1 Esdras 2:1-7).
2. Isaiah had prophesied about Cyrus and called him by name two hundred years before Cyrus was born (See Isaiah 44:28; 45:1).
3. Cyrus issued a proclamation throughout all the kingdom of Persia to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem so that they could rebuild the temple.
 - a. The leaders of Benjamin and Judah and the priests and Levites prepared to go to Jerusalem.
 - b. Cyrus brought out the vessels of the temple which had been carried into Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar and misused by his grandson Belshazzar in a drunken feast. (See Ezra 1; Dan. 5:3)
 - c. Sheshbazzar (Zerubbabel) was appointed to lead the Jews back to Jerusalem. (See Ezra 2).
 - d. Work started on the rebuilding of the temple the second month of the second year, but the enemies of the Jews set about trying to put a stop to the work. (See Ezra 4).
 - 1) The enemies pretended to want to help, but were rejected.
 - 2) The enemies hired counselors against them all the days of Cyrus until the days of Darius (Ezra 4:5).
4. Cyrus was a beneficent king, but he was a warrior with few equals.
 - a. He established an empire reaching from the Indus River to the Aegean Sea and from the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf by 529 B.C.
 - b. He was killed in 530 B.C. in an expedition against the Scythian tribes in the north and was buried in Pasargadae, the old Persian capital, where his tomb stands today in Iran.

C. Cyrus was succeeded by his son **Cambyses**.

1. Cambyses conquered Egypt and defeated Psammetichus III at Memphis, but his expedition against the oasis of Ammon in the Libyan Desert was a disaster, losing 50,000 men.
2. Back home in Persia his brother Smerdis (Bardiya) plotted against him to

usurp the throne, but Cambyses had him killed.

3. On hearing of another conspiracy, he rushed to his horse and accidentally wounding himself with his sword died in a few days.

D. **Darius Hystaspes**, the son of Hystaspes the Akhaemenian, assassinated the imposters and reigned over a very successful rule from 521-486 B.C.

1. Inscriptions, ordered by Darius Hystaspes, were discovered by Sir Henry Rawlinson in 1835.

- a. The writings were a declaration of Darius' achievements.
- b. The writings consisted of three languages: old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian.
- c. The writings were examined by Rawlinson for 14 years and finally translated.
- d. The writings became the key to reading Babylonian cuneiform.

(NOTE: The discovery of the Rosetta Stone served as a key to Egyptian hieroglyphics because the same words were also written in Greek next to the hieroglyphics)

E. **Xerxes I**, the son of Darius, took the power of king.

1. He crushed the revolts in Egypt and in Babylonia
2. He eventually invaded Greece trying to accomplish what his father had failed to do, to control Greece.
 - a. He amassed an army of 2,000,000 men with an equal number of servants and workers.
 - b. He built bridges across the Hellespont, and eventually made his way to Athens where he burned and sacked the city.
 - c. Greek ships cut his fleet to pieces at Salamis and he made a hasty retreat to Susa.
 - d. Because of his bloodthirsty ways he was murdered in his own bedroom at Susa.

NOTE: Susa is the old Elamite capital and is the same as the city of Shushan in the Book of Esther where Esther was Queen.

F. **Artaxerxes I (Longimanus---“long handed”)** was a benevolent king compared to his father King Ahasuerus.

1. He ruled for forty years and treated the Jews kindly.
2. He allowed Ezra and Nehemiah a free hand in helping their brethren in Jerusalem.

NOTE: Zerubbabel (purpose: to restore the **temple**) led the first return to Jerusalem by the kindness of Cyrus, and Ezra (purpose: to restore the **law**) and Nehemiah (purpose: restore the **walls**) led the final two returns by the kindness of Artaxerxes. There were three carryings away into captivity and three returns from captivity.

3. He became the husband of Esther in the 7th year of his reign.

NOTE: There are many reputable scholars who believe that Xerxes I (495-469) was the king over Esther and thus the Ahasuerus of Esther 1:1. This comes mainly from an inscription about Xerxes which are exactly the words of Esther 1:1-2. Ahasuerus is the Hebrew of the Greek name Xerxes.

G. **Xerxes II** (425 B.C.)

H. **Sogdianus** (425-424 B.C.)

I. **Darius II** (424-405 B.C.) Known as Nothus.

**NOTE: IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT
THE INTER-TESTAMENT PERIOD OF HISTORY
BEGINS.**

J. **Artaxerxes II** (405-359 B.C.) Known as Memnon.

K. **Artaxerxes III** (359-338 B.C.) Known as Ochus.

L. **Arses** (338-336 B.C.)

M. **Darius III** (336-330 B.C.) Known as Codomannus.

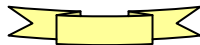
II. The Medo-Persian Empire Grew Weaker Amid Political Corruption, Bribery, Plots and Assassinations.

- A. As the Persians grew weaker, the Greek states grew stronger.
- B. In 401 B.C. **Xenophon**, a Greek, led 10,000 Greeks through the Persian Empire clear to the safety of the Black Sea.
 - 1. Herodotus, a Greek historian, states that he crossed over the ruins of Nineveh without ever realizing it (Such was the utter destruction of that city by Nebuchadnezzar and his father in the defeat of Assyria 200 years before).
 - 2. Xenophon's brother, **Alexander the Great** was destined to take over the Medo-Persian Empire.
 - a. With 35,000 Greeks Alexander crossed the Hellespont and overcame the Persian army.
 - b. Darius III of Persia fled from Arbela and was murdered by Bessus, one of his own generals, in Bactria, thus putting Alexander the Great in total control of the Persian Empire.

III. The Medo-Persian Empire Era Is the Period of Time When The Temple Was Rebuilt, The Law Was Restored, and The Walls Were Restored.

- A. Zerubbabel led the first group out during the time of Cyrus in order to restore the temple.
 - 1. The number who returned was 42,360, plus 7,337 servants and maids and 200 singing men and singing women plus their animals.
 - 2. In the second month of the second year Zerubbabel started the work of rebuilding the Temple.
 - 3. Enemies in the land tried to discourage them and put a stop to the work.
- B. Ezra led a small group out of Babylon in the 7th year of Artaxerxes I (458 B.C.) with a letter giving him authority to go to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:1-27) where he restored the law.
- C. Nehemiah led a third group out of Babylon in the 20th year of Artaxerxes I (Neh. 2:1) to build the walls of Jerusalem.

- D. A number of attempts were made to stop the rebuilding in Jerusalem.
1. The Samaritans wrote several letters to try and persuade Cambyses II (Ahasuerus in Ezra. 4:6) and Pseudo-Smerdis (Artaxerxes in Ezra 4:7) to stop the work, but they succeeded for only short time.
 2. The Jews became discouraged, but Haggai and Zechariah began to urge them to continue the work.
 3. When Darius Hystaspes came to the throne the Jews wrote a letter asking him to authorize the work.
 - a. Darius Hystaspes searched the records and found the original order of Cyrus.
 - b. Much of the work was finished on the Temple in 516 B.C.



VII. Chapter 7: Daniel Had A Vision of Four Beasts Which Represent Four World Empires.

- A. In this chapter we are taken back to the first year of Belshazzar the last king of Babylon.
- B. Daniel had a vision of four beasts which represented four world empires beginning with Babylon (SEE FIGURE ILLUSTRATION OF THE LION, BEAR, AND LEOPARD)
1. He saw a Lion With Wings which represented **BABYLON**.
 - a. The lion and the wings represented strength and swiftness.
 - b. Its wings were plucked.
 - c. It had intelligence and therefore acted as a man.
 2. He saw a Bear raised up higher on one side with three ribs in its mouth which represented **MEDO-PERSIA** .
 - a. It represented strength and destruction.
 - b. The Persians were higher and stronger than the Medes.

- c. The three ribs perhaps represented Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon.
 - d. **NOTE: The Inter-Testament Period began during the Medo-Persian period.**
3. He saw a Leopard with wings and four heads which represented **GREECE**.
- a. The wings represented swiftness.
 - b. Alexander the Great quickly conquered Persia and his four generals succeeded him.
 - c. The four heads represented the four divisions of the Grecian Empire that would result after the death of Alexander the Great, the first king of the Grecian Empire.
4. He saw a Dreadful and Terrible Beast with iron teeth and ten horns which represented **ROME**.
- a. The Beast and teeth represented great strength and divergence.
NOTE: In the book of Revelation John has a vision of a great and terrible beast which represented the Roman Empire. It was a “diverse” beast made up of a leopard, bear, and lion. They are listed backwards because John is looking back and Daniel is looking forward. The Roman Empire conquered Babylon, Persia, and Greece.
 - b. The ten horns are the ten kings of Rome; Perhaps they are (1) Augustus Caesar, (2) Tiberius, (3) Caligula, (4) Candius, (5) Nero, (6) Galba, (7) Otho, (8) Vitellius, (9) Vespasian, and (10) Titus.
 - c. Daniel saw an eleventh horn after three were plucked up which made him the eighth.
 - 1) Many believe this 11th horn which became the 8th was Domitian who began the worst era of persecution against Christians.
 - 2) Domitian bragged about himself, saw himself as Lord and god, demanded the Empire worship him, and set out to destroy anyone who didn't (Christians).

- d. God is pictured on His throne opening the books of judgment against Rome as to when the beast is to be destroyed.
- e. Rome embodied the ungodly aims and ways of the previous three beasts (v. 12).
- f. Daniel sees one like a son of God brought before God and he was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that could not be destroyed.
- g. Daniel then asked for the interpretation of the vision and he is told that the four beasts are kings or kingdoms (v. 23) that must arise before the Messiah and His kingdom will come at which time the saints will possess the Kingdom forever.
- h. Daniel is especially concerned about the fourth beast.
 - 1) It was diverse and exceeding dreadful with teeth of iron and nails of brass which were destructive.
 - 2) He sees the 11th horn speak pompous words and make war with the saints, but judgment is made upon Rome and the kingdom is made secure for the saints.
 - 3) The ten horns are ten kings (v. 24) after which an 11th shall arise (Domitian) against God and His people for time and time and half time (3.5 years which is half of 7 which means that the persecution will not last forever nor will there be complete destruction of God's people
 - 4) Domitian's dominion shall be taken away and God's people shall serve their true Lord and God.

VIII. Chapter 8: Daniel Has A Vision of a Ram, a Goat, and Successors To The Goat Which Represent The Next Two World Empires, Medo-Persia and Greece.

- A. This vision occurs in the third year of Belshazzar (vs. 1)
- B. In the vision he is taken to Shushan (Suza of Persia) in the Palace there.
 - 1. Shushan was the winter capitol of Persia.
 - 2. Shushan is also where the story of Esther takes place 72 years later after Daniel wrote his book.

- C. Daniel saw a **Ram with two horns**, one of which was higher than the other, and it came up last. (v. 3).
1. The short horn is the **Medes**.
 2. The long horn is the **Persians**.
(This is similar to the vision in Daniel chapter seven where the Medes are represented with the grounded paw of the Bear and the raised paw represented the Persians who were the stronger of the two)
 3. The ram pushed westward, northward, and southward and became great, (v. 4).
- D. Daniel then saw a **he Goat** with **one great horn** come from the west with great swiftness, (v. 5).
1. The goat represents **Greece** and the notable horn is **Alexander the Great**.
 2. The goat smote the ram, broke its two horns, and stomped it into the ground, (v. 7).
- E. Daniel sees the goat grow stronger and at the height of that strength the notable horn is broken after which **four horns** replace it, (v. 8).
1. Alexander the Great of Greece conquered all of the Persian Empire and more at the age of 32, and died in Babylon a young man of 33.
 2. His kingdom was divided among his **four generals**;
 - a. They were **Cassander** who ruled Macedonia, **Lysimachus** who ruled Thrace and Asia Minor, **Seleucius** who ruled Syria and Babylon, and **Ptolemy Soter** who ruled Egypt and Lybia.
 - b. Eventually the Grecian kingdom was ruled mainly by the Seleucids in Asia Minor and Syria and the Ptolemies in Egypt with a very weak and unstable rule in Athens Greece and Thrace.
- F. Daniel then sees a **little horn** come out of one of the four horns which waxed great in all directions including Palestine, (v. 9).
1. It cast down religious leaders, (v. 10).
 2. It magnified itself as God, (v. 11).
 3. It ended sacrifices in the rebuilt temple of Zerubbabel.
 4. It tried to destroy the word of God, (vs. 12).

5. It prospered (v. 12).
 6. This was **Antiochus IV Epiphanes**, a descendent of Seleucius who was one of the four rulers of Greece who had taken over one of the four parts of the Grecian Empire after Alexander's death.
 - a. He killed the religious leaders in Palestine.
 - b. He thought of himself as the god Zeus.
 - c. In 167 B.C. he offered a pig on the alter of the temple and threw the broth on the walls of the temple which caused the Jews not to sacrifice for 3.5 years.
 - d. He attempted to destroy all of the written scripture.
- G. Daniel heard an angel ask another how long would the daily sacrifices not be offered, and how long would it be before the little horn would be destroyed, (v. 13).
1. The answer given was 2,300 evening and morning sacrifices or 1,150 days since two sacrifices a day were offered, (v. 14).
 2. This would equal about three and one-fourth years.
 3. Antiochus began his persecution in 167 B.C. and the temple was cleansed and rededicated December 15, 164 B.C.
 - a. The Jews today still celebrate this event and call it Hannukkah.
 - b. It is a celebration of victory over their enemy.
 4. Some have suggested this number represented an incomplete 7, which would simply mean that the terror of Antiochus would not last long nor would it destroy God's people (The same language is used in the book of Revelation in regards to the persecution of the Christians by Rome, Rev. 11:9; 12:6 and others).
- H. Daniel sought for the meaning and Gabriel reveals it to him, (v. 15-16).
1. At the time of the end shall be the vision, (v. 17).
 - a. This phrase always means the same thing and is similar to the "day of the Lord."
 - 1) It always speaks of the Lord's work in judging the ungodly and delivering his people, and it applies to different occasions.

2) In Nahum it refers to God's judgment on Nineveh and in Zephaniah it is God's judging of Judah.

- b. The "time of the end" phrase speaks of two things; a "time appointed by God" and an "end" of the vision.
- c. It speaks of the completing of the elements of the vision at a time God has ordained (See Habakkuk 2:2-3).

NOTE: Some Bible students make the mistake of assuming that phrases like "the end time" and "last days" refer to the end of all time when Christ returns. This is not the case. Such language is used often to describe the end of the Babylonian Empire, the Edomites, and the Roman Empire.

- 2. It will be in the last end of indignation, (v. 19).
- 3. The two horns of the rams are the Medes and Persians, (v. 20).
- 4. The goat is the king of Greece, (v. 21).
- 5. The great horn on the goat is the first great king of Greece, (v. 21).
(Alexander the Great, the first king of Greece)
- 6. The four horns are the four divisions of his kingdom but not in his power or to his descendants (v. 22; See also Daniel 11:4).
 - a. One of his four generals, Cassander, murdered Roxana, Alexander's wife and his son after shutting them up in prison for years.
 - b. This left the kingdom to be divided among others.
- 7. The little horn coming up from one of the four is another Greek king who will be evil, destructive, and strong, (v. 23-25).
(Antiochus IV Epiphanes, (v. 23-25).

- I. Daniel is instructed to shut up the vision because it would be a long time in coming about, (v. 26). (About 400 years).

NOTE: Compare this instruction given by Daniel's angel and the statement made to John by his angel in Revelation 22:10 where John is told not to seal up the book because it was to be fulfilled shortly; see Rev. 1:1-3; 22:6-10. Does that mean that Revelation had to be fulfilled in less than 400 years? YES!

- J. Daniel fainted at the vision and was sick several days after which he arose and did the king's business, but none understood the vision.

The following is a verse by verse “amplified” presentation of Daniel Chapter 8. The characters, empires, and events referred to are identified in parentheses.

DANIEL 8---Amplified

Verse:

1. In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first.
2. And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai.
3. Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and behold, there stood before the river a ram (Medo-Persian Empire) which had two horns: and two horns were high; but one as higher (Persian) than the other (Medes), and the higher came up last (Cyrus of Persia).
4. I saw the ram (Medo-Persian Empire) pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beast might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.
5. And as I was considering, behold a he goat (Grecian Empire) came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground (swift in his conquering); and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes (Alexander the Great).
6. And he (Alexander the Great) came to the ram (Medo-Persian Empire) that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.
7. And I saw him (Grecian Empire) come close unto the ram (Medo-Persian Empire), and he (Grecian Empire) was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram (Medo-Persians), and broke his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.

8. Therefore the he goat (Grecian Empire) waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn (Alexander the Great) was broken; and from it came up four notable one toward the four winds of heaven (Alexander's four generals: Cassander who ruled Macedonia, Lysimachus who ruled Thrace and Asia Minor, Seleucus Nicator who ruled Syria and Babylon, and Ptolemy Soter who ruled Egypt and Libya).
9. And out of one of them came forth a little horn (Antiochus Epiphanes IV, who ruled Syria from 175-163 B.C.), which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land (Palestine).
10. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars (other rulers) to the ground, and stamped upon them (Persecuted the Israelites).
11. Yet, he magnified himself (made an image of himself and commanded the people to worship it in the temple in Jerusalem) even to the prince of the hosts (Judah Maccabeus, who was prince of the host or captain of the arm, see Joshua 5:14 for use of same phrase) and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down (sacrifices in the temple came to an end in 167 B.C.).
12. And a host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered.
13. Then I heard one saint speaking, and another spirit saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?
14. And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days (3 years); then shall the sanctuary be cleansed (Judas Maccabeus cleansed the temple on Chislex 25 164 B.C. which is December 15th, known as Hanukkah).
15. And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.
16. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.
17. So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall

be the vision. (This verse deals with the time of the vision, “the time of the end.” This phrase always means the same thing: the Lord’s work in judging the ungodly and delivering His people. In Nahum it refers to God’s judgment on Nineveh and In Zephaniah it is His judging of Judah both of which took place 1,000’s of years ago. Habakkuk 2:2-3 really helps us here; for it says, “Write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hasteth toward the end, and shall not be...” The phrase simple means that the vision will occur when God appoints it and its fulfillment will be sure or completed when it does occur. The phrase does not mean at the end of all time which would put these verses in our own day or in the future (see also 11:13; 11:17; and 12:4). Daniel’s vision of this was received in 550 B.C. and was complete in 164 B.C. with the cleansing of the temple by Judas Maccabeus. Daniel was told to shut up the vision (v. 26) because it was many days to come before completion or about 400 years.. The apostle John was given the opposite command, “Seal not up...” because “the time is at hand” (Revelation 22:10). An interesting note here is that since God told Daniel that his vision would take place a long ways off and it took place in less than 400 years after Daniel, how could John’s vision reach into our own time after 2,000 years and John was told it was to shortly come to pass?)

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.
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.
20. The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.
21. And the rough goat is the kingdom of Grecia: (Grecian Empire) and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king (Alexander the Great).
22. Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms will stand up out of the nation (see verse 8 for the list of the four general who took over), but not in his power (His two sons Alexander and Hercules, and his wife Roxanna were murdered after their father’s death. The generals lost much of their territory and power to foreign nations).

23. And in the later time of their kingdom, (167 B.C.), when the transgressors are come to the full, a king (Antiochus Epiphanes IV) of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up (Antiochus Epiphanes IV had courage and success in war but was also very superstitious).
24. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: (The Romans were becoming and stronger and protected him and kept him limited in power) and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the might and the holy people (He was unique in his enmity against God and His worship and endeavored to blot out the Jews, the word and their religion).
25. And through this policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand (while on a campaign in Egypt, the Jews rebelled and Antiochus used his as a pretense to destroy the Jews and their religion); and he shall magnify himself in his heart (His title "Theos Epiphanes" meant "the manifest god," and he encouraged the people to worship him in the form of the Olympian god Zeus), and by peace shall destroy many (he feigned peace and then slew the people, 1 Macc. 1:29); he shall stand up against the Prince of Princes (he rose up against God and the priest); but he shall be broken with hand (He died insane one year after the cleansing of the temple by Judas Maccabeus.)
26. And the vision of the evening and morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days (approximately four centuries). And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

THE GRECIAN EMPIRE, THE BRASS KINGDOM

(323-301 B.C.)

