

# Daniel 34 – Persian Bear Scavenges Babylon

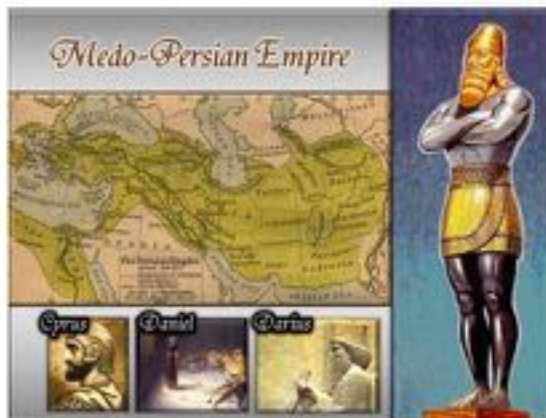
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Daniel 7:5

## Persia – Hidden Bear of History: Preparing the Ancient World

- Understanding Daniel's image of the Bear requires
  - Correlation of this image with Nebuchadnezzar's image – Chest-arms of silver
  - Persia's rejection of polytheism for monotheism – Not God of the Bible 260:13-26
  - Persia's contributions to transmission of the Alphabet: Knowledge for the masses
  - Understand bears to understand Daniel's metaphor
- Persia (Japheth), despite its short empire history was used by God to bring Mesopotamian (Shemite) culture to a close
  - Readers should stop eisegetical interpretation of their current history into Daniel
  - Must understand how the original readers would have understood the message; requires historical, archeological, lingual and biblical studies to gain this perspective in some degree

## Prologue: Chest-Arms of Silver

- Daniel describes chest and arms being one empire
- Cyrus was an Anshan vassal to Media
- When Cyrus joined these two kingdoms, they became Persia
- First major Japheth kingdom; different from Egypt (Ham) and Babylonia, Israel (Shem)
- Never did Persia have the Bear as a national symbol



### Prologue: Review of Religious Persia




- Cyrus, Sun, reduced Magi power, religion, which was eventually replaced with Zoroasterism with halos about its god and main prophet
- Based on monotheistic dualism and this religion spread throughout Persia weakening polytheism
- Asebeia scholars state this eventually influenced Christianity (Backwards)
- More likely it was influenced by monotheistic Judaism (Daniel)

### Prologue: Persian Achievements




- Persia, under the hand of God's restraining Holy Spirit, developed communications, transportation and written systems, that were much better than its predecessors and later copied by Rome (Roads)
  - Adoption of the Aramaic alphabetical script, originally Hebrew developed, facilitated the transfer of ideas and information and in turn influenced Hebrew, square script, to transmit Scripture through history (Old Testament)
  - Their nomadic beginnings retained by seasonal migrations of monarchs between their capitals: Babylon-Susa and Ecbatana for example
  - Built ceremonial capitals to collect annual tributes and to convey the beauty, might and wealth of Persia: Pasargadae, Cyrus-Persepolis, Darius, the Great
  - Their change to a monotheism fell short of embracing faith in true God (works-based) though it was the first major empire to consistently reject polytheism; remaining its foundational value-base without cultural disruption

### Prologue: Darius' Garden of Beauty



- Darius the Great had an irrigation system developed for his garden that contained plants and trees from about his kingdom
- Persian *Pari daz*, enclosed garden, was translated by Greeks into *paradeisos* and the English as *Paradise*
- Biblical Eden expressed by Persian word: Garden of Paradise
- Biblical Hebrew oft updated for example: *Baal* (god) or *Bosheth* (shameful thing) to *EI* though retained in some titles such as *Jerubbabai* & *Mephibosheth* (Jon's Son)

