



JESUS and ME



Writings in the Dead Sea Scrolls say: *This is the time the prophets wrote of, the Messiah should be here by now, but there is no sign of Him, except for the Nazarene Impostor*



Prophecy closeup

We are going to take a closer look at just one of the Bibles prophecies, to get a glimpse of how amazingly accurate they are.. This prophecy comes in two parts, in Daniel chapters 2 and 7. Daniel 2 is based on a dream God gave Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar, and chapter seven is a dream/vision that Daniel had himself. An angel gives Daniel a clear interpretation of the dreams, and history tells us how amazingly accurate they are! *Remember*, Daniel was written about 603 BC.



BABYLON: Head of Gold ch2:32,37,38 and Lion ch7:4

Daniel tells Nebby that He is represented by the Head of Gold. There was no-one on earth as powerful as he. He was an absolute monarch, no-one told him if he was right or wrong, he did what he wanted.

History and archaeology confirm that Nebby's empire was exactly like this. He ruled and no-one argued! That was how Babylonia worked (and, incidentally, how Saddam Hussain is trying to rule Iraq today).

Babylon was an amazing city. The walls were 350' high and 90' thick, and everywhere there was gold. The temple and palace were huge buildings, one was 8 miles in circumference, the other two. And covered in gold!

As to the lion, that was also Babylon. In particular, to old Nebby himself. He ruled like a lion or eagle, but at the height of his power his 'wings were plucked off'. Chapter 4 tells us the story of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity until he repented and glorified God. After that he became more human, less like a beast. So that much of Daniel's dream was not prophecy, but symbolic of what had already happened.

MEDES and PERSIANS: Body of Silver ch2: 32,39 and Bear ch7:5

Then came the chest and arms of silver. Silver is less than gold, so this empire would not be as great as Nebby's. Notice that it is represented by the two arms united in the one chest.



The Babylonian Empire was invaded and taken over by the Medes and Persians about 539BC. Two peoples united under one Emperor. So even the two arms form a significant part of the prophecy. Silver is still special, however, and laws made by the emperor of this kingdom could not be changed (6:8).

Then we have Daniel's dream of a lop-sided bear. Lop-sided because in the alliance the Persians were the strong partners and the Medes were weak. This empire conquered three important areas. As well as Babylon it also gobbled Egypt and Lydia (an important kingdom at the time in modern Turkey).

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When Darius became the Medo-Persian emperor he levied a tax on his conquests, which he insisted was paid in silver.

Remember that the history of the empires given here happened years after Daniel's prophecies. One other amazing prophet was Isaiah, who prophesied that God would use a ruler called Cyrus to overrun Babylon and bring Jews back to Jerusalem. He spoke long before Cyrus was born. Cyrus was an emperor of Medo-Persia, and Daniel lived just long enough to see him come to power. (See Isaiah chapter 45...Isaiah written c 700BC, Cyrus conquered Babylon 539BC)

GREECE: Bronze Belly ch2: 32, 39 and Leopard ch7:6

After that empire, Daniel tells Nebby, will come one of Bronze. It is represented by the belly and thighs of the statue. One united piece.

The Medo-Persian empire lasted about 2 centuries. But then it too fell. About 334BC the Greek Empire took over. All these prophecies relate to empires that would rule the land of Israel...the place that God had called His own. Greece was dominated by a dictator (Alexander the Great) but also had democratic rule too. This mixture is depicted by bronze, which is composed of other elements.

Each successive metal is tougher than the last, and each of the empires lasted longer than the previous one.

History books relate that Alexander the Great made the fastest conquests in history. He 'flew' across land after land, expanding his Greek Empire. The Persian Empire collapsed under this Leopard. The four wings of the leopard represent the four generals of Alexander's army. The leopard also had four heads. History recounts how Alexander died suddenly and the empire was then ruled by those four generals, who divided it between themselves.



The Greeks wore an amazing new armour, never seen before. It was made of bronze.

There is more about Alexander in chapter 8, written in Hebrew confidentiality. The prophecy there concentrates after Alexander's death on the general who would rule the Palestinian portion of the Greek Empire.

ROME: Legs of Iron ch2:33,40-43 and Terrifying Beast ch7:7-28

This is the most striking of the prophecies, and the most amazing as we shall see.

The Iron empire would crush all the others to pieces. It would be divided too, first into two legs and then into 'ten' toes. Rome was a mixture between a dictator emperor and a democratic senate. (Iron mixed with clay). Eventually the Empire split into two: the West remaining ruled from Rome and the East from Constantinople (Istanbul).

The Romans made great use of iron in their weaponry.

Yet these two parts of the empire continued to break up. The end of the prophecies of the empires has the statue's toes in view. Still iron and clay, still based on Roman rule. The lands ruled by

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Rome are still in view here. Yet they are no longer united (2:43). In the times of those kings (Roman empire offshoots) God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed.

That is important, because it hasn't happened yet. That means that we are still in the Roman period of the prophecy. We are in the time of the ten toes. Nations who can trace their history back to Rome, and are not united yet not divided either; nations which are joined but separate.

If you consider the area of the world that was covered by the Roman empire it was largely the lands around the northern and eastern Mediterranean, and as far north as Hadrian's Wall and other parts of northern Europe. Almost exactly the same area as the current European Union together with the nations that are applying for membership; and then also Israel and the Middle East.

Notice that it is in the time of these 'toes' that God sets up His eternal Kingdom. This is depicted in the statue vision by the great stone 'not cut by human hand' that comes and smashed the statue and then fills the whole earth.

Daniel saw Rome as a horrifying beast. It was different....Rome was ruled more by senate than emperor. Yet it was cruel. Daniel saw terrifying things. Under Rome Jesus was crucified. Under Rome Jerusalem was destroyed. Under Rome many of God's people would be sent to lions. Under Rome's toes, Jews would go to the Gas Chambers. Rome was and is a horrifying beast.