- I. The Grecian Empire Followed the Medo-Persian Empire.
 - A. Daniel's interpretation of the graven image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in **Daniel chapter 2** called for a third kingdom to follow after the Babylonian and Medo-Persian kingdoms.
 - 1. This third kingdom was represented by the belly and thighs of brass (or bronze) in the image.
 - 2. This was the kingdom of Greece which conquered the Medo-Persians.
 - B. Daniel's dream in **Daniel chapter seven** also called for a third kingdom to follow after the Babylonian and Medo-Persian kingdoms.
 - 1. This third kingdom was represented by a leopard with four heads and four wings.
 - 2. This was the kingdom of Greece which eventually divided into four kingdoms after the death of Alexander the Great, the first king of the Grecian Empire.
 - C. Daniel's dream in **Daniel chapter eight** also called for a third kingdom to follow after the Babylonian and Medo-Persian kingdoms.
 - 1. This third kingdom was represented by a male goat with a notable horn between his eyes, and it came from the west conquering with great speed.
 - 2. This was the kingdom of Greece with Alexander the Great as its first king.
 - 3. The notable horn was broken and four notable horns came up in its place, which represented the four generals who took over the Grecian kingdom after Alexander's untimely death.
 - 4. From one of the four horns there arose a fierce horn that persecuted the Jews, which represented Antiochus IV of Syria.
- II. The First King of the Grecian Empire Was **Alexander the Great**.
 - A. Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, arose to power in Greece in 350 B.C.

1. He learned war at Thebes and invented the “Macedonian phalanx,” a military formation with files 16 men deep with pikes long enough that those of the first five ranks reached beyond the front of the formation.
 2. Philip was assassinated on the eve of the marriage festival for his daughter and his invasion of Asia.
- B. Alexander, the son of Philip, took the throne in 336 B.C. at the age of twenty.
1. He had been tutored by Aristotle that the Greek culture was above all other cultures.
 2. He dreamed about turning the world to Grecian culture.
 3. He crossed the **Hellespont** with 35,000 men in the spring of 334 B.C. and thus began the conquest of the Persian Empire.
 4. He had the Persians on the run and conquered **Asia Minor**.
 - a. He cut the “Gordian knot” in the Temple of Zeus (Some believed that whoever figured out how to untie the knot would rule the world. One tale says that Alexander untied it by cutting it into).
 - b. He defeated the Persians in one of the most decisive battles in the world at Issus at the northeast corner of the Mediterranean Sea.
 - 1) He captured the wife and children of Darius III who ran for his life leaving them behind.
 - 2) Darius made it to Susa (Shushan) where he attempted to raise another army to fight Alexander.
 5. He turned south and conquered **Tyre on the Phoenician coast**.
 - a. The capture of the city of Tyre on the mainland is prophesied in Isaiah 23:13-15 in the year 740 B.C.
 - 1) Tyre was first conquered by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B.C. just before he totally destroyed Jerusalem.
 - 2) Afterwards a new city of Tyre was built on an island just off the coast where the old Tyre had been.

- b. The final destruction of Tyre was prophesied by Zechariah in 9:3-4 (See also Ezek. 27:32).
 - 1) Alexander destroyed it by building a causeway to the island in 332 B.C.
 - 2) After a siege of 7 months, 8,000 inhabitants were slain and 30,000 sold into slavery.
 - 3) This was considered Alexander's greatest military achievement.
NOTE: The detailed prophecies of Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah regarding the destruction of the two cities of Tyre are used as powerful evidences for the inspiration of the Bible. If you would like some interesting details on this be sure to read Josh McDowell's book Evidence That Demands A Verdict, pages 285-293.
- 6. After the destruction of Tyre, Alexander entered the land of **Israel**.
 - a. He went to Jerusalem where he was met by Jaddua, the Priest, dressed in his priestly robes, and a long procession of people dressed in white.
 - 1) Josephus says that Alexander claimed to have seen this in a dream in Macedonia and that he was urged by the man in the dream to invade the Persian Empire, which caused Alexander to believe that his army was under Divine instruction and guidance.
 - 2) Josephus also says that Alexander then went to the temple and was shown the Book of Daniel that prophesied about Alexander and Greece.
 - a) Daniel chapter 8 says that a male goat representing Greece would come from the west and run into a ram with two horns representing the Medes and Persians, and the goat would destroy it.
 - b) Daniel chapter 8 speaks of a notable horn between the eyes of the goat, which represented Alexander the Great.
 - c) Daniel chapter 8 speaks of the notable horn breaking, which represented the death of Alexander.

- d) Daniel chapter 8 speaks of four horns coming up in place of the notable horn, which represented the four generals who took Alexander's place.
- b. Alexander left the Jews alone in peace.
 - 1) The Jews were allowed to continue in their laws and religion in peace.
 - 2) The Jews were allowed to pay no tribute each seventh year, and Alexander promised them that the Jews in Babylon and Media would enjoy their own laws.
- 7. After making his peace with Israel, Alexander moved into **Egypt**.
 - a. Alexander founded a city at one of the mouths of the Nile and called it Alexandria (A number of cities with the name Alexandria were established by Alexander the Great during his spreading of the Greek culture).
 - b. Unlike Cambyses, the son of Cyrus of Persia, Alexander was able to put together a successful expedition against the oasis of Ammon in the Libyan Desert where an oracle declared that he would conquer the world.
 - c. The Egyptians welcomed Alexander as their next Pharaoh who had the ability to set them free from their Persian captors.
- 8. After setting up protection on his eastern flank, Alexander set out to destroy the Persian forces once and for all by invading the Persian capitals **Babylon, Susa, and Persepolis**.
 - a. He defeated Darius III on the plain of Arbela, not far from the ruins of Nineveh.
 - 1) Darius fled and was later murdered by one of his own generals, Bessus.
 - 2) Alexander avenged Darius' death and gave him a pompous funeral.
 - b. In Susa he captured about \$57 million in gold and silver and twice that much in Persepolis.

- c. On several occasions Alexander got drunk and lost control of his men who pillaged the cities and went on a rampage burning some of the beautiful buildings and libraries.
- d. He married a Bactrian princess named Roxana in order to bring together the east and the west.
 - 1) He encouraged his men to marry Persian wives in order to encourage the spread of Greek culture.
 - 2) Back home in Athens and Macedonia they saw him becoming an eastern Potentate instead of remaining a Macedonian and Grecian king.
- e. His plans were to go on into Arabia, Carthage, and Western Europe Hellenizing the world with common laws, language, and religion.
 - 1) He eventually made it to the **Indus River in India**, but his men refused to go any further because they wanted to go back and enjoy their bounty and victories.
 - 2) He headed back to Babylon by dividing his troops into two segments, one traveling by land across the deserts of southern **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan** where he lost over half his troops for lack of water and the water route down the Indus River across the **Arabian Sea** to the Euphrates River through the **Persian Gulf**.
- f. After marrying daughters of Darius III and Artaxerxes III (Ochus) he fell into insane excesses of drink and dissipation, contracted a fever and died in Babylon in 323 B.C. at the age of 33.
 - 1) His body was taken to Memphis, floated down the Nile river to Alexandria, and then buried in a golden coffin.
 - 2) His empire was then divided up among his generals.

III. Alexander' Empire Was Divided Up Among His Four Generals.

A. The great horn of the male goat was broken and from it came up four notable ones (Daniel 8).

1. **Lysimachus** took Thrace and **western Asia Minor**.

(He was soon eliminated in a war with Seleucus in 281 B.C.)

2. Seleucus Nicator took **Syria** and eastward to the Indus River.
(There was constant fighting between the forces of Seleucus and Cassander)
 3. **Ptolemy** took **Egypt**.
(They remained a powerful element until Rome began to exert its influence)
 4. **Cassander** ruled over **Macedonia and Greece**.
(He never gained complete control of Greece and the power of Rome soon began to encroach from the west and envelop parts of the kingdoms of Seleucus and Cassander)
- B. Palestine was sandwiched in between the Seleucids of Syria and the Ptolemies of Egypt which brought fortunes and misfortunes to the homeland of the Jews.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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THE GRECIAN EMPIRE: THE EGYPTIAN FRAGMENT, THE PTOLEMIES

THE GRECIAN EMPIRE: THE SYRIAN FRAGMENT, THE SELEUCIDS

THE GRECIAN EMPIRE: THE JEWS REVOLT, THE HASMONEAN RULERS



A ROMAN SOLDIER

They Invaded
The Land of God's People
And Conquered;
HOWEVER,



A JEWISH PRIEST

A Remnant Was Saved
Through Which Came
The Messiah
And His Kingdom.

Charles R. Williams

THE GRECIAN EMPIRE: A DIVIDED KINGDOM

(323-301 B.C.)

Introduction:

1. Alexander's Survivors Fought For Control Over The Grecian Empire.
 - a. The Regency of Perdiccas and Philip Arridaeus maintained a semblance of control over the Empire until 316 B.C.
 - b. Cassander disposed of Alexander's young wife, Roxana, and their only son, Alexander Aegus, born posthumously.
 - (1) Roxana had already murdered another wife, Statira, shortly after Alexander died.
 - (2) A third wife, Barsine and her son, Hercules, had been murdered by Polysperchon.
 - (3) Alexander's mother, Olympias, got in on the act by having Arridaeus and his wife, Euridice, murdered, and she was shortly murdered by Cassander.
2. Within fifteen years all of Alexander's family were dead.

I. The Antigonids Ruled Phrygia and Macedonia.

- A. Cassander's most troublesome rival in Asia Minor was a general named Antigonus Monophthalmos (One-Eyed) (316-301 B.C.).
 1. Alexander had made Antigonus satrap of Phrygia, and he had dreams of ruling all the Empire.
 2. By 312 B.C. Antigonus held all of Asia Minor, and his son, Demetrius Poliorcetes defeated Ptolemy Lagus of Egypt and Seleucus of Syria at Gaza.
 3. Antigonus' legacy grew when he eventually took all of Macedonia, the birth place of Phillip and Alexander.
 4. By 301 B.C. Antigonus and his son Demetrius had been defeated by Cassander, Lysimachus, and Seleucus at Ipsis, where Antigonus was killed.
 - a. Demetrius was driven out of Macedonia by Lysimachus and Pyrrhus into Asia Minor where he was captured by Seleucus in 285 B.C.

- b. Demetrius died in prison.
- c. Demetrius' son, Antigonus Gonatas (c. 320-239 B.C.) recaptured Macedonia and reigned as King until his death.
 - 1) Demetrius was succeeded by Demetrius II (239-229 B.C.).
 - 2) Demetrius II was succeeded by Antigonus Doson (229-221 B.C.).
 - 3) Antigonus Doson was succeeded by Philip V (221-179 B.C.), who fought two wars against the Romans and was defeated at Cynocephalae in 179 B.C.

B. Perseus, the son of Philip V, was the last of the Antigonid dynasty when he was defeated by the Romans at the battle of Pydna (168 B.C.), after which the Romans divided the kingdom of Macedonia into four republics.

II. **The Attalids** Ruled Over Western Asia Minor.

- A. Philataerus, a eunuch and treasurer for Lysimachus, took the treasury money and deserted to Seleucus, who was murdered shortly thereafter (281 B.C.).
 - 1. Philataerus set himself up as king at Pergamum, a Greek city in Western Asia Minor, thus becoming the first of the Attalids, a dynasty of Pergamene kings.
 - 2. Philataerus was succeeded by his grand-nephew, Eumenes (263-241 B.C.).
 - 3. Eumenes was succeeded by Attalus (269-197 B.C.), who took the title of King of Pergamum in 241 B.C.
 - 4. Attalus was succeeded by Eumenes II (197-159 B.C.).
 - 5. Eumenes was succeeded by Attalus II (159-138 B.C.).
 - 6. Attalus II was succeeded by Attalus III (138-133 B.C.), who at the approach of death had all his heirs murdered and willed the kingdom to Rome.
 - a. This saved Rome the trouble of taking it.
 - b. It became the Roman Province of Asia (133 B.C.)
- (See Acts 16:6; 19:10, 27, Rev. 1:11).

NOTE: "Asia Minor" in the Bible is what we today call the country of Turkey. "Asia" in the Bible was the Province of Asia located on the

western coast of Asia Minor. The seven churches “of Asia” in the book of Revelation were located in the Province of Asia (Rev. 1-3).

B. Other fragments of Alexander’s Empire appeared when the Island of Rhodes formed a maritime confederation of cities and islands along the Asia Minor coast.

1. It became famous for its schools of art and rhetoric.
2. Its Colossus was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
3. Julius Caesar studied oratory there.

III. The Seleucids Ruled Most of Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, and Babylonia.

A. Seleucus Nicator came nearest to holding onto a Greek world empire.

1. When the Regency of Arridaeus and Perdiccas collapsed in 316 B.C., Seleucus began to grab territory.
 - a. He marched into Babylonia and made himself master of that ancient land.
 - b. This began the Kingdom of the Seleucidae, which lasted until 65 B.C. when Pompey, a Roman general captured most of the territory.
 - c. His kingdom embraced territory from the Ionian Sea to India, including Coele-Syria, Phoenicia, and Palestine.
 - d. He built Seleucia Tracheotis at the mouth of the Kalykadnos River, on the coasts of Cilicia as his capital city, naming it for himself.
 - e. He built Seleucia Pieria (Acts 13:4) at the mouth of the Orontes River in Syria, as a seaport for Antioch (Acts 6:5) which he built also for a capital city (Acts 11:19, 20, 22, 26) and named for his father, Antiochus.
 - f. He built Seleucia Opis on the Tigris River as a rival capital city to Babylon, which was gradually deserted.
 - g. He built Laodicea (Rev. 3:14) in Asia of Asia Minor and named it for his mother Laodice.
 - h. He built Apamea south of Hamath on the Orontes and named it for one of his wives.

- i. He built seven cities named for himself, five for his mother, and sixteen for his father.
- 2. The territory, however, was too far spread to exert complete control.
 - a. Provinces of Alexander's kingdom fell away on all sides to become independent states.
 - b. The Seleucid Kingdom was eventually narrowed down over time to Syria, Palestine, and parts of Asia Minor.
- B. Mention is made of Parthia.
 - 1. The Parthians were the most difficult to fight against.
 - 2. Their territory was located east of Media, and they always presented a problem for the Medes, the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans.
 - 3. Their capital was Ecbatana (Achmetha, Ezra 6:2) one of the capitals of the Medo-Persian Empire.
 - 4. The people were war-like, nomadic, and were thought to be akin to the Scythians of the areas north of the Black and Caspian Sea (Acts 2:9).
 - a. Cyrus of Persia was killed trying to conquer this territory in 529 B.C.
 - b. Crassus, one of the First Triumvirates of the Roman Republic, died fighting the Parthian cavalry in 56 B.C.
 - c. Mark Antony, a member of the Second Triumvirate, after the defeat of Brutus and Cassius at Philippi in 42 B.C. (Acts 16:12), led 100,000 men against the Parthians, but the fierceness of the Parthians and the hardships of winter caused him to retreat in disgrace.
 - 5. Their dominion lasted for nearly five centuries, until the end of the 3rd Century A.D.

THE GRECIAN EMPIRE: THE EGYPTIAN FRAGMENT

THE PTOLEMIES

(301-198 B.C.)

- I. The Ptolemies Main Domain Was The Rule of Egypt, Libya, and Arabia.
 - A. Ptolemy I was the son of a Macedonian general name Lagus, but was surnamed Soter (deliverer) (301-286 B.C.).
 1. While Cassander, Lysimachus, and Seleucus were busy fighting Antigonus in Asia Minor, he stepped in and added Coele-Syria, Phoenicia, Palestine, Cyrene, and Cyprus to his domain.
 2. Ptolemy was less benevolent than Alexander had been, and he took Jerusalem on the day of Sabbath when the Jews were not permitted to gather an army and fight.
 3. Ptolemy set about to make Alexandria a greater city.
 - a. He transported 100,000 Jews to Alexandria.
 - b. Some 3,000 of the Jews were absorbed into his army thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 19:18-19).
 - 1) An altar was built in the midst of Egypt.
 - 2) Five cities spoke the language of Canaan and one was called "The city of destruction," (Called Heres, On, and eventually Heliopolis by the Greeks) located 5 miles northeast of Cairo.
 - a) The Jews built a temple there.
 - b) It eventually became a well populated Jewish city.
 - a. A Jewish military colony had been settled on Elephantine Island in Persian times.
 - (1) In 1903 archeologists found records written in Aramaic on papyrus dating aback to the Ezra-Nehemiah era (5th century B.C.).
 - (2) The documents found are called the Elephantine Papyri.
 4. Ptolemy I followed the custom of other rulers in naming cities for himself.
 - a. He built Ptolemais on the Upper Nile (southern Egypt) to replace

- b. He changed the name of the old city of Accho (Judges 1:31) to Ptolemais (Acts 21:7).

B. Ptolemy II (Philadelphus, 286-247 B.C.) came next.

1. He built a lighthouse at the entrance of the harbor to guide ships to Alexandria.
 - a. It was built to aid in the growth of Alexandria.
 - b. It was the first of its kind and named Pharos, after the island upon which it was built.
 - c. It was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
2. He was so named (Philadelphus) because of his devotion to his wife (and sister) Arsinoe.
 - a. This practice of intermarriage with members of the royal family was a custom of the ancient Pharaohs.
 - b. This practice was adopted by the Greek rulers of Egypt and it was the cause of much infamy.

NOTE: Cleopatra, the last of the Ptolemy line, was an example of this.

3. He built a great library and museum in Alexandria, which became a world center of learning.

C. Ptolemy Euergetes (benefactor) III came next (247-222 B.C.).

1. He was called “benefactor” because in one of his wars he captured and placed again in the Egyptian temples some of the Egyptian gods carried away by the Persian Cambyses, son of Cyrus, and Sargon II of Assyria.
2. He expanded the dominions of the Ptolemies to their widest limits.

D. Ptolemy IV (Philopater) came next (222-205 B.C.).

E. Ptolemy V (Epiphanes) came next (205-182 B.C.).

NOTE: It is this Ptolemy that is immortalized on the Rosetta Stone (see notes below in II. A.).

1. During his reign Palestine was retaken by Antiochus III, the 6th Seleucid ruler of Syria, in one of the many wars of the 3rd century B.C. between the Ptolemies and the Seleucids.
2. Palestine was in the middle of these fierce exchanges.

- F. Ptolemy Eupator (182 B.C.) came next.
- G. Ptolemy Philometer (182-147 B.C.) came next.
- H. Ptolemy Philopater came next (146 B.C.).
- I. Ptolemy Euergetes (Phiston) came next (146-117).
- J. Cleopatra was the last of the Ptolemy dynasty (51-30 B.C.).
 - 1. She killed her brother and sister in order to gain the throne.
 - 2. Egypt became a part of the Roman Empire after her death.

II. **Other Historical Connections** Regarding These Times Are Important To Notice

A. **The Discovery of the Rosetta Stone** became the key to the reading of ancient Egyptian inscriptions.

- 1. It was named for the town of the Nile delta near where it was found by Napoleon's men in 1799, when Napoleon invaded Egypt.
- 2. It was inscribed in three languages: Hieroglyphic, Demotic, and Greek capitals.
- 3. It was eventually taken to the British Museum where it was deciphered by a French scholar, Francois Champollion.
- 4. The inscription was a deification of Ptolemy V (Epiphanes, 205-181 B.C.).
- 5. Deciphering the inscription gave men the ability to read writings on the pyramids and temples in Egypt.

B. **The Septuagint Translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into the Greek language** was probably the most important event of the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus (c. 250 B.C.).

- 1. It was supposedly made to provide a copy of the Jewish Scriptures for the Library at Alexandria.
- 2. Its name supposedly came from the work of translation done by 72 elders from Jerusalem on the Island of Pharos in seventy-two days.
- 3. It was quoted by Greek writers before 200 B.C. and it became the Bible of Jesus Christ and the apostles.

- 1. Simon the Just, a High Priest, was credited with rebuilding the Jerusalem walls which had been demolished by Ptolemy I.
- 2. The Jews suffered greatly, however, during the wars between the Ptolemaic and Seleucus rulers.

THE GRECIAN EMPIRE: THE SYRIAN FRAGMENT

THE SELEUCIDS

(298-167 B.C.)

- I. **The Seleucids** Main Domain Was The Rule of Asia Minor, Syria, and Palestine.
 - A. Seleucus Nicator was killed in 281 B.C.
 1. Lysimachus retired to Macedonia.
 2. Philaterus set himself up in Pergamum as the head of the new Attalid dynasty of rulers.
 - B. Antiochus I, Seleucus' son, succeeded him on the throne at Antioch.
 1. For most of the third century B.C. the Seleucids and the Antigonids were singly or collectively at war with the Ptolemies in Egypt.
 2. Ptolemy II invaded Syria in 257 B.C. and was driven back.
 3. With his navy he prolonged the conflict about three years without decisive action.
 - C. Antiochus II succeeded his father to throne of Syria.
 1. War broke out again with Egypt.
 2. Ten years later peace was made and Ptolemy II gave his daughter Bernice (or Berenice) to Antiochus II in marriage.
 3. Antiochus was already married to his half-sister, Laodice, who took a dim view of this arrangement.
 4. When Antiochus II died in 246 B.C., Laodice saw that Berenice and her son were liquidated to assure that her son, Seleucus II should be king.

5. Ptolemy III, however, had come to the throne of Egypt by this time, and when he heard about the death of Bernice, he made war on Syria, which was called the “Laodicean War.”
 - a. Ptolemy III was winning until he was called back to Egypt.
 - b. A peace was made in 240 B.C.
- D. Seleucus II, the son of Laodice, succeeded to the throne of Syria.
- E. Seleucus III, the son of Seleucus II, succeeded to the throne next but was soon poisoned.
- F. Antiochus III, “the Great,” the younger brother of Seleucus III, took the throne in 223 B.C.
 1. He defeated Ptolemy IV (Epiphanes) in war and took Palestine in 198 B.C.
 2. For a time the Jews came under the joint dominion of the Syrian Seleucids and the Egyptian Ptolemies
 3. He gave his daughter, Cleopatra, to marry Ptolemy V, with Phoenicia, Coele-syria, Samaria, and Judea as dowry.
 4. He gave refuge to Hannibal who had fought Rome in the Second Punic War between Rome and Carthage.
 - a. Rome and Carthage, beginning in 264 B.C., tried to destroy one another in three “Punic Wars” over a period of 100 years.
 - b. Hannibal of Carthage was defeated at the battle of Zama (202 B.C.) in the Second Punic War and fled to the court of Antiochus III of Syria.
 - c. Hannibal persuaded Antiochus III to invade Greece, but the Romans drove them back into Asia Minor and defeated them at Magnesia in 190 B.C.
 - d. Hannibal escaped to Bithynia (northern Asia Minor), where he poisoned himself.
 - e. Rome then relieved Antiochus III of most of Asia Minor and gave Lycia and Caria to the Rhodians and the rest to the Pergamene kingdom of Eumenes II, whose grandson, Attalus III willed his kingdom to Rome to become the Roman province of Asia in 133 B.C. (See Acts 2:9; 16:6, 7; 19:27; 1 Cor. 16:19; 1 Peter 1:1; Rev. 1:4).

5. He was required by Rome to pay huge reparations.
 - a. His youngest son, Antiochus IV, was held as a hostage by Rome for twelve years until all was paid.
 - b. He was killed in the East, while robbing temples to pay Rome.
 - c. The power of Rome began to be felt in distant places.

G. Seleucus IV took the throne after the death of his father, 187-175 B.C.

H. Antiochus IV, (Epiphanes) the younger brother, and hostage in Rome took the throne next, 175-164 B.C.

1. He was determined to Hellenize the kingdom thoroughly.
2. He aroused the hatred and resentment of the Jews, and they eventually named him Epimanes which meant “the madman.”.
3. He brought upon the Jews one of the darkest periods of their long, down-trodden history.

II. The Seleucids Reign Under **Antiochus IV Epiphanes** Was A Rule of Terror for the Jews.

A. Antiochus IV Epiphanes looked upon the high priest’s office as a political position to be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

1. Jerusalem was ruled by Onias III, the high priest.
 - a. He was a descendant of Simon, the Just, who had rebuilt the Jerusalem walls described in the book of Nehemiah.
 - b. He was an orthodox Jew, but he had a brother, Jesus, who was a brain-washed Hellenist collaborator.
2. Jesus, the brother of Onias III, offered Antiochus IV a larger tribute and was therefore appointed high priest in Onias III’s place (The Apocrypha: 2 Maccabees 4:7-26).
 - a. Jesus then set about to make Jerusalem into a typical Greek city.
 - b. He built a gymnasium (Greek: gymnos--naked, stripped) where Jewish youths could exercise in the nude, and he fostered the adoption of Greek names, changing his own to Jason.

NOTE: The Apocrypha (non-inspired books) written between the Old and New Testaments contain some Intertestament History. If you have an Apocrypha, read 2 Maccabees 4:1-15.

- c. He brought in Greek fashions and foreign customs which the Jews considered wicked.
- d. The priests disdained the sanctuary and neglected the sacrifices because they were more interested in the unlawful exercises in the gymnasium.
 - 1) They practiced and played in the nude.
 - 2) They wore the polka dotted costumes and hat of Hermes (Greek god of commerce, invention, and cunning, later identified with the Roman god Mercury).
 - 3) Many of the young men were willing to go through painful surgery to become uncircumcised and look more like the Greeks.
- a. Koine Greek (the language of the common man) was spoken in the streets of Jerusalem.
- b. Greek business men set up shop, and the old way of life in Judea became an object of ridicule.
- c. When Antiochus IV visited Jerusalem he was honored with a torch-light parade by Jason.
- d. Jason, with permission from Antiochus IV changed the name of Jerusalem to Antioch and the citizens called themselves Antiochites.
- 3. The Chasidim, or Hasidim (the pious ones) which were supporters of the old order stayed active in the background waiting for an opportunity to restore the old ways or paths.
 - a. They were the conservative forerunners of the Pharisees.
 - b. The Hellenists, the “liberals,” were the forerunners of the Sadducees who later rejected the existence of angels, life after death, and the resurrection.
- 4. While delivering Jason’s tribute to Antiochus IV, Menelaus, the brother of Jason, flattered Antiochus so effectively that Antiochus accepted his offer

of 300 talents of silver more than Jason was paying and as a result appointed him high priest (See Maccabees 4).

- a. Menelaus succeeded in having his brother Onias arrested and murdered.
 - b. He also repeatedly robbed the Temple and provoked rioting in the streets.
 - c. Jason heard a false rumor that Antiochus was dead.
 - 1) He raided Jerusalem whereupon he was accused before Aretas of Ammon.
 - 2) He fled for his life and was then later lost at sea while sailing for Sparta.
5. Antiochus felt secure in Palestine and therefore went a second time into Egypt in an effort to extend the borders of his kingdom (See 2 Maccabees 5).
- a. Ptolemy VII (Philometor) and his army were routed, but the Romans had different ideas on this matter.
 - b. It is said that a Roman officer drew a circle around Antiochus in the sand and forbade him to step out of it until he promised to leave Egypt.
 - c. This is the same Antiochus who was held as a hostage in Rome and therefore knew of the might of the Roman legions.
 - d. He took his wounded pride back to toward Antioch and vented his rage upon the hapless Jews in the 143rd year of the kingdom (153rd Olympiad), or 167 B.C.
6. When news of Jason's raid reached Antiochus IV he thought that Judea was in revolt, so he set out from Egypt like a "wild beast and took the city by storm" (2 Mac. 5:11).
- a. His soldiers massacred 40,000 men, women and children in three days and sold a like number into slavery.
 - b. The temple was robbed of its gold and furniture, the finest buildings were burned, the city walls torn down, and the city pillaged.
 - c. Swine were offered on the altar, copies of the Law were piled up in the streets and burned, a bearded image of Jupiter was placed in the

Temple, immoral heathen rites were staged by priestesses and soldiers in the Temple courts, drunken feasts to Bacchus were common, and the Jews were forbidden to circumcise their children, read the Law, keep the Sabbath, or any of the Feast Days, or to offer sacrifices.

NOTE: We will also be looking at the life of Antiochus IV when we look at the prophecies about him in Daniel chapters 8 and 11.

- d. Josephus says this was a fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy 408 years before (See Daniel 8:11-14 and 23-26).
- e. Thousands were whipped with rods, torn to pieces, crucified, and strangled; and, bodies of circumcised boys were hanged about the necks of their mothers on crosses.

SIDE NOTE: Crucifixion, which had been invented by the Persians (Ezra 6:11) was here introduced by Antiochus IV, and was later adopted by the Romans in fulfillment of the Scriptures; Psalm 22:16; Zech. 12:10; John 19:37; 20:27.

- f. Some Jews were beaten to death for refusing to eat hog meat, and others were butchered for refusing to worship idols.
 - g. The Jews were indeed subjected to the rage and power of the "mad man," *Antiquities*, XII, 5:3, Josephus.
7. The Samaritans saw the suffering of the Jews and no longer claimed kin with them, nor with their religion.
- a. The division of the Jews and Samaritans dates back to the time Nehemiah came into Jerusalem and found Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.
 - 1) The Samaritans had been a constant thorn in the side of the Jews when they returned from the Babylonian captivity to rebuild the Jerusalem temple.
 - 2) When Nehemiah appeared on the scene the Samaritans attempted to stop the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

- 3) He then discovered that one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, had married the daughter of a Horonite (a resident of Beth-horon in Samaria) by the name of Sanballat and therefore drove him and her out because they were not Jews.
 - 4) Sanballat left Jerusalem along with other followers and went to the valley of Jacob's well where in 409 B.C. and by permission of Darius Nothus of Persia, he built a temple on Mt. Gerizim.
- b. Because of the persecution of the Jews by Antiochus IV, the Samaritans disowned their relation to the Jews, and consecrated their temple on Mount Gerizim to Jupiter, a Greek god (Temple of Jupiter Hellenius)
 - c. Antiochus declared them free from accusations of kinship with the Jews; thus, the Jews despised the Samaritans.
 - d. Because of intermarriage and resulting illnesses there are less than 200 Samaritans living today around Mt. Gerizim upon which still stands a small structure containing the Samaritan Pentateuch which is exactly like the Jewish Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible) with the exception of the scriptures where God says His temple was to be built.
- B. Antiochus IV Epiphanes was without a doubt from the perspective of the Jews the most ruthless king of the Seleucid Kingdom.
1. His ruthlessness warranted a warning from God to the Jews in Daniel 8 and 11.
 2. His actions brought about a rebellion from the Jews who refused to disobey God's law and dishonor God's name.

THE GRECIAN EMPIRE: THE JEWS REVOLT

THE MACCABEAN REVOLT AND THE HASMONEAN RULERS (167-63 B.C.)

I. **The Seleucids Reign of Terror** Against The Jews Ended When Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) Died, And The Struggle For Judah's Independence Began.

A. **Antiochus IV** died of a distemper while in Babylon with his army.

1. Polybius of Megalopolis says that he died as punishment for his intended plunder of the Temple of Diana at Elymais in Persia.
2. Josephus says his death was punishment for his plundering the Temple in Jerusalem.

NOTE: You will notice that some of the dates of these kings overlap. Some of these rulers reigned at the same time but in different areas. It was also because of the civil wars that were constantly being fought. It's kind of like Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis ruling over the United States at the same time.

B. **Antiochus V (Eupator)**, the son of Antiochus IV, was appointed to rule in 164 B.C. by **Lysias**, the captain of Antiochus IV.

1. He was nine years of age and had been under the guardianship of Lysias, who was also regent of the western part of the Seleucid empire (1 Macc. 3:32).
2. Antiochus IV on his death bed had appointed Philip to be the regent and guardian instead.
3. Upon hearing this, Lysias set Antiochus V up as king and named him Eupator ("born of noble father").
4. Lysias and the boy-king defeated Judas Maccabeus in Jerusalem.
5. Demetrius I Soter, second son of Seleucus IV and nephew of Antiochus IV (who became a hostage in Rome when Antiochus IV was released) and cousin of Antiochus V, escaped from Rome, seized and put to death both Lysias and Antiochus V (1 Macc. 7:1-4; 2 Macc. 14:1, 2).

C. **Demetrius I Soter**, second son of Seleucus IV, nephew of Antiochus IV, and cousin of Antiochus V came to the throne within two years (162 B.C.).

1. After having escaped Rome as a hostage, he seized and had put to death Antiochus V and Lysias.
2. He was overthrown and killed in battle.

D. **Alexander Epiphanes (Balas)**, another son of Antiochus IV became the next ruler in 150 B.C..

1. Ptolemy VII (Philometor) of Egypt supported Alexander Epiphanes of Syria because Philometor gave Alexander his Syrian daughter Cleopatra III to wife.

- a. She was the daughter of Cleopatra II who was the sister/wife of Philometor.

NOTE: Cleopatra I was the mother of Ptolemy VI Philometor and acted as regent queen for a while because Philometor was a child when he was given the throne of Egypt.

- b. Cleopatra II was the daughter of Cleopatra I and Antiochus III the Great, whom he had given to Ptolemy V (Epiphanes) with a dowry of Phoenicia, Coele-Syria, Samaria, and Judea, which he had just taken from Ptolemy in 198 B.C.

2. Balas was in turn supplanted by the son of Demetrius I, Demetrius II Nicator in 145 B.C.

NOTE: These civil wars hastened the decline of Seleucid powers. They provided Jewish revolters (Maccabeans) and later rulers the opportunity of securing the High Priesthood (Jonathan) in Jerusalem and concessions from the Syrians (1 Maccabees 10:1-11:9).

More details on the Jewish revolt will be outlined in section II of this outline.

E. **Demetrius II Nicator (the Younger)**, son of Demetrius Soter, assassinated Alexander Balas in 145 B.C. and took over the Syrian throne.

1. He was taken captive by the Parthians in 139 B.C.
2. His wife Cleopatra was imprisoned at Seleucia by a general of Alexander Epiphanes named Diodotus Tryphon.

F. Diodotus Tryphon claimed the Syrian throne for Alexander's son, **Antiochus VI (Epiphanes Dionysus)**.

1. Tryphon was embarrassed by the successes of Jonathan (a Judean) who had subdued the whole country from Damascus to Egypt.
2. By deceit he imprisoned Jonathan and later put him to death in 143 B.C.
3. Tryphon then procured an assassination of Antiochus VI by surgeons in an operation in 142 B.C. (1 Maccabees 11:1-13:31).

G. **Diodotus Tryphon** was made ruler of Syria by his army.

1. He turned out to be a despot; so, the army revolted in favor of Cleopatra.
 - a. She sent asking the brother of her first husband to come marry her.
 - b. He came to her rescue, raised an army, and defeated Trypho in Antioch in 138 B.C.
2. He was executed at Apamia by Cleopatra's new husband, Antiochus VII Sidetes (the Pious) who took over the throne in 140. B.C.

H. **Antiochus VII Sidetes (the Pious)** became the next ruler of Syria.

1. He attacked Judea and besieged Jerusalem which resulted in the defeat of the Judean leader Simon.
2. Because of food shortage John Hyrcanus of the Judean Hasmonean Dynasty surrendered and made peace, which restored the Seleucid supremacy in the West.
3. With the assistance of Hyrcanus, Antiochus VII temporarily recovered Babylon from Parthia.
4. Demetrius II was released from prison by the Parthians in 129 B.C.
 - a. He created a diversion in his brother's attack on the Parthians.
 - b. This diversion resulted in Antiochus VII being killed in battle against the Parthians, and Demetrius II became sole king for the second time.
 - c. This internal strife so weakened the Seleucids they never regained the provinces in the East.

I. **Antiochus VIII Grypus (Hook-nosed)** (140-96 B.C.), second son of Demetrius II and Cleopatra III (daughter of Ptolemy Philometor and former wife of Alexander Balas) became ruler in 124 B.C.

1. He was attacked by his half-brother/cousin Antiochus Cyzicenus and consequently in 113 B.C. Antiochus VIII retired to Aspendus in Pamphylia.
 2. In 111 B.C. Antiochus VIII returned and gained the greater part of Syria from his half-brother/cousin, the latter retaining the greater part of Coele-Syria.
 3. The feud between the brothers was of great advantage to Rome in gaining a foothold in Syria and for the Jews toward complete independence under John Hyrcanus.
 4. Antiochus VIII was assassinated in 96 B.C. by Heracleon, the king's minister.
- J. **Antiochus IX Cyzicenus Philopater**, the second son of Antiochus VII and Cleopatra (daughter of Ptolemy Philometor and formerly married to Alexander Balas and Demetrius II) was reared in Cyzicus in Asia Minor.
1. He defeated his half brother/cousin Antiochus VIII and became the sole ruler from 113-111 B.C.
 2. Upon the return of Antiochus VIII, Antiochus IX was able to retain only Coele-Syria while the former regained the greater part of Syria.
 3. Antiochus IX was captured, killed, and succeeded by his nephew Seleucus VI Epiphanes Nicator.
- K. **Seleucus VI Epiphanes Nicator**, the oldest son of Antiochus VIII and nephew of Antiochus IX, succeeded his father to the throne.
1. He was challenged by Antiochus X.
 2. The other sons of Antiochus VIII tried constantly to take the throne away from Seleucus VI.
- L. **Antiochus X Eusebes (Pious)**, son of Antiochus IX Cyzicenus Philopater reigned 94-83 B.C.
1. When Seleucus VI Epiphanes Nicator, son of Antiochus VIII Grypus, took over the throne in 95 B.C., he was challenged by Antiochus X.
 - a. Subsequently the other four sons of Antiochus VIII Grypus (Antiochus IX, Philip, Demetrius III, and Antiochus XII) all attempted to wrest the throne from Antiochus X.

- b. This internal strife weakened the Seleucid dynasty which was beneficial to the Romans and made it possible for Alexander Jannaeus (Jewish Hasmonean) to conquer almost all of the land of Israel.

2. Antiochus X's end in 83 B.C. is variously reported.

M. **Tigranes, king of Armenia**, gained control over Syria in 83 B.C. and ruled over it by means of a viceroy until his own defeat by the Romans in 69 B.C.

N. **Antiochus XIII Asiaticus**, son of Antiochus X and Selene (daughter of Ptolemy Physcon who had been married successively to Ptolemy Soter, Antiochus VIII, Antiochus IX, and Antiochus X), reigned 69-65. B.C.

1. Philip, grandson of Antiochus VIII, sought to claim the throne but was unsuccessful.
2. Antiochus XIII appealed to Rome for help, but Pompey, the Roman General, came to Syria and made it a Roman province in 63 B.C. which marked the end of the Seleucid dynasty.

II. The Seleucid Reign of Terror Provoked The **Maccabean Revolt of the Jews**.

A. The blood-thirsty reign of Antiochus IV Epiphanes against the Jews proved to be his own undoing; for, the Jews began fighting back.

1. Antiochus IV attempted to force the Jews into idolatry.
 - a. He sent a general named Apelles to the city of Modin to enforce his wishes.
 - b. **Mattathias (the Extinguisher {of Hellenism})**, great-grandson of Asmoneus, or Hasmoneus (Hebrew—*Hashmon*) and his five sons Judas Maccabeus (the Hammer), Eleazar Auran (the Beef sticker), Jonathan Apphus (the Cunning), John Gaddis (the Holy), and Simon Matthes (the Guide) resisted the Hellenization of Judea.
 - 1) Because he was a prominent citizen, Mattathias was selected to offer the sacrifice of swine as an example to the others.
 - 2) Matthias refused to forsake the worship of the true God.

- 3) Another Jew stepped out to offer the sacrifice , but in righteous indignation Mattathias drew his sword and killed the Jew and the general and then overturned the altar.
 - 4) Afterwards he and his sons fled into the wilderness of Judea and were followed by many others.
 - 5) Antiochus' men smothered about a thousand in a cave on the Sabbath Day, but Mattathias soon convinced his followers that they could fight on the Sabbath and thus overcame this disadvantage.
- c. **Judas Maccabeus (the Hammer)** took over the leadership of the rebellion when his father died two years later.
- 1) He defeated in quick succession Appolonius, general of the Samaritan forces, and Seron, general of the Coele-Syrian forces, some of whom were renegade Jews.
 - 2) Antiochus ordered Lysias (later killed in battle with Demetrius Soter) to put down the rebellion, destroy Jerusalem, and sell the Jews into slavery while he went into Persia seeking taxes.
 - a) Lysias sent 40,000 soldiers and 7,000 horsemen under Ptolemy, (son of Dorymenes), Nicator, and Gorgias, to Emmaus.
 - b) With them were many renegade Jews and merchants with ropes to bind slaves they intended to buy.
 - 3) Judas saw their camp, addressed his rag-tag army on the gravity of the situation.
 - a) He urged them to put on sackcloth to pray and to depend upon God for victory.
 - b) He set them in the ancient order of battle, dismissed those newly married or recently gaining possessions (Deut. 20:1-9) and urged all to have courage.
 - 4) Gorgias was sent with 5,000 men and a thousand horsemen for a surprise attack on Judas, but when they reached Judas' camp they found nothing but campfires brightly burning.

- 5) Judas, in the meanwhile, with 3,000 men made a forced march to Emmaus and surprised the Syrian army at daylight.
 - a) He slew many of them and pursued the rest to Gadara, Ashdod, and Idumea.
 - b) He took weapons, gold, silver, purple, and blue from the enemy camp and returned home with songs of praise to God for the victory.
- 6) Lysias mustered 60,000 men and 5,000 horsemen, but Judas met him with 10,000 rebels and defeated him.
- 7) Judas then led the faithful Jews into Jerusalem, cleansed the Temple, built a new altar, and reinstated the worship of God on the 25th of Chisleu (December), in the 148th year of the Seleucid kingdom, the 154th Olympiad, or 164 B.C.
 - a) This occurred just three years after swine were offered on the altar and Jupiter's statue erected in the Temple by Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
 - b) A Feast of Dedication (John 10:22), or Feast of Lights was conducted for eight days.
 - c) This feast is still celebrated today by Jews and is called Hanukkah.
- 8) Judas established a shaky treaty of peace with Lysias who granted the Jews religious freedom and ended Syrian attempts to Grecianize them.
 - a) In April, 161 B.C. Judas was killed in a battle against overwhelming odds, and was buried by his brothers in the family tomb at Modin.
 - b) He was well honored with these words, "And the rest of the acts of Judas and his wars, and the valiant deeds which he did, and his greatness, they are not written: for they were exceedingly many" (1 Maccabees 9:22).

- d. **Jonathan Apphus (the Cunning)** took the place of Judas in 161 B.C.
- 1) After the death of his brother he fled across Jordan with a few hundred ill-equipped men to continue the fight for independence.
 - 2) He made alliances with Sparta and Rome.
 - 3) In the dispute between Demetrius Soter and Alexander Epiphanes over the Syrian throne, he supported Alexander, the winner, who reigned five years before his head was cut off in Arabia and sent to Ptolemy VII (Philometor).
 - 4) He was finally made high priest and governor of the Philistine coast.
 - 5) Alexander's general, Tryphon, took the throne and made war on the Jews.
 - 6) Jonathan met Tryphon with 40,000 chosen men at Bethshan (Sythopolis).
 - a) Tryphon pretended friendliness and treacherously persuaded Jonathan to come with him into Ptolemais (Acts 21:7) with only a thousand men.
 - b) As soon as the gates were shut, Tryphon's men butchered Jonathan's bodyguard and made him a prisoner.
 - c) A ransom of 100 talents of silver and two of Jonathan's sons was paid, but Trypho would not release Jonathan.
 - d) With a great army Tryphon headed for Jerusalem, but a heavy snow turned him aside into the land of Gilead, where he slew Jonathan and returned to Antioch.
- e. **Simon Matthes (the Guide)**, the brother of Jonathan, took Jonathan's place (142-134 B.C.).
- 1) He recovered the bones of Jonathan and buried them at Modin.
 - 2) He demonstrated his ability to be a good diplomat by recognizing Demetrius the Younger as rightful king of Syria.
 - a) Demetrius agreed not to tax the Jews, thus making them virtually independent.

- b) Demetrius did not interfere when Israel made Simon high priest for life, thus officially endorsing the Hasmonean dynasty of priest-kings.
 - 3) He gave Israel a short time of prosperity and peace.
 - 4) He and his two sons were murdered at a feast by an ambitious son-in-law named Ptolemy.
- f. **John Hyrcanus**, a third son, managed to escape and was recognized as head of the Jewish state (134-104 B.C.) by Antiochus VII (Sidetes), who later executed a fourth son of Simon by the name of Judas.
 - 1) He refused the title of king and entered upon his work as high priest and ruler with zeal.
 - 2) He destroyed the Samaritan temple on Mt. Gerizim, forcing the Idumeans to accept circumcision and the Jewish faith.
 - 3) He extended Jewish rule on every side, but new rivalries developed.
 - a) He was not as religious as his predecessors had been and his children became thoroughly Hellenized.
 - b) Two of his sons preferred Greek names; Aristobulus instead of Judah, and Alexander Jannaeus instead of Jonathan.
 - c) The sects among the Jews were more identifiable.

The **Hasidim**, conservatives, sticklers for the Law and the traditions of the elders, believers in angels, spirits, and the resurrection from the dead, ceremonial purity, and moral separateness, had become the **Pharisees**. They made proselytes freely among the common people. The **Hellenists**, the priestly aristocracy of worldly-minded liberals became known as Sadducees, or Zadokites, supposedly after Zadok, who was made high priest by Solomon when he banished Abiathar of the house of Eleazar (I Kings 2:26, 35). The **Sadducees** made no proselytes and held themselves aloof from the masses. They denied the existence of spirits and angels and the resurrection from the dead (Mark 12:18; Luke 20:27; 23:8). Although their

religion was largely negative, they believed in free-will and in the authority of the Torah (Law of Moses) only.

- 4) He was a Pharisee when he came to power, but switched and became a Sadducee because of some criticism of his mother's past by a trouble-maker who was a Pharisee.
 - a) This made the Sadducees the party of the kings as well as of the priests.
 - b) There was a constant struggle between the "conservatives" and the "liberals."
- 5) He became so much of a politician that he was willing to rob the tomb of David in order to pay Antiochus VII 500 talents of silver for lifting the siege of Jerusalem, after giving up his brother, Judas, as a hostage to be put to death.
- 6) He was the first Jewish leader to keep mercenary soldiers.
- 7) He ruled for 31 years, and was the first of the Hasmonean line since Mattathias to die a natural death.
- 8) He left behind five sons.
- g. **Aristobulus**, John Hyrcanus' eldest son, took over, put a crown on his head and his mother in prison, who had undertook to rule as queen.
 - 1) He starved his mother to death while she was in prison.
 - 2) He put his older three brothers in prison and had two of them strangled to death.
 - 3) His wife **Salome Alexandra**, aided in a plot to slander and kill his brother Antigonus, whom he had loved dearly, in Strato's Tower (city of Caesarea).
 - a) The strain was too much for him and he became remorseful and mentally disturbed, turned to drink, and became sick.
 - b) After seeing spots of blood where Antigonus had been slain, he wept uncontrollably.
 - 4) He died after only a year's reign.

- h. **Alexander Janneus** was released from prison, married **Salome Alexandra** (his brother's wife), and assumed the Jewish throne (103-76 B.C.).
- 1) He extended the frontiers of the kingdom even farther than had John Hyrcanus, until he ruled almost as much territory as had David.
 - 2) Galilee became an important center in Israel, although the Samaritans continued to resist Judaism.
 - 3) Gaza, which had successfully withstood his father, was besieged a year and reduced to ashes.
 - 4) He fought the Syrians, Arabians, Moabites, Philistines, Samaritans, and any others who faced him for twenty-seven years, but he finally had to face a rebellion at home.
 - a) He slew 6,000 Jews because some threw citrons at him on one occasion.
 - b) After six years of civil war he had killed 50,000 Jews.

When he asked his countrymen what he should do to please them, they answered, "Kill yourself."
 - 5) He was defeated in battle by Demetrius Eucerus, king of Damascus and son of Antiochus Grypus.
 - a) He fled to the mountains and Demetrius Eucerus was afraid to follow.
 - b) In retaliation Alexander Janneus shut up the most powerful of the Jews in the city of Bethome, captured them, and brought them to Jerusalem, where he had 800 of them crucified while he feasted with his concubines, and ordered the throats of their wives and children cut before their eyes.
 - 6) His health failed him from drunkenness and dissipation.
 - 7) He suffered from a quartan ague (fourth-day chills and fever) for three years, and died when forty-nine years old at Ragaba, beyond Jordan.

- i. **Salome Alexandra**, the wife of Alexander Janneus, became queen of Israel (76-67 B.C.)
 - 1) She had been instructed by Alexander on what to do to retain power after he died.
 - a) Following his instruction she concealed his death from the soldiers, marched triumphantly into Jerusalem, gave the Pharisees complete control in the government (he had been a Sadducee), and turned his body over to the men of Jerusalem to treat as they wished.
 - b) The Jews were appeased, and he received a state funeral.
 - 2) She appointed her eldest son **Hyrkanus II** as high priest and put the younger son, **Aristobulus II** in charge of the army.
 - a) The Pharisees restored the practices which her father-in-law, John Hyrcanus, had abolished.
 - b) Former prisoners were also set free, and this pleased the citizens of Jerusalem.
 - 3) She experienced a reign without threat from outside forces with the exception of Tigranes, king of Armenia, who invaded Syria where Cleopatra Selene was queen, with a half a million men, intending to invade Judea; but, during the siege of Ptolemais, news came to him that the Romans under consul Lucius Licinius Lucullus were pursuing Mithradates the Great of Pontus, and laying waste Armenia.
 - 4) She died at the age of seventy-three after ruling for nine years.
- j. **Hyrkanus II**, already serving as High Priest, was the rightful heir to the Hasmonean throne.
 - 1) He was immediately faced with a challenge from his brother Aristobulus II whom his mother had set over the army.
 - a) Aristobulus promptly rallied the Sadducees and gained a huge victory in Jericho.
 - b) He then marched his army toward Jerusalem.

- 2) Hyrcanus and the Pharisees had neither enthusiasm for war nor military ability.
 - 3) Declaring that he never really desired the throne, Hyrcanus surrendered all his honors to Aristobulus II after having reigned for only three months.
 - 4) He and Aristobulus vowed eternal friendship, after which Aristobulus' eldest son, Alexander, married Hyrcanus' only daughter, Alexandra.
 - 5) The peace between them was short lived; for, he had to flee (as was suggested) to **Aretas**, king of the **Nabatean Arabs**.
 - a) **Antipater**, an Idumean by birth, saw in Hyrcanus' position an opportunity to gain political power in Judea.
 - b) He persuaded Hyrcanus that he had been defrauded of his rights to the throne by his younger brother.
 - c) Hyrcanus agreed to the plan and the Nabateans marched against Jerusalem.
- k. **Aristobulus II** (67-63 B.C.), by right of conquest and backed by the Sadducees, took the throne from his brother Hyrcanus II.
- 1) The peace between Aristobulus and Hyrcanus was short-lived.
 - 2) When Hyrcanus and the Nabatean Arabs marched against Jerusalem Aristobulus was caught by surprise.
 - a) He immediately shut himself up in Jerusalem.
 - b) Both sides prepared for a long siege.
 - 3) This gave the **Romans** a ready-made excuse to intervene in Palestinian affairs.
 - a) Pompey the Great of Rome took Palestine.
 - b) The Roman army stormed the walls of Jerusalem, cut down the priests at the altar, and killed some 12,000 Jews.
 - 4) With the defeat of Aristobulus II, Judea became a part of the Roman province of Syria.

- a) Hyrcanus II was rewarded for his loyalty to Pompey by being named Ethnarch of Judea and confirmed to the office of High Priest.
 - b) Aristobulus II and his son Alexander were arrested and sent to Rome.
- 5) After being forced to march as a captive in Pompey's triumphal return to Rome, he was poisoned and his body embalmed in honey.
- 6) His son escaped from Rome and led armies against the Romans, but was later beheaded on order of Pompey at Antioch.
- 1. After **Alexandra** the daughter of Hyrcanus II **married Alexander**, the daughter of Hyrcanus II, they gave birth to a son Aristobulus III and a daughter Mariamne.
 - 1) After being established King of Judea in 37 B.C., Herod the Great, the son of Antipater an Idumean, married Mariamne and thus effectively ended the rule of the Hasmonean family.
 - 2) Because of fear from Hasmonean rule, Herod the Great ordered that **Aristobulus III** be drowned while bathing at Jericho, thus ending the 125 years of direct Hasmonean descendents.
- 2. After the death of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the Maccabean Revolt brought about the off and on control by the Jews in Palestine which lasted 125 years.
- B. The blood thirsty reign of the Syrian king Antiochus IV Epiphanes in 165 B.C. was eventually replaced by the insane reign of the Idumean king Herod the Great in 37 B.C.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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Daniel Chapters 9-12 (pages 62-75)

Herod the great, the jews, and rome;

the iron and clay kingdom. (pages 76-87)



Messenger from God

Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy...After sixty-two weeks, Messiah will be cut off...He will confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wings of abomination shall be one who makes desolate...

Charles R. Williams

BOOK OF DANIEL---Chapters 9-12

Chapter nine is a prophecy of the first coming of the Messiah, Jesus the Christ. Daniel is told that the Messiah's coming would take place 490 years after the decree went forth from a ruler to restore and rebuild the temple and the city. This occurred under the decree of the Medo-Persian King Artaxerxes in the 7th year of his reign in the year 458 B.C. Before then the work on the temple was halted a number of times because of a lack of dedication on the part of the people and because of the enemies of God's people (Nehemiah 1:1-4; 4:1-23). Eighty-one years had gone by since Cyrus' decree to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

IX. Chapter 9: Daniel Realizes That Jeremiah's Prophecy of Israel Being In Babylonian Captivity For Seventy Years Is Almost Completed And Wants To Know What Is To Follow.

- A. Daniel admits to God his own sin and the sins of his people.
- B. Daniel admits that Israel is in captivity because of sin and pleads for restoration.
- C. While praying, the angel Gabriel comes to Daniel and tells him that although the seventy years of captivity are about over, a time of seven times seventy or 490 years must come about before the Messiah accomplished his work.
- D. The angel tells Daniel that the people would return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple and walls.
- E. The angel tells Daniel the purpose for which the temple would be rebuilt (v. 24).
 - 1. The progress of sin would end.
 - 2. An atonement of sins would be made.
 - 3. Men would be reconciled unto God.
- F. In addition the angel mentions several things which will be accomplished at the end of the 490 years.
 - 1. It will "bring in everlasting righteousness."
 - 2. The end of the vision will occur.
 - 3. Men will be reconciled to God.

- G. The 490 years would begin when the commandment went forth from a ruler to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (v. 25).
1. This would be the seventh year of the reign of the Medo-Persian king Artaxerxes, (Ezra 7-10) in 458 B.C.
 2. A period of seven weeks (or 49 years) would be used to build the city (vs. 24-25).
 3. This seventy weeks period would then be followed by a sixty-two week period or 434 years for a total of 483 years which would be seven years short of 490 years at which time the anointed one would be cut off (vs. 25-26).
 4. For one week or seven years Jehovah would make a firm covenant with many and in the middle of the seventh week (3½) the Anointed One (Jesus Christ) would be cut down or put to death (v. 26).
 5. Christ began his personal ministry at the age of thirty; and, three and one-half years later, he was put to death, on the cross.
 6. When Christ was put to death on the cross, he made sacrifices and oblation to cease (v. 27; Col. 2:13-14)).
 7. After the Prince was cut off in the midst of the week, the church or the kingdom was established and within the next three and one-half years, the gospel was preached to the Jews and to the Samaritans (half-Jews).
- H. Soon after the church was established and the gospel preached to the world the temple would be destroyed again, vs. 26-27; and we know that in A.D. 70 Titus of Rome dispatched an army of eighty thousand men to Jerusalem to put down, once and for all, the rebellion of the Jews.
1. The temple was destroyed.
 2. The city walls were also destroyed.
- I. Jesus referred to Daniel when he spoke of the destruction of Jerusalem in Matt. 24:15-16.

If you begin with 458 B.C. and add 483 years (69 weeks) you would come to A.D. 25, the date of the baptism of Christ (Jesus was actually born about 5 B.C.) Jesus was put to death 3.5 years into his ministry which would be in the middle of the 7th week or 7 years. His death brought about “reconciliation for sins” and brought “an end

to the necessity of animal sacrifice and offering,” (Daniel 9:24, 17; Col. 2:13-14). On the “wing” of this, the city and sanctuary would be destroyed (Daniel 9:27). This occurred in A.D. 70 under the Roman general Titus. In chart form it would look something like this:

THE SEVENTY WEEKS PROPHECY OF DANIEL 9:24-27

THE PROPHECY:

69 weeks + 1 week = 70 weeks + more time = “Desolation of the temple and city”

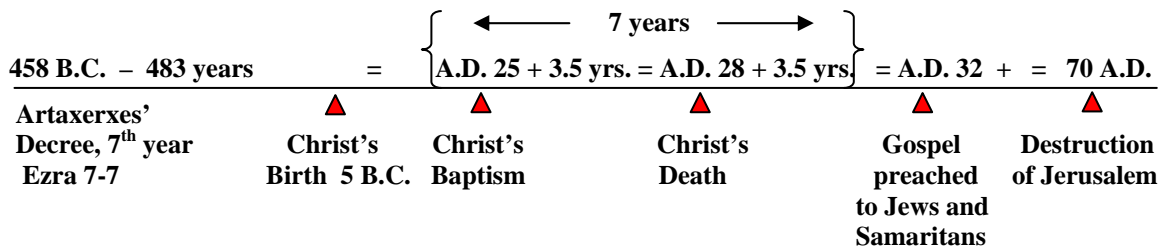
WHICH MEANS:

483 years (69 X 7) + 7 years = 490 years. + more time = “Desolation of the temple and city”

WHICH ALSO MEANS:

483 years (69 X 7) + (3.5 yrs. + 3.5 yrs) + (“on the wing”) = “Desolation of temple and city”

TIME LINE OF THE PROPHECY:



NOTE: With the correction of the mistake in the Roman calendar Jesus was born in 5 B.C. Jesus was therefore baptized in A.D. 25 when he began his ministry and was put to death 3.5 years into his ministry in A.D. 28. This would be the middle of the 7th week which represents seven years. On the wing of this the city and the sanctuary or temple were destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70.

X. Chapter 10: Daniel Is Told He Is To Receive Another Vision About Greece.

- A. After fasting for three weeks Daniel receives a vision in the third year of Cyrus King of Persia
 - 1. This is the latest year mentioned in the book of Daniel for the extent of Daniel's life.
 - 2. Daniel would be somewhere around ninety years of age.
- B. The heavenly messenger came to Daniel after Michael gave him help with a battle he was having with some demonic being of Persia.
- C. The heavenly messenger tells Daniel that the prince or king of Greece must come.
- D. The vision of this is given in the next chapter.

XI. Chapter 11: Daniel Is Given Details of Events Which Were To Take Place In The Grecian Empire.

- A. For details of this chapter read the expanded verse by verse amplified translation below the 11th chapter outline.
- B. It should be noted that some believe that verses 36-44 refer to the Roman Empire.
 - 1. The "latter days" of the Jews would certainly include the Romans.
 - 2. The verses fit well the Roman policies.
 - 3. The Romans fought Egypt and controlled it whereas the Greeks did not.
 - a. Cleopatra was the last in the line of the Ptolemies.
 - b. Cleopatra committed suicide after her lover Mark Antony committed suicide because he lost the battle against Octavian.
 - 4. Herod the Great gave royal treatment to the Romans which allowed them to conquer Egypt and take the treasures of Egypt and the Libyans and Ethiopians back to Rome, vs. 41-44.
 - 5. Rome had trouble from the Gauls and Germanic tribes to the north and east, v. 44.
 - 6. Rome will serve the purpose of God but it also shall come to an end.
- C. The vision continues in chapter 12.
- D. Below is an amplified translation of chapter 11.

Chapter 11 – Amplified

Verse:

1. And as for me (angel, perhaps Gabriel), in the first year of Darius the Mede (also known as Darius II, 424-405 B.C.), I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.
2. And now will I show thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia (Cambyses, a son of Cyrus; Smerdis, who pretended to be a son of Cyrus; and Darius Hystaspes); and the fourth (Xerxes) shall be far richer than they all; and when he is waxed strong through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.
3. And a mighty king (Alexander the Great) shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.
4. And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken (by his death), and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven (his four generals who were Cassander who ruled Macedonia, Lysimachus who ruled Thrace and Asia Minor, Seleucus who ruled Syria and Babylon, and Ptolemy Soter who ruled Egypt and Libya), but not to his posterity (his two sons Alexander and Hercules were murdered after their father's death), nor according to his dominion wherewith he ruled; for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside these.
5. And the king of the south (Ptolemy I also known as Soter I, 323-285 B.C.) shall be strong, and one of his princes (Seleucus Nicator also known as Seleucus I); and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion (Seleucus I, 312-280 B.C., ruled three-fourths of all the Asiatic dominions conquered by Alexander the Great).
6. And at the end of years they shall join themselves together; and the daughter of the king of the south (Berenice, whose father was Ptolemy II also known as Ptolemy Philadelphus the king of Egypt from 285-247 B.C.) shall come to the king of the north {Antiochus II the king of Syria} to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the strength of her arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm; but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that beget her, and he that strengthened her in these times (After the death of Ptolemy II, Antiochus II went back to his first wife, Laodicea whom he had divorced for Berenice. Laodicea later poisoned Antiochus II

and had Berenice and her children killed. After this was done Laodicea had her eldest son Seleucus Callinichus proclaimed king).

7. But out of a shoot from her roots (Berenice' brother Ptolemy III, also known as Ptolemy Euergetes, king of Egypt, 247-222 B.C.) shall one stand up in his place, who shall come unto (against) the army (Syria), and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north (Seleucus Callinichus), and shall deal against them and shall prevail.
8. And also their gods, with their molten images, and with their goodly vessels of silver and of gold, shall he (Ptolemy III) carry captive into Egypt; and he shall refrain some years from the king of the north (Seleucus Callinichus).
9. And he shall come into the realm of the king of the south, but he (Ptolemy III) shall return into his own land.
10. And his (Seleucus Callinichus died from a fall from his horse) sons (Seleucus Cerannus and Antiochus the Great) shall war, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces, which shall come on, and overflow, and pass through; and they shall return and war, even to his fortress (Antioch).
11. And the king of the south (Ptolemy IV, also known as Ptolemy Philopater who was king of Egypt, 222-205 B.C.) shall be moved with anger, and shall come forth and fight with him (Antiochus the Great), even with the king of the north (Antiochus the Great); and he (Ptolemy IV) shall set forth a great multitude, and the multitude, (Antiochus' army) shall be given in his (Ptolemy IV) hand.
12. And the multitude shall be lifted up, his (Ptolemy IV) heart shall be exalted and he shall cast down tens of thousand, but he (Ptolemy IV) shall not prevail.
13. And the king of the north shall return (Antiochus the Great came again some fourteen years later), and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former; and he (Antiochus the Great) shall come on at the end of the times, even of years, with a great army and with much substance.
14. And in those times there shall many sand up against the king of the south (Philip, King of Macedon, and Agathocles who excited a rebellion stood up against Ptolemy IV) also the children of the violent among thy people (Jews) shall lift themselves up to establish the vision; but they shall fall.

15. So the king of the north (Antiochus the Great) shall come, and cast up a mound, and take a fortified, city: and the forces of the south shall not stand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to stand.
16. But he (Antiochus the Great) that cometh against him (Ptolemy IV) shall do according to his own will, and some shall stand before him; and he (Antiochus the Great) shall stand in the glorious land (Palestine), and in his hand shall be destruction.
17. And he (Antiochus the Great) shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom and with him equitable conditions, and he shall perform them: and he shall give him the daughter of women (Antiochus the Great gave his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V, also known as Ptolemy Epiphanes, who was king of Egypt from 205-182 B.C., in marriage in 193 B.C.), to corrupt her; but shall not stand, neither be for him (Antiochus hoped his daughter Cleopatra would betray her husband and help him conquer Egypt but she joined forces with her husband Ptolemy V).
18. After this shall he (Antiochus the Great) turn his face unto the isles (islands of the Mediterranean), and shall take many; but a prince (Lucius Cornelius Scipio Asiaticus, who was a Roman officer) shall cause the reproached offer by him (Antiochus the Great) to cease; yea, moreover, he (Lucius Cornelius Scipio Asiaticus) shall cause his reproach to turn upon him (Antiochus the Great).
19. Then he (Antiochus the Great) shall turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found.
20. Then he shall stand up in his place one that shall cause an exactor to pass through the glory of the kingdom; but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle (Seleucus Philopater, the eldest son of Antiochus the Great who succeeded to the kingdom on the death of his father. He was king for eleven years and placed heavy taxes on the people. He was later poisoned by Heliodorus who sought to raise himself to the position of king).
21. And in his place (Seleucus Philopater) shall stand up a contemptible person (Antiochus Epiphanes IV, who ruled Syria 175-163 B.C.), to whom they had not given the honor of the kingdom; but he shall come in time of security, and shall obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

22. And the overwhelming forces shall be overwhelmed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant (Antiochus IV had Onias III, who was the high priest in Jerusalem, put to death and placed Jason in his place).
23. And after the league made with him (Jason) he (Antiochus IV) shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.
24. In time of security shall he (Antiochus IV) come even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his father's fathers; he shall scatter among them prey, and spoil, and substance; yea, he shall devise his devices against the strongholds, even for a time (Antiochus IV accomplished what his predecessors were not able to do in that he had Egypt under complete control).
25. And he (Antiochus IV) shall stir up his power and his courage against the kings of the south (Ptolemy VII, also known as Ptolemy Philometer, who ruled Egypt from 181-146 B.C.) with a great army; and the king of the south shall war in battle with an exceeding great and mighty army; but he (Ptolemy VII) shall not stand; for they (Antiochus IV) shall devise devices against him.
26. Yea, they (Ptolemy VII closest friends and advisors) that eat of his dainties shall destroy him, and his (Antiochus IV) army shall overflow; and many shall fall down slain.
27. And as for both these kings (Antioch IV and Ptolemy VII), their hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table: but it shall not prosper; for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.
28. Then shall he (Antiochus IV) return into his land (Syria) with great substance; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant (the Holy scriptures of the Jewish faith); and he shall do his pleasure (Antiochus IV took what treasure he desired from the temple in Jerusalem), and return to his own land.
29. At the time appointed he shall return, and come into the south (Antiochus IV made another campaign into Egypt); but it shall not be in the latter time as it was in the former (Rome came to the aid of Egypt and prevented Antiochus IV from having another victory over Ptolemy VII).
30. For ships of Kittim (a Roman fleet) shall come against him (Antiochus IV), therefore he shall be grieved, and shall return, and have indignation against the holy covenant

(Jewish faith) and shall do his pleasure (Antiochus IV, under the orders of Antiochus IV, led an attack against Jerusalem and in this attack multitudes were killed, Ten thousand were taken captive, city walls destroyed, the finest buildings were burned, a swine was sacrificed upon God's altar, the Jews were no longer allowed to worship their God, the Jews were now commended to worship idols and offer swine to them everyday, circumcision was prohibited and those who practiced circumcision were killed as well as their child, and what books of the law he found were taken and burned): he (Antiochus IV) shall even return, and have regard unto them that forsake the holy covenant. (NOTE: You might want to read again Daniel 8:21-26 which is a prophecy about the Grecian kings, and in particular Antiochus IV).

31. And forces shall stand on his part (Antiochus IV), and they shall profane the sanctuary (this was done by offering swine on the altar) even the fortress (walls destroyed around the city), and shall take away the continual burnt offering, and they shall set up the abomination that maketh desolate (a bearded image of the pagan deity Jupiter was set upon the temple altar).
32. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he (Antiochus IV) pervert by flatteries; but the people that know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.
33. And they (the faithful) that are wise among the people shall instruct many; yet they shall fall by the sword and by flame, by captivity and by spoil, many days.
34. Now when they shall fall, they shall be helped with a little help (Maccabeus Mattathias and his five sons---John the holy, Simon the guide, Judas the hammer, Eleazar the beast sticker and Jonathan the cunning): but many shall join themselves unto them with flatteries.
35. And some of them that are wise shall fall (suffer martyrdom), to refine them, and to purify, and to make them white, even to the time of the end; because it is yet for the time appointed

NOTE: Several possibilities are given for verse 36-45:

(1) Antiochus IV; (2) Romans; (3) Herod the Great; (4) Future Anti-Christ
If it is Antiochus IV then the whole history of the Romans is skipped. If it is about the Romans then fifteen minor Seleucid kings are skipped or about 100 years (verse three of course skips six Persian kings or about 130 years; so, that might not be a problem).

Herod the Great is less credible, but is a possibility. The anti-Christ would simply be the rise of lawlessness in the times of the Romans and the end of this prophecy.

The greater evidence is that this is a brief history of the Romans just before and when Jesus was born. The final words are that this enemy of God's people shall pass away just like the Seleucids.

36. And the king (Rome; Note: a single "king" can be used to represent a whole nation, Daniel 8:20) shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and he shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished; for that which is determined shall be done.
37. Neither shall he (Rome) regard the gods of his father, nor desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall magnify himself above all (all that matters is his success).
38. But in his place (Jerusalem) shall he (Rome: Pompey, a Roman general who conquered Palestine) honor the god of fortresses (Jupiter, also called Zeus): and a god (Jupiter) whom his father knew not shall be (Rome) honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones and pleasant things.
39. And he (Rome) shall deal with the strongest fortresses by the help of a foreign god (Roman brought in and worship all gods of other nations which formed their Pantheon, many or all gods): whosoever acknowledgeth him he will increase with glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for a price (taxes of Rome).
40. And at the time of the end (before Christ was born) shall the king of the south (Cleopatra with Mark Antony) contend with him (Octavian Augustus Caesar): and the king of the north (Octavian) shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships (Battle of Actium); and he (Octavian who won the sea battle at Actium) shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass through.
41. He (Rome; Herod gave Octavian royal treatment as he entered Palestine even though he sided with Antony. He went immediately to Octavian and told him he would be as loyal to him as he was to Antony. Octavian accepted) shall enter also into the glorious land (Palestine), and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall be

delivered out of his hand: Edom, and Moab (Herod lost these areas several times and he never controlled them fully nor did Rome) and the chief of the children of Ammon.

42. He (Rome or Octavian, the first Roman Emperor) shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries; and the land of Egypt (Egypt surrendered to Octavian after Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide) shall not escape.
43. He (Rome or Octavian) shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: also the Libyans, and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels (Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia surrendered their lands and treasures to Octavian, thereby Rome). **Note: This was never true of Antiochus IV or any Seleucid king after him, or any Ptolemaic king, or Herod the Great.**
44. But the news from the east (Parthians) and north (Guals) shall trouble him: therefore, he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.
45. And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas (Mediterranean and Dead Sea) and the glorious mountain (Jerusalem), yet he shall come to this end, and no one will help him (the final prophecy against Rome and her final end is in the book of Revelation).

THE OUTLINE OF DANIEL CHAPTER 12 BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE:

XIII. Chapter 12: Daniel Is Told What Will Be The End For His People.

- A. During the time of the Roman Empire and after the establishment of the church there was to be a time of trouble between the Romans and the Jews.
 - 1. Jesus uses these same words to describe the destruction of Jerusalem (Matt. 24:21) in A.D. 70.
 - 2. The same type of language was used by Ezekiel to describe the 586 B.C. destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, Ez. 5:8-9.
 - 3. This occurred before the generation of Jesus passed away, Matt. 24:34.
- B. Verses two and three describe a figurative resurrection, a redemption of God's people.
 - 1. It is the rescue of God's people from Roman domination.
 - 2. It is the return of the kingdom to one of the family of David (Christ, Psalm 89:2).
 - 3. It is the vision of Ezekiel's dry bones coming alive, Ez 37.
 - 4. See also Revelation 20:4ff and Isaiah 26:11-21 for further usage of such language.
 - 5. God's people will arise victorious but the enemy shall not rise.
- C. Daniel is told to seal and preserve the book because it will be some time before the prophecy is fulfilled, 12:4 (Unlike instructions to John in Revelation 22:10 where he is told not to seal up the prophecies for they were to shortly come to pass, Rev. 1:3; 22:6, 10).
- D. The question is asked by an angel, "How long will it be to the end of these wonders?"
 - 1. The vision would end when the Roman oppressor was broken into pieces by the power of the holy people.
 - 2. The nature of it is described by the term time, times, and a half time; a time which speaks of a state of affairs in which the people of God suffer for a short while (time = one year, times = two years, half time = ½ year; thus, 3 ½ years which is half of seven).
 - a. The number seven means to be complete and one half of seven or 3 ½ means incomplete.

- b. They are persecuted but they are also sustained.
 - c. They are persecuted but also protected.
 - d. This same language is used in Rev. 11:2, 3; 12:6,14; 13:5 which describes the limited power of the Roman Empire and the rulers.
- 3. So Daniel is being told that the power of the persecutors will be limited and shall come to an end.
- E. Daniel is perplexed and asked if the vision ends with his people being broken into pieces and what will be the outcome?
 - 1.He is told that trouble will mean purification for many.
 - 2.The righteous will do what is right and they will get what is right.
 - 3.The wicked will do as they usually do and receive the punishment due them.
- F. Daniel is told that the oppressor's power (Rome) would last from the time of the setting up of Abomination of Desolation (destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70) for 1290 days.
 - 1. Numbers in apocalyptic language represented situations and described the character of events and people.
 - 2. We are not sure of the meaning of this number, but we do know that every three years the Jews would add 30 days to their calendar to bring it into line with a solar year. That year would be one in which 3 ½ years would be recorded as 3 years and seven months or 1290 days; so perhaps the figure or number simply represents the completion of the Roman power over God's people. It speaks of the restructured nature of the oppressor's power. This is true of the numbers "1260" and "1290".
 - 3. Jesus quotes Daniel 12:11 and 12:10b to prepare God's people for the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14).
- G. Daniel is then told that those who remain faithful through the 1290 plus 45 days would enter into the blessed state of triumph signified numerically by 1335 days in verse 12 (See Rev. 12:6, 14 and Rev. 20:1-6).
- H. Daniel is told that he would die and not see the events which would fulfill this vision, but he wouldn't be forgotten.
 - 1. Daniel would have his lot or special place when the vision is fulfilled.

2. **Jesus quoted Daniel regarding Jerusalem's fall (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14) and when it fell Daniel in a sense stood up and was acknowledged.**

HEROD THE GREAT, THE JEWS,
AND ROME; THE IRON AND CLAY KINGDOM

- I. Rome And Herod the Great Take Control of Jerusalem and Palestine.
 - A. **John Hyrcanus** conquered Idumea (Edom, descendants of Esau the brother of Jacob, city of Petra its capital), and then forced the people to accept Judaism or be sold as slaves.
 - B. **Antipater (Antipas)** was appointed the Governor of Idumea by John's son, **Alexander Jannaeus**,
 1. Antipater cooperated with the Romans in order to throw off the power of Alexander Jannaeus.
 2. Antipater took the side of **Hyrcanus II**, the brother of Alexander Jannaeus.
 - a. Hyrcanus II and Alexander Jannaeus appealed to **Gneus Pompey**, a general of the Roman army, who at the time was marching victoriously through Asia.
 - 1) Rome was being governed by an alliance of two generals and a Roman financier: **Pompey, Julius Caesar**, and **Crassus**.
 - 2) The rule of these three men was known as the **First Triumvirate**.
 - b. Rome was all too glad to step in.
 3. Antipater persuaded Pompey that Hyrcanus would serve Rome's purposes best.
 - a. Pompey laid siege to Jerusalem and Hyrcanus surrendered.
 - b. Aristobulus II was defeated and later poisoned in Rome while a prisoner.
 - c. Hyrcanus remained high priest and was appointed Ethnarch of Judea.
 - d. **Alexander**, the son of Aristobulus II, escaped from Rome but was beheaded on orders of Pompey at Antioch.
 - e. **Antigonus**, the other son of Aristobulus II, with the help of the mighty Parthians, ruled Judea as High Priest and king for a time (40-37 B.C.), but was eventually unseated by the army of **Herod** (the Great) the son

- 1) The country was reduced in size by Rome when she gave Samaria and Decapolis provinces their independence.
 - 2) This assured the Herodian Dynasty.
4. Antipater made himself useful to **Julius Caesar** after Pompey fled from the city of Pharsalus and was murdered in Egypt by the orders of Julius Caesar.
- a. Julius Caesar made Antipater a Roman citizen and Administrator of Judea.
 - 1) This gave Antipater power over Hyrcanus, the Priest.
 - 2) This also gave Antipater the position to appoint his son, **Phasael**, Governor of Jerusalem.
 - 3) This gave Antipater the position to then appoint his other son **Herod** (the Great), Governor of Galilee.
 - b. Julius Caesar was the only surviving member of the First Triumvirate after Crassus died fighting the Parthians.
 - 1) Before his death, Crassus had pillaged the Temple at Jerusalem in 53 B.C.
 - 2) The Jews saw the hand of God in his demise.
 - c. Julius Caesar, because he was not willing to cooperate with the Roman Senate and had a lust for power, was assassinated by **Cassius** and **Brutus** March 14, 44 B.C.
5. Antipater and his son Herod gave Cassius willing service, but Antipater was poisoned in a plot of the Jews led by **Malichus**.
- C. **Herod**, the son of Antipater, executed his father's murderers, and thus began his own search for the reign over Palestine.
1. Herod wormed his way in the favor of Antony and got himself and his brother Phasael appointed Tetrarchs of Judea.
 - a. Mark Antony and **Octavius** (Octavian, Octavia, and then changed to Octavianus Caesar after he was adopted by Julius Caesar to be his son) wiped out Brutus and Cassius after a long civil war at Philippi in 42 B.C.
 - b. Mark Antony, Octavius, and **Lepidus** formed the Second Triumvirate rule over the Roman Empire.

2. Herod's brother, Phasael, and the aged Priest, Hyrcanus were lured into the camp of the Parthians and handed over to Antigonus.
 - a. Phasael butted his own brains out in prison.
 - b. Hyrcanus was mutilated by having his ears cut off to make him ineligible to ever serve as Priest again (Lev. 21:17-23).
3. Herod fled to Rome where he bribed Antony.
 - a. Octavius declared Antigonus Rome's enemy and appointed Herod King of Judah.
 - b. Octavius's purpose was to appoint someone he could trust to help guard his eastern front.
4. Herod bribed Antony into beheading **Antigonus** and eventually brought law and order to the Wilderness area of Palestine.
5. Herod went to Samaria and married **Mariamne I**, the daughter of **Alexander** and **Alexandra**, to whom he had been engaged for five years, although he already had a wife, **Doris**, and a son, **Antipater II**, named for Herod's father.
 - a. Herod had forty-five of the richest and noblest Jews of Jerusalem executed.
 - b. Herod appointed a stranger from Babylon, **Ananelus**, to the position of High Priest.
 - c. Mariamne I was absorbed and Hasmonean aspirations were neutralized in the growing family of Herod, the Idumean.
 - d. Because of his love for Mariamne I, he had her brother **Aristobulus III** made High Priest at the age of 17.
 - e. He feared Maccabean ambitions and therefore had his mother-in-law, **Alexandra**, watched.
 - 1) She tried to escape out of Judea by having herself and her son smuggled out of Jerusalem in coffins.
 - 2) She was discovered and watched even more carefully.
 - 3) Herod's fear and jealousy of Aristobulus III, the son of Alexandra and brother of Mariamne I, led to a secret order for his drowning while bathing at Jericho.

- 4) For this treacherous act, Alexandra, the mother of Aristobulus III, with the help of Cleopatra in Egypt, had Herod summoned before Antony at Laodicea, but Herod bribed his way clear.
 - a) While Herod was away in Rome he entrusted the government to his uncle, **Joseph**, who also was his brother-in-law by marriage to his sister, **Salome**.
 - b) Herod left word with Joseph that if he were condemned, Mariamne I was to be killed to prevent her from becoming the wife of another.
 - c) Joseph told Mariamne I of this arrangement to impress her with Herod's great love for her, but her knowledge of it was taken by Herod as evidence of the truth of charges of improper relations with Joseph which Salome made against her aged husband when Herod return.
 - d) Herod believed Salome and had Joseph executed without a trial.

NOTE: With this information we have a greater understanding of this man's problem with jealousy and what prompted him to kill the male babies under two years of age in Bethlehem after Jesus was born. He wanted no threats to his power.

6. Herod was forced by Antony to cede to **Cleopatra** the balsam-rich Jericho and the Philistine and Phoenician coasts.
 - a. Antony also called upon Herod to punish the Arabians for not paying taxes to Cleopatra, which he did in a victorious war.
 - b. In the meantime Rome's Second Triumvirate was disintegrating with the forced resignation of **Lepidus** and the civil war that arose between Antony and Octavius.
 - 1) Antony's army and Cleopatra's navy were defeated by Octavius in a sea battle at Actium in 31 B.C.
 - 2) Cleopatra fled to Egypt and allowed the news that she had died to be spread.

- 3) Antony followed her to Egypt and upon hearing she was dead, committed suicide.
 - a) While dying he was carried to the arms of Cleopatra and there died.
 - b) Octavius pursued Antony into Egypt and when her charms would not work on Octavius as they had on Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, she allowed a serpent to bite her and she died on the last day of August, 30 B.C.
 - c) She was buried beside Antony, whom she had married at Antioch in 36 B.C., in her Mausoleum.

NOTE: Cleopatra's Palace has recently been discovered below water at Alexandria Egypt, but they have not been able to find her Mausoleum. Each year the A & E and Discovery television networks present the life and times of the Ptolemies and Cleopatra. They also have special tapes on the history of Alexandria Egypt, the home of Cleopatra. The last time these programs were presented was the week of 03-27-01. These programs are two hours long. You can order the tapes from them, if you are interested. The price is \$19.95 for each tape.

7. Herod was faced with a new Master, Octavius Caesar, who took the name **Augustus Caesar** (Luke 2:1).
 - a. Augustus was the first to hold the power and the title of Emperor of Rome.
 - b. Herod promptly acknowledged Augustus and set about to eliminate all opposition in Judea.
 - 1) He brought charges against the old Priest, Hyrcanus II of scheming with Arabs and executed him.
 - 2) He won the favor of Augustus by giving him lavish gifts and much flattery.
 - 3) He met Caesar at Rhodes and left his government in the hands of his younger brother, **Pheroras**.

- a) For security reasons he put his mother and sister (**Salome**) in the Masada fortress next to the Dead Sea.
- b) He also left Alexandra and Mariamne I in the care of **Sohemus** at Fortress Alexandrium, giving Sohemus the same charge concerning Mariamne I as he had his uncle, Joseph.
- c) Again, the secret was made known to Mariamne I, and on Herod's return his old suspicions were fanned by Cypros I, mother of Herod..
 - (1) He was on the verge of executing them both when he left to meet Augustus in Egypt to receive again the lands taken from him by Antony and Cleopatra, along with Gadara, Samaria, Gaza, Joppa, Strato's Tower, and some other cities.
 - (2) On returning to Jerusalem he had Sohemus executed with a trial and Mariamne I was placed on trial.
 - (3) False witnesses testified against her and she was sentenced to death, but Herod ordered her kept in prison for a time.
 - (4) Salome, Herod's sister, joined her mother, Cypros I in convincing Herod that the people's sympathy for Mariamne I might lead to revolt if she were allowed to live.
 - (5) While being led to her death, her own mother, Alexandra, publicly reproached her hypocritically.
 - (6) Mariamne I was strangled to death.

8. Herod's life began a downward mental and physical spiral.

- a. He suffered great remorse for putting to death his wife, Mariamne I
 - 1) He would call her name frequently and command his servants to call her.
 - 2) He would go out into desert places and would afflict himself.
- b. Many of his closest friends died of a dread pestilence and many thought it was the judgment of God.
- c. He almost died.

- 1) Alexandra, the mother of Mariamne I, decided to take advantage of Herod's situation and plotted the restoration of Hasmonean rulers.
 - a) She was executed for her troubles along with many others.
 - b) **Aristobulus IV** and **Alexander II**, the sons of Herod and Mariamne I were all that were left of the ruling Hasmonean family dynasty.
- 2) **Salome**, the sister of Herod, divorced **Costabarus**, whom Herod had made Governor of Idumea, and had him slain along with the sons of **Babas**, Hasmonean descendants, whom he had sheltered.
9. Herod recovered and plunged himself for the next few years into grand building projects.
 - a. He rebuilt and fortified the old Syrian stronghold of the Acra in Jerusalem and named it for Antony, Fortress Antonia (Acts 21:31-40 (This is where Jesus would later be tried by Pontius Pilate).
 - b. He fortified the palace and rebuilt Samaria into a fortress called Sebaste.
 - c. He fortified Strato's Tower, renaming it Caesarea (Acts 10 where Paul was first imprisoned).
 - d. He rebuilt Zerubbabel's Temple beginning in the 18th year of his reign.
 - 1) He made it larger and more ornate using white stone 8 X 12 X 25 cubits (Matthew 24:1-2).
 - 2) He allowed only the priests to build in the inner part, which was finished in a year and a half.
 - 3) Josephus considered it the most noble of all of Herod's achievements.
 - 4) Rabbinic literature states: "He who has not seen the Temple of Herod has never seen a beautiful building," *Baba Bathra 4a*.
 - 5) The entire project took eight years, but other buildings were added for many years, right up until the time it was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70.
 - 6) On its completion, Herod offered 300 oxen to God.

10. Herod saw a very beautiful girl, the daughter of Simon, whom he appointed High Priest after disposing of the current High Priest.
 - a. He took Simon's daughter, **Mariamne II** as his wife.
 - b. He sent his sons Aristobulus IV and Alexander, born of Mariamne I, to Rome to be educated by **Pollio**.
11. Herod's spies were everywhere.
 - a. He often disguised himself and moved among the people.
 - b. He demanded an oath of fidelity except for the Pharisees and Essenes.
12. Herod brought his two sons, Aristobulus IV and Alexander, home from Rome.
 - a. He gave them wives; to Aristobulus he gave **Bernice**, Salome's daughter by Costabarus and to Alexander he gave **Glaphyra**, daughter of **Archalaus**, king of Cappadocia.
 - b. They soon became the targets of Salome, Herod's sister, Pheroras, Herod's younger brother, and others who had gotten their mother, Mariamne I, killed.
 - c. Herod's eldest son, **Antipater II**, felt that he should succeed his father and feared Mariamne's sons (Aristobulus IV and Alexander).
 - d. False rumors were circulated against the brothers.
 - 1) Antipater became Herod's informer and sailed to Rome with him when he accompanied **Marcus Agrippa** from Asia.
 - 2) Herod's mind was so poisoned against them that he took them to Rome and made charges against them before Augustus.
 - a) The brothers denied the charges and wept.
 - b) Caesar thought them to be innocent and urged Herod to forget his suspicions and be reconciled to his sons.
 - c) Augustus gave Herod 300 talents of silver and promised him security in his kingdom.
 - d) Herod's feelings of insecurity are reflected in his wholesale execution of all male children, two years old and under, in and around Bethlehem, (5 to 3 B.C.) in an effort to rid himself of Him who was born King of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-18).

13. Herod married **Malthake**, a Samaritan, who bore him **Archelaus** (Matthew 2:22), and **Herod Antipas** (Mark 6:22; Luke 23:8); **Cleopatra** of Jerusalem who bore him **Philip Tetrarch** (Luke 3:1); **Mariamne II** bore him **Herod Philip** who married **Herodias** (Mark 6:17); **Pallas** who bore him **Phasaelus**; **Phaedra** who bore him **Roxana**; **Elpis**, or **Elpida** who bore him **Salome**; and two others who had no children, making ten wives in all.

14. Herod's suspicions of Alexander and Aristobulus continued.

- a. He finally took them before Augustus again and was given sole authority to decide their fate.
- b. **Julia**, Caesar's wife, helped Herod convince Salome that she should marry his friend, **Alexas**, instead of an Arab named Sylleus.
 - 1) The tale-bearing of a Greek visitor named **Eurycles** served the purposes of Salome and Antipater.
 - 2) Herod's temper brought death indiscriminately, not knowing whom he could trust.
- c. The brothers were imprisoned and finally strangled at Sebaste, and 300 old soldiers who tried to intercede for them were cut down.
- d. Antipater was now assured of becoming king, but in his impatience he held secret conferences with Pheroras (Herod's brother, Tetrarch of Perea), which Salome reported to her brother Herod, stating that they were contriving to kill him.
 - 1) Thus the relationship of Antipater and his father became strained.
 - 2) Realizing this strain Antipater wrote his friends in Rome to ask if Augustus would instruct Herod to send Antipater to Rome.
 - 3) Herod sent him to Rome and designated in his will that Antipater was his successor to the throne and in the event that Antipater's death might occur before his own, Herod (Philip), son of Mariamne II, the high priest's daughter, was named as his successor.

- 4) While Antipater was in Rome, Pheroras died which proved to be the seal of Antipater's fate.
 - a) Freedmen of Pheroras went to Herod to relate to him that Pheroras had been poisoned and that Herod should investigate the matter more closely.
 - b) It was found out that the poison was sent by Antipater with the intention not to kill Pheroras but rather that Pheroras might give it to Herod for his death.
 - c) Herod also learned from the female slaves of Pheroras' household of the complaints that Antipater had made at those secret meetings regarding the king's long life and about the uncertainties of his prospects.
- 5) When Herod learned of this he lured his eldest son Antipater back into Palestine, threw him into prison, and sought permission from Caesar for his execution.
- 6) As Herod's disease grew worse the baths at Callirrhoe no longer benefited him.
 - a) When he returned to Jericho he commanded he commanded all notable Jews from all parts of the nation to come to him and when they arrived he shut them up in the hippodrome, summoned his sister Salome and her husband Alexas, and ordered that all these leaders should be cut down at the moment he died so that there would be a national mourning rather than a festival.
 - b) At the time he was giving these instructions, he received a letter from Rome in which the emperor gave him permission to execute his son, Antipater, which he did immediately.
- 7) From his sickbed he ordered Antipater's death.

15. On the fifth day after the execution of his son, Antipater, Herod died at Jericho in the spring of 4 B.C.

- a. Salome and her new husband Alexas dismissed those who were summoned to the hippodrome for their deaths.
- b. Ptolemy, who had been entrusted with the king's seal, read Herod's last will in public and the crowd acclaimed Archelaus as their king.
- c. A pompous funeral procession accompanied the body from Jericho, a distance of one mile in the direction of Herodian, where it was finally laid.

II. Herod's Reign As King Saw The Office of Publican Instituted.

- A. These were men who bought for a stated sum the right to collect taxes on imports, exports and merchandise passing through the country.
- B. All that they collected above the price paid for the office was clear profit.
 - 1. At Jericho there was a chief publican (Luke 19:1-2), but most of the others were of lower rank.
 - 2. Naturally, the Jews despised these tax-collectors, and doubly so if the publican were a Jew.

III. Herod's Rule Also Saw The Rise of Two Schools of Thought Grow Up Among the Pharisees.

- A. The two schools of thought were headed by two famous teachers, Hillel and Shammai.
 - 1. Hillel taught moderation and consideration for the poor.
 - a. He encouraged the people to accept Roman rule.
 - b. From his followers came the Herodians of Jesus' day (Matthew 22:16; Mark 3:6; 12:13).
 - 2. Shammai taught opposition to Rome, and from this school arose the Zealots (Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13), whose resistance to Rome resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
- B. The *Talmud* records 316 debates between these two schools, and at times their contests were more than verbal.

1. In Matthew 19 an attempt was made to force Jesus to side with either Shammai, who taught there was no ground for divorce and remarriage, or Hillel, who was more liberal in his interpretation of Moses' law.
2. Jesus gave the conservative interpretation by going back to the beginning and then giving only one exception for divorce and remarriage, "fornication" of one of the spouses.

IV. Herod's Rule Saw The Active Community of the Essenes Fully Develop.

- A. Herod had particular regard for the Essenes, an ascetic sect who lived communally in remote regions.
 1. One of the Essenes, Manahem, had predicted Herod would be king while he was but a schoolboy.
 2. The Essenes wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls which contain some of our most ancient manuscripts containing scripture (Daniel and Isaiah).
- B. The Essenes tried to escape entirely from the world.
 1. It was their solution to all the corruption in Judea's politics and religion.
 2. They took up to seven baths a day as a symbol of purity.
 3. However, it also separated them from opportunities to make changes for the better among their brethren, the Jews.

Of Herod it was said:

"So long as he lived, no woman's honor was safe, no man's life was secure."

Alfred Edersheim

"He was a royal wretch."

Merril Unger

"It is better to be Herod's hog than to be his son."

Augustus Caesar

"Herod will seek the young Child to kill him."

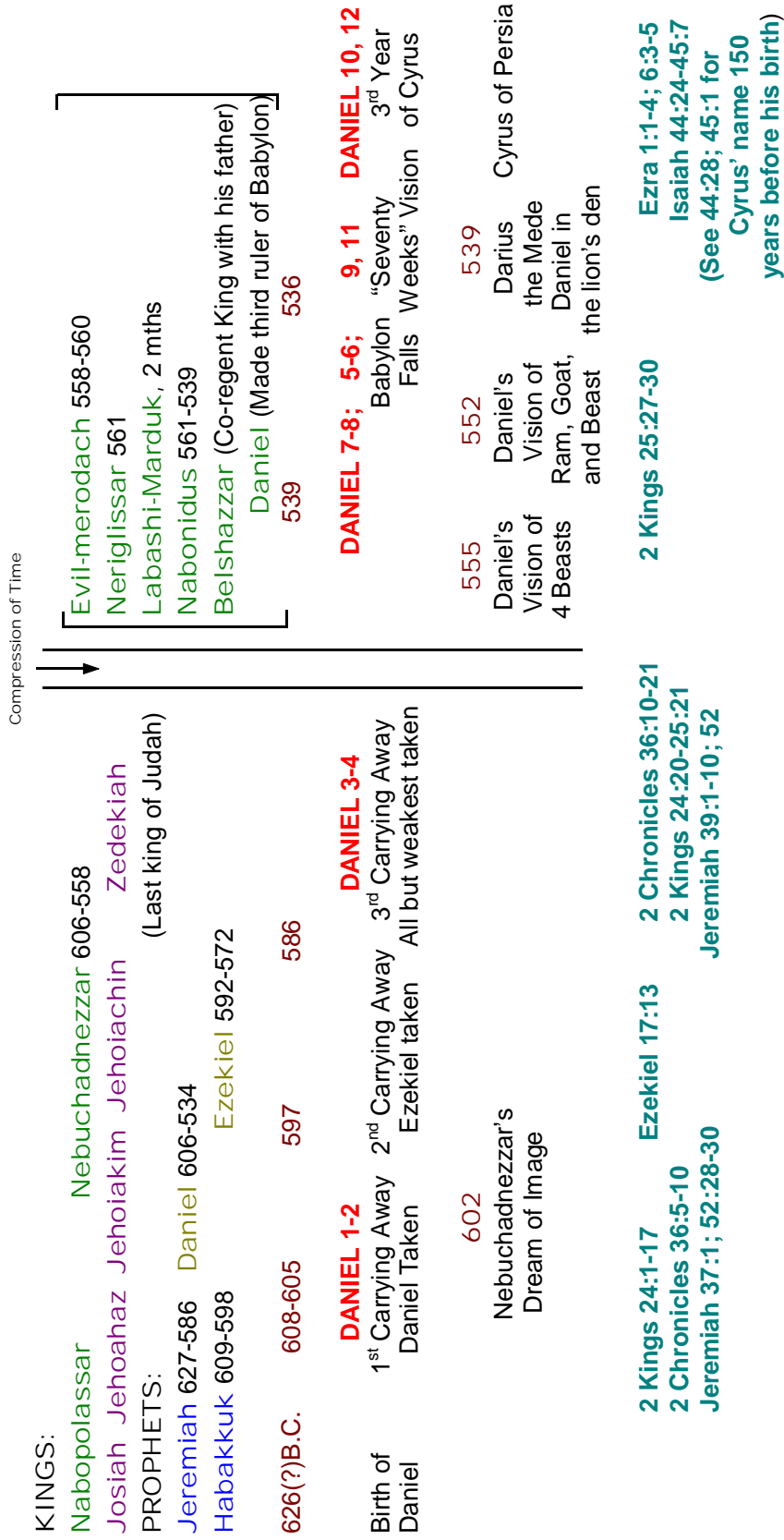
An angel of the Lord

JESUS LIVES!

TIME LINE

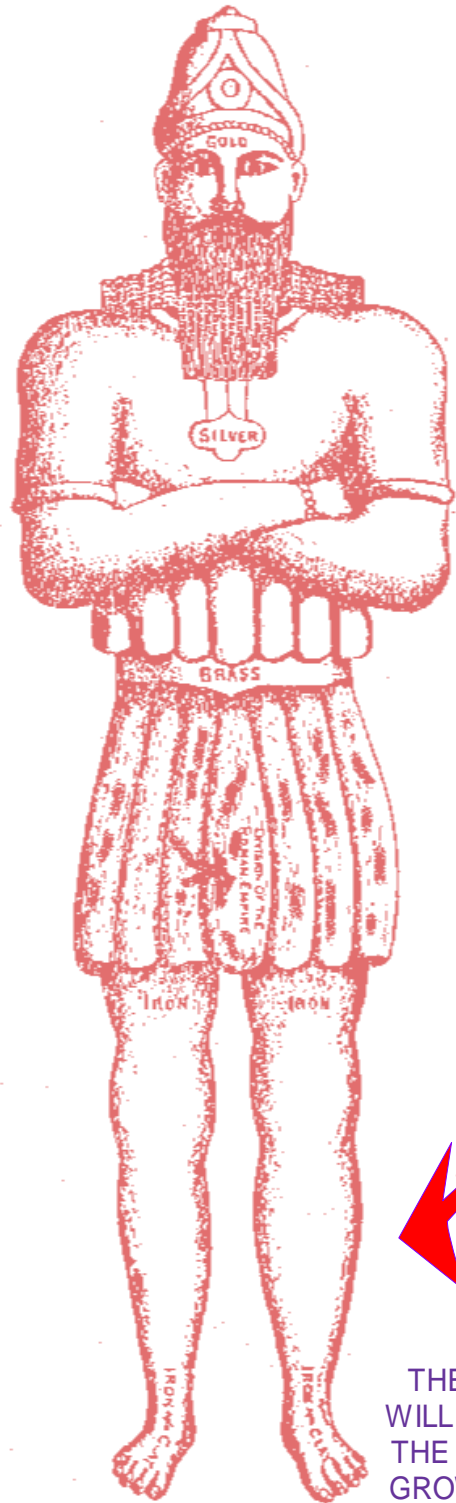
TIME LINE IS NOT IN PROPORTION: Dates cannot be fixed with certainty.
TIME OF CAPTIVITY: 606-536 (From the first carrying away until the edict of Cyrus to free the Jews)

Babylonian Empire



KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

DANIEL 2:31-45



Head of Gold
**BABYLON EM-
PIRE**

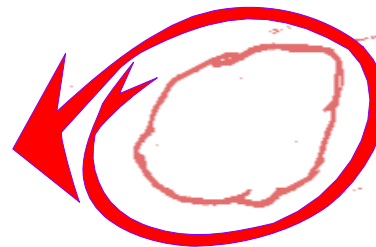
Chest and Arms
Of Silver
**MEDO-PERSIA EM-
PIRE**

Thighs and Belly
Of Bronze
GREEK EMPIRE

330-64 B.C.

Legs of Iron and
Feet of
Iron and Clay
ROMAN EMPIRE

63 B.C. – 600 A.D.



STONE:
KINGDOM
OF GOD

33 A.D. – ?

THE KINGDOM OF GOD
WILL BREAK INTO PIECES
THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND
GROW INTO A MOUNTAIN.



DANIEL'S DREAM OF FOUR WORLD EMPIRES

DANIEL 7:1-7



First Kingdom
LION WITH WINGS
DANIEL 7:4

=

BABYLON EMPIRE

DISPERSED THE JEWS AND
SPREAD THEIR INFLUENCE
ALONG WITH THEIR GOD
AND SCRIPTURE.
SYNAGOGUES BUILT.



Second Kingdom
BEAR WITH RAISED PAW
AND THREE RIBS
DANIEL 7:5

=

MEDO-PERSIA EMPIRE

EVERYONE WAS SUBJECT
TO THE LAW.
THEY BUILT HIGHWAYS
FOR TRANSPORTATION.



Third Kingdom
LEOPARD WITH FOUR
HEADS AND FOUR WINGS
DANIEL 7:6

=

GREEK EMPIRE

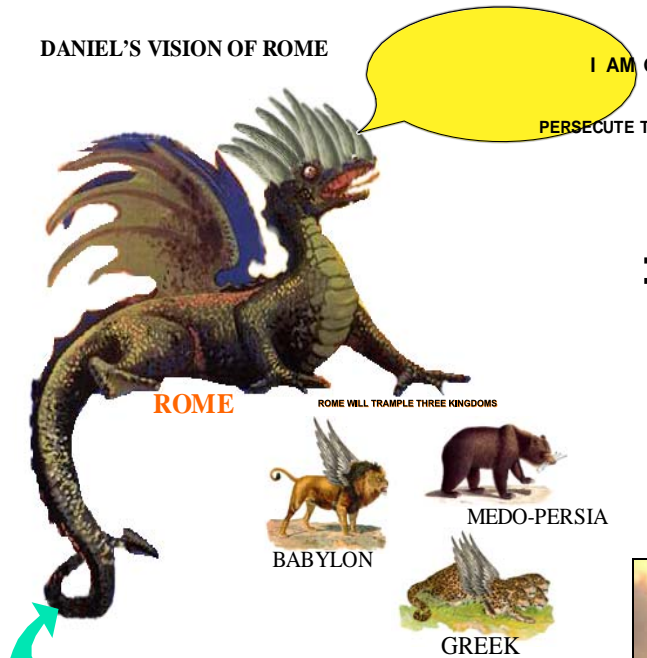
GREEK UNIVERSAL
LANGUAGE AND
CULTURE

© Charles R. Williams

DANIEL'S AND JOHN'S VISION OF THE FOURTH WORLD EMPIRE

DANIEL 7 & REVELATION 13

DANIEL'S VISION OF ROME



Fourth Kingdom
A DREADFUL, TERRIBLE,
AND DIFFERENT BEAST HAD
TEN HORNS AND
TRAMPLED THE REST.
DANIEL 7:7, 23-25

JOHN'S VISION

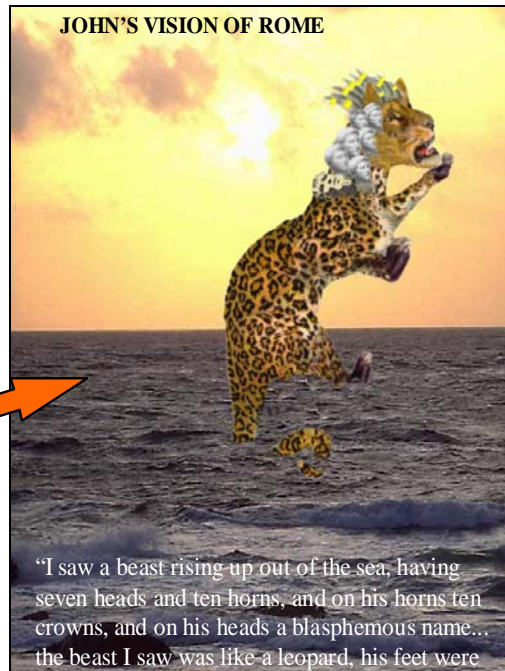
COMPARE DANIEL'S VISION TO JOHN'S VISION IN REVELATION 13 WHICH SYMBOLIZES THE ROMAN EMPIRE COMING UP OUT OF THE SEA. IT IS MADE UP OF THE THREE PRECEDING EMPIRES PLUS OTHER LANDS. JOHN SEES A **LEOPARD** WITH **BEAR'S FEET**, AND A **LION'S MOUTH**. IT HAS SEVEN HEADS ONE OF WHICH WAS DEAD AND CAME BACK ALIVE, AND TEN HORNS WITH CROWNS. HE BLASPHEMED GOD, HIS TABERNACLE, AND THOSE IN HEAVEN. HE MADE WAR WITH THE SAINTS.

REVELATION 13

=
**ROMAN
EMPIRE**

||

JOHN'S VISION OF ROME

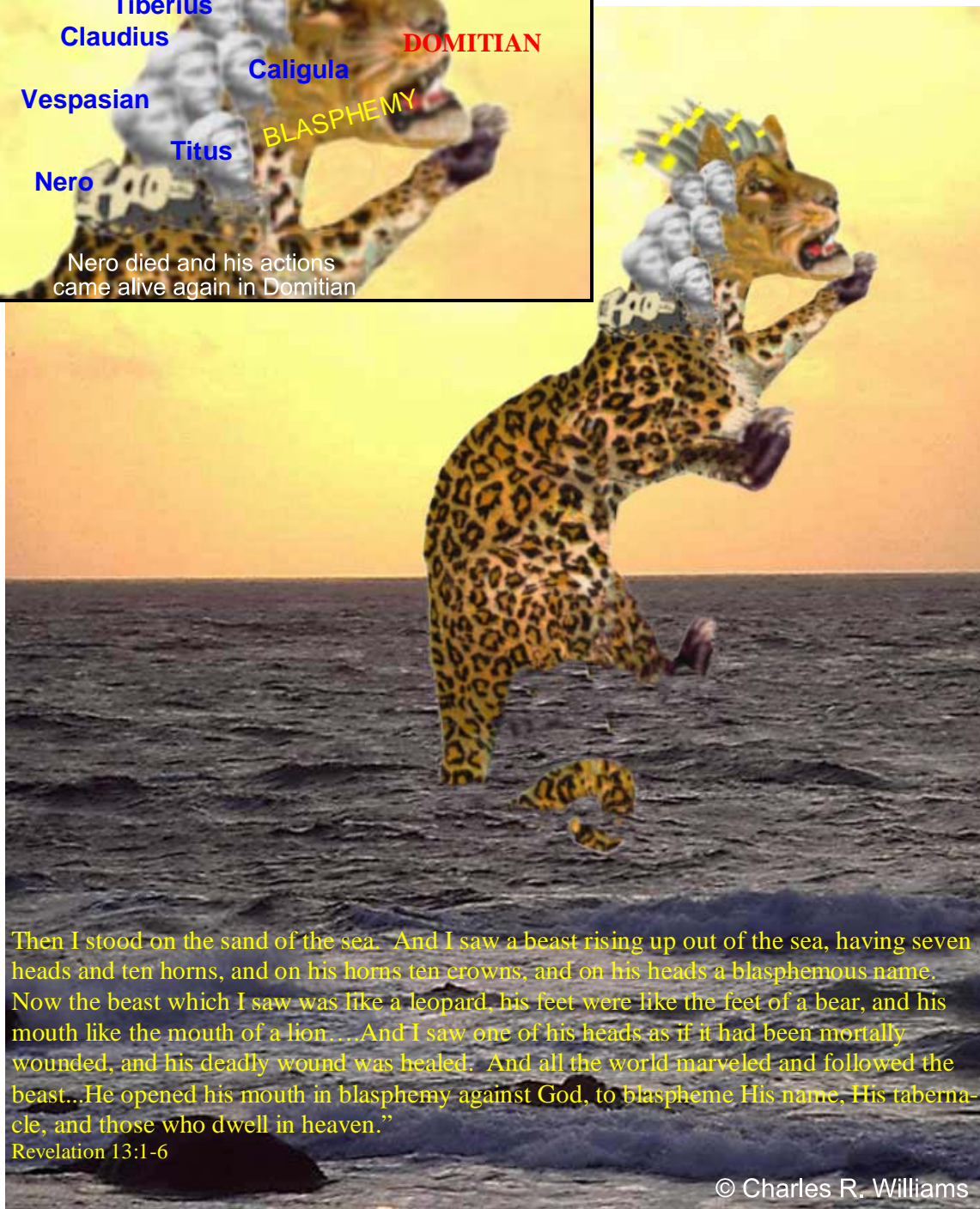


"I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name... the beast I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion...I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed..." Revelation 13:1-3

© Charles R. Williams



REVELATION 13 ROMAN EMPIRE “THE SEA BEAST”



DANIEL CHAPTER 8



RAM

WITH TWO HORNS

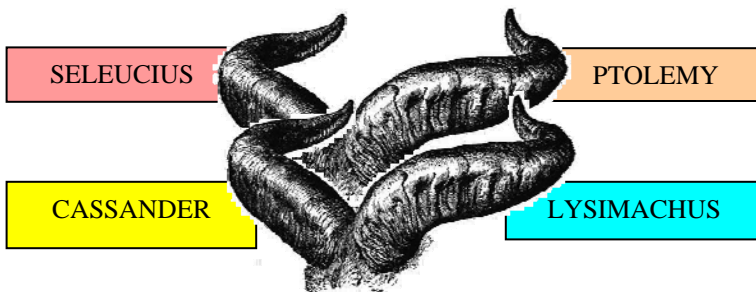
**MEDO-PERSIAN
EMPIRE**



SWIFT HE GOAT

**WITH ONE GREAT
HORN**

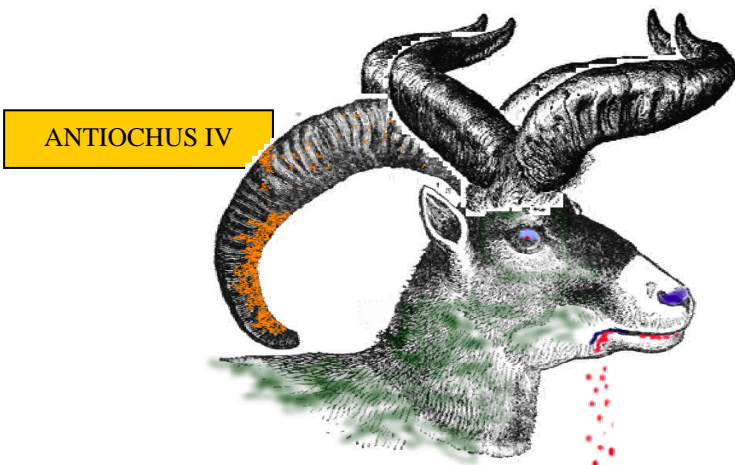
**GRECIAN EMPIRE
ALEXANDER THE
GREAT**



FOUR HORNS

**CAME UP FROM THE
BROKEN NOTABLE
HORN**

FOUR RULERS OVER

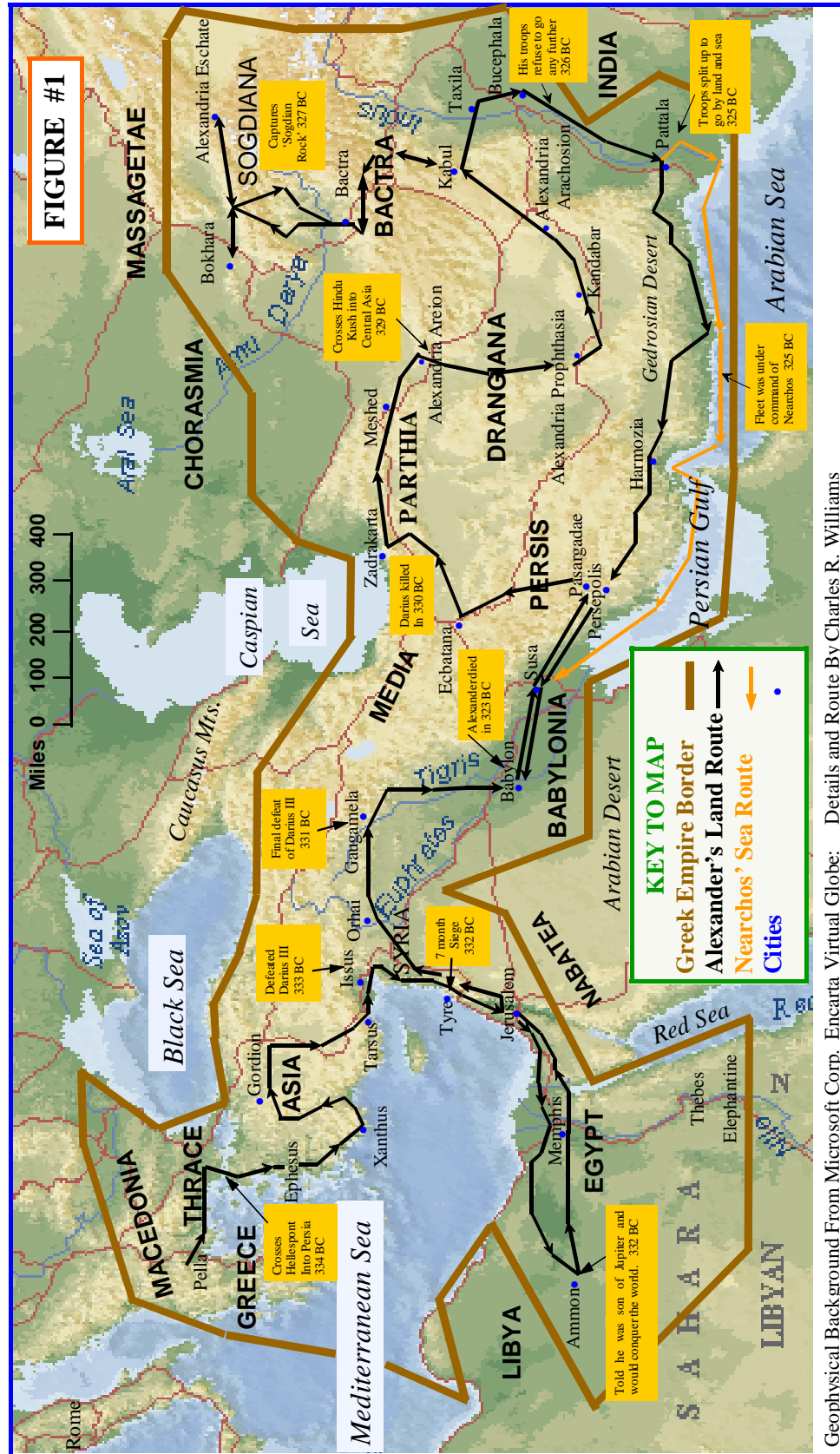


LITTLE HORN

**GREW FROM ONE OF
FOUR HORNS
AND BECAME FIERCE**

**ANTIOCHUS IV
OF SYRIA**

THE GREEK EMPIRE 323 B.C.



GRECIAN KINGDOM 315 B.C.



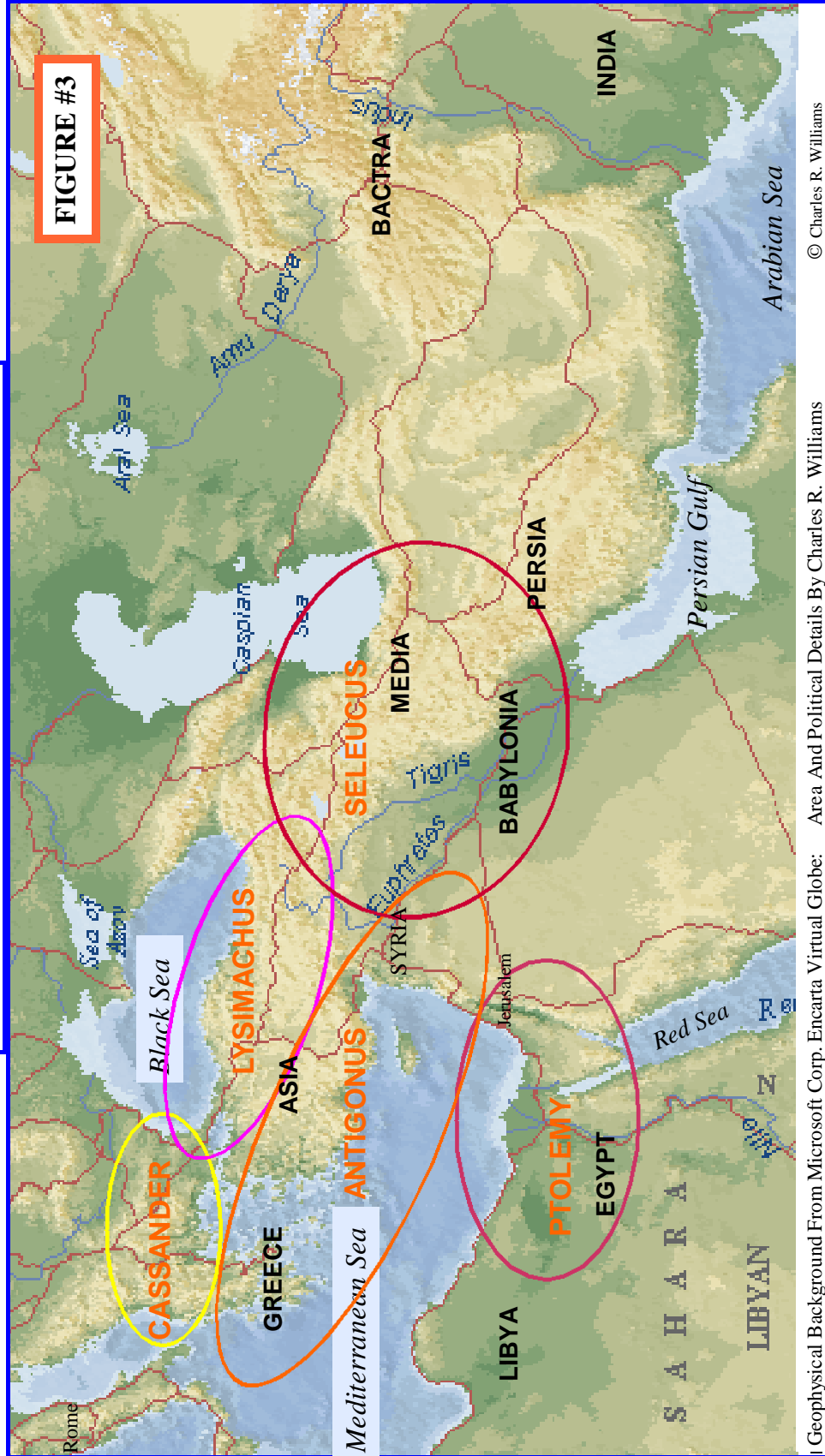
Geophysical Background From Microsoft Corp. Encarta Virtual Globe: Area And Political Details By Charles R. Williams

© Charles R. Williams

GRECIAN KINGDOM 315 B.C.

FOUR LEADERS: CASSANDER, ANTIGONUS, LYSIMACHUS, PTOLEMY

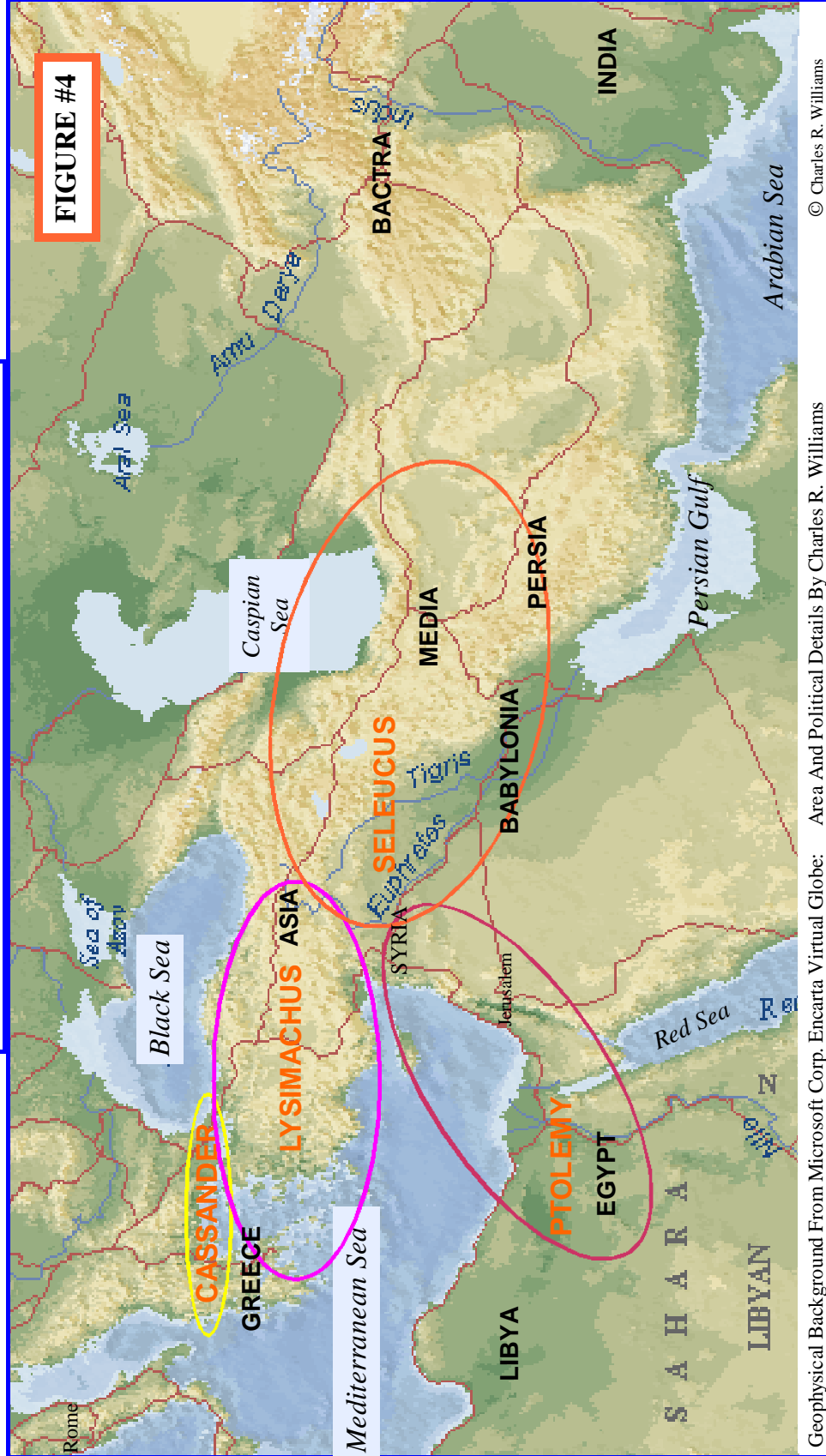
GRECIAN KINGDOM 311 B.C.



GRECIAN KINGDOM 311 B.C.

FIVE LEADERS: CASSANDER, ANTIGONUS, LYSIMACHUS, PTOLEMY, SELEUCUS

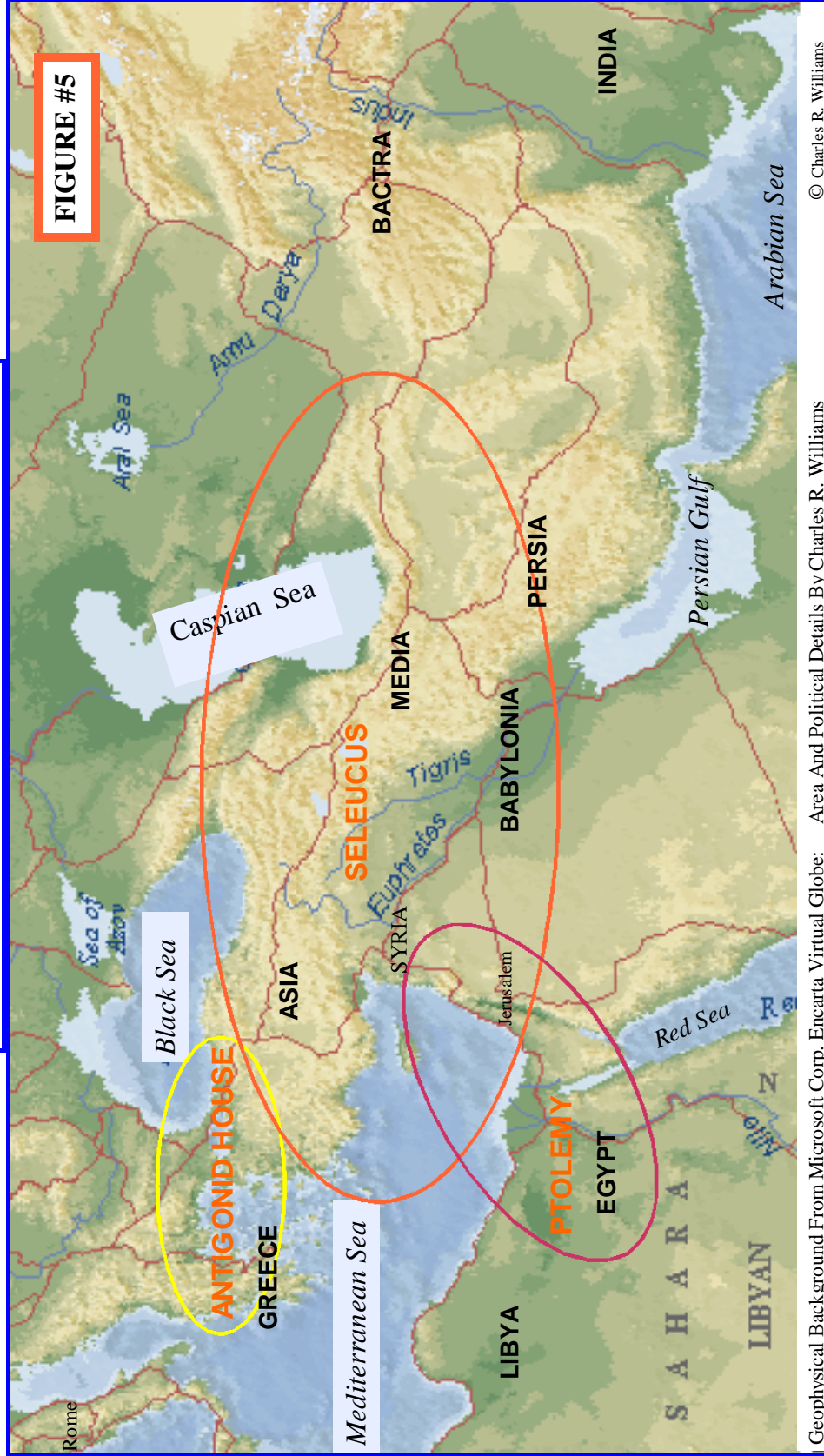
GRECIAN KINGDOM 301 B.C.



GRECIAN KINGDOM 301 B.C.

FOUR LEADERS: CASSANDER, LYSIMACHUS, PTOLEMY, SELEUCUS

GRECIAN KINGDOM 270 B.C.



GRECIAN KINGDOM 270 B.C.

THREE LEADERS: ANTIGONID HOUSE, PTOLEMY, SELEUCUS



FIGURE #6

He committed deeds of murder, and spoke with great arrogance” (1 Mac. 1:24). On these Greek coins is the hated Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes, whose persecution of the Jews led to the Maccabean revolt. Despite his god-king status, Greeks as well as Jews accused Antiochus of sacrilegious crimes. The reverse of the coin below shows him as the Greek god Zeus.



FIGURE #7

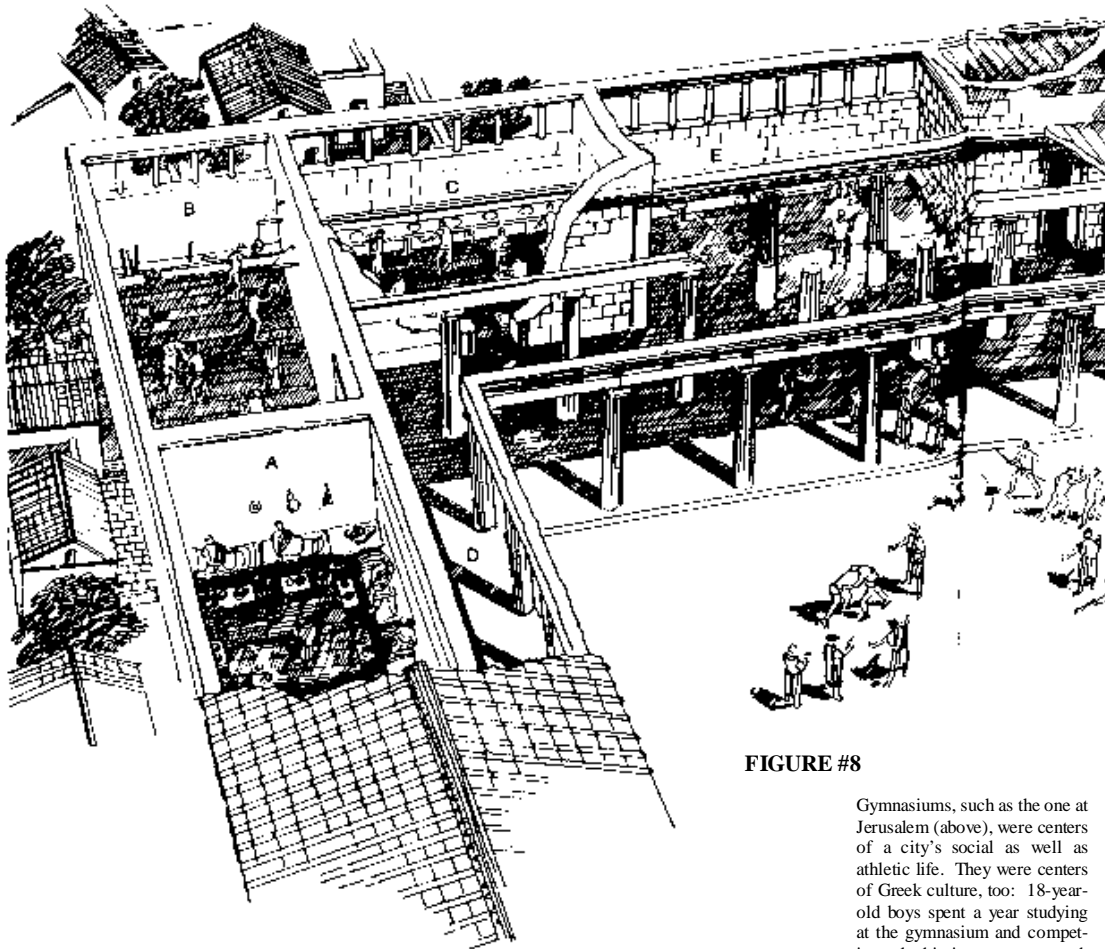
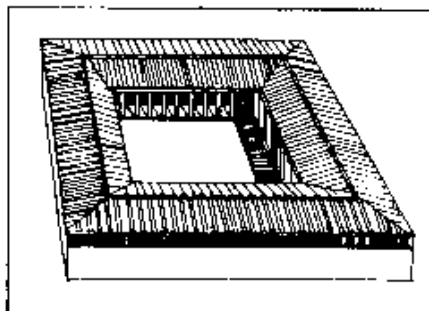


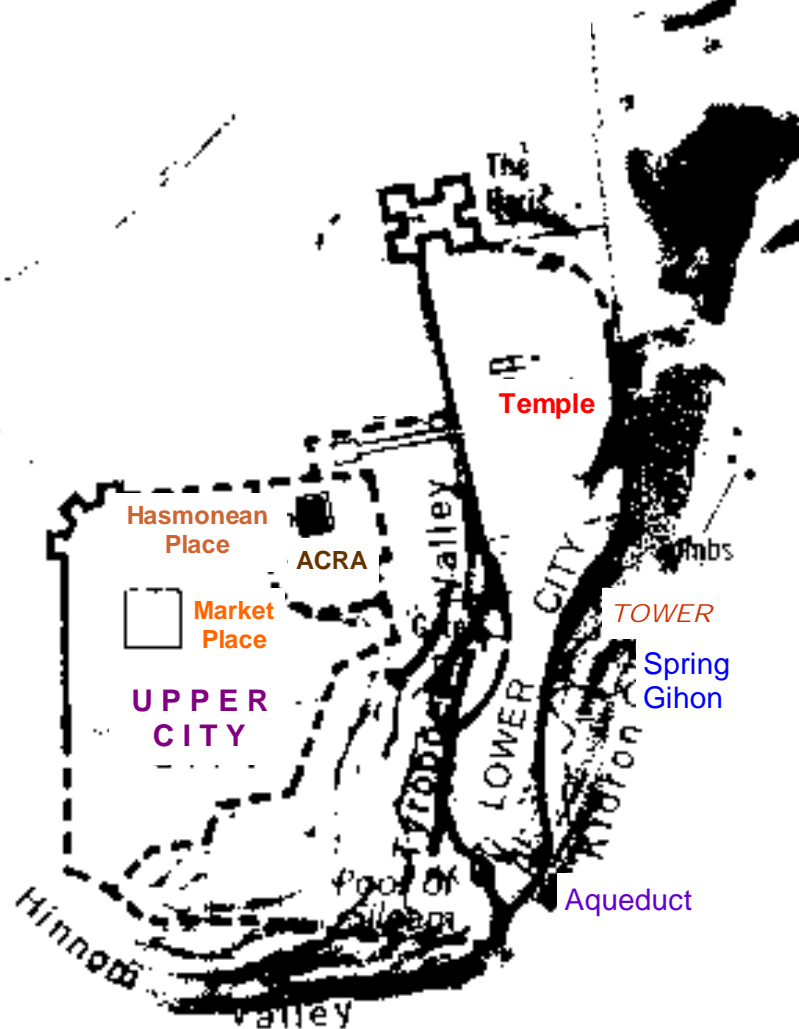
FIGURE #8

Gymnasiums, such as the one at Jerusalem (above), were centers of a city's social as well as athletic life. They were centers of Greek culture, too: 18-year-old boys spent a year studying at the gymnasium and competing naked in its open courtyard. As shown in the cutaway drawing (left) of the shaded area above, the courtyard was surrounded by rooms for dining (A), workouts (B), bathing (C), and indoor racing along an enclosed track (D). Besides athletics, the boys received Greek schooling in a lecture hall (E).



Conservative Jews opposed such training as too worldly, and objected to the broad-brimmed hat of the Greek god Hermes (on coin) worn by the gymnasts.

Jerusalem of the Mac-



1 FIGURE #9

Eleazar attacks a wine-crazed elephant.

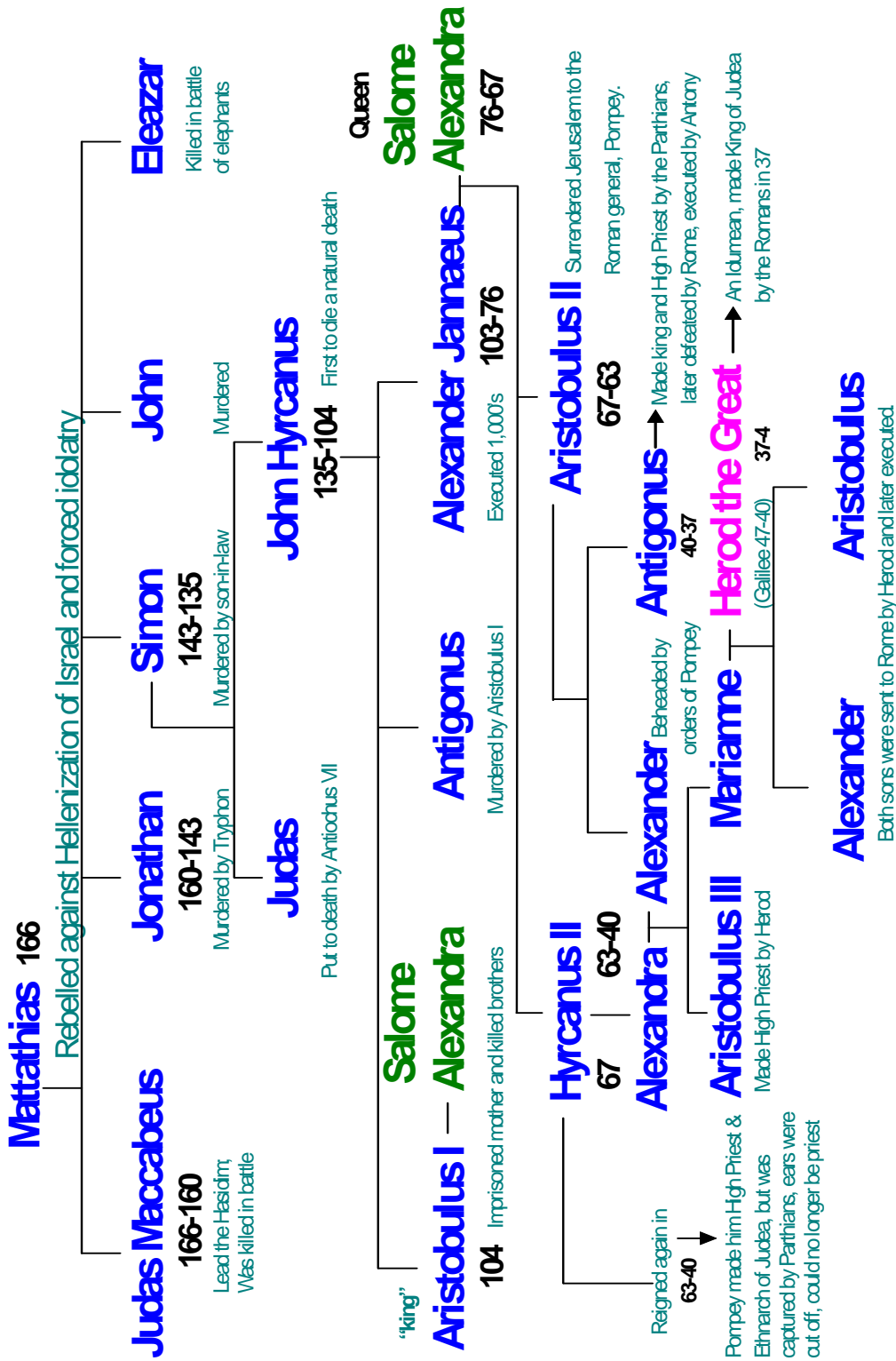


Rebellious Maccabeans faced a terrifying kind of warfare when the Syrians rode 32 battle-trained elephants into combat. Wearing leather armor, the wine-crazed animals charged, carrying troops in wooden towers. Eleazar, a brother of Judas, heroically killed the largest elephant, thinking it carried the Syrian king. He was crushed by the fall of the beast, 1 Macc. 61-44.

FIGURE #10

RELATIONSHIP OF KEY HASMONEANS

FIGURE #11



The Romans and Idumeans rule Judea afterwards.

NOTE: All dates are B.C.

(The Idumeans were Edomites, descendants of Esau, now seen as a mixed race of half-Jews)

↳ Charles R. Williams