<p><b>Prologue: Winged-Lion Arises out of Raging Sea: Changed into a Man</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corresponds to the golden head: Nebuchadnezzar (p. 23-26)</li> <li>• First metaphor called forth out of sea's raging sea and the Lion, will be Satan's coming Antichrist's mouth (p. 31 &amp; 132)</li> <li>• Though warned of God by a vision, Nebuchadnezzar condemned himself when he spoke his own greatness when viewing his city (p. 24-25)</li> <li>• For seven years, number of completeness, he outwardly was the beast he was inwardly, lost and a child of Satan, until God gave him a changed mind, Salvation (p. 43-47)</li> <li>• His literal wings of idolatry, slavery to Satan, God plucked from him and made him stand as a man (God's Image) (p. 124-27)</li> <li>• Mesopotamia, represented by Babylon, was foundation for false faith of Luciferianism, basis of Gnosticism, that invades all world-based religions: Basis of agreement of all peoples and the new religion of the False Prophet who resurrects Antichrist (p. 121-123)</li> <li>• Lion becomes the mouth of the Antichrist enticing the world to Luciferianism enforced by laws (Lex Talionis)</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Understanding Bears: Grasp Daniel's Metaphor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bears are common metaphors in Scripture; their ferocity was well known to Daniel (p. 171-2; 201-2; 249-5; 312; 404; 438; 494; 519)</li> <li>• As Elisha passed Bethel idle young men, late teens-early twenties (not small children), ridiculed him though dressed as a prophet (common since Elijah); God sent two she-bears which killed over 40 of them (Gang) (p. 223-25; 46; 442-44; 207; 194-11)</li> <li>• David's wrath described as a she-bear's when robbed of her cubs (p. 177-8)</li> <li>• Bear probably most fitting Daniel's description is Eurasian brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These bears live in mountains, as the Medes, but will follow food to lowlands</li> <li>• Persian court migrated seasonally among its major capital cities just as the bear would migrate to find food; even venturing outside of its own territory</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p><b>Now – The Real Question: Why a Bear?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bear, fiercely territorial, was a good representation of the Persian empire; especially under Cyrus and later Darius the Great             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ribs in its mouth do not denote a carnivore, prefers organs rich in fat and nutrients; ribs are scavenger food, scrapes left by others; Persia gobbled up the weak scrapes of exhausted ancient Mesopotamia</li> <li>• Bears feed voraciously for winter hibernation; under its two greatest kings the Persian empire expanded and endowed its empire with advantages already discussed but after Darius, the Great, Persia hibernated, resting on its laurels until it provoked Greece (Next animal <a href="#">and</a> Chapter Eight)</li> <li>• While the bear can amble on two legs (Man), its primary locomotion is on all fours as an animal; while Darius, Suzerain, was saved, Persia converted to a debauched form of monotheism – Zoroastrianism; <b>No</b> changed nature (p. 25-31)</li> <li>• Persian sovereignty <a href="#">always</a> remained under Satan though it also accomplished God's will (p. 423-427)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

## Persia Closed Out the Mesopotamian Kingdoms

- Mesopotamian Kingdoms had outlived their usefulness to Satan
  - These kingdoms never developed the communication structures required to project power over large distances unifying conquered populations
  - Uprooting large populations kept territories in confusion; forcing foreign truths (doctrines) and practices on them did not prevent frequent rebellions
  - Nebuchadnezzar formed and maintained Babylon by power, but his predecessors were unable to project the same power effectively (Personality) (24:2-17-19)
- God, and Satan, blended the qualities of Medes and Persians to form the largest single empire to date based on adopting new technologies: Coinage
  - Persians roads were the envy of the ancient world and copied by Rome to efficiently move armies and provide commercial avenues that could be easily taxed by coinage; primary form of government income other than war spoils (24:18-22, 34, 27-32)

## Succession of Empires: No Sharing of Power

- In Daniel's vision each animal metaphor (prophetic language) comes from the waters of Sin-Satan called by Satan, Leviathan-Dragon (34:27-34, 329, 17-18)
  - These powers are not concurrent; though there are concurrent rulers and peoples in the world (Lydia, Media)
  - As one empire moves off the scene another arises in its place; thus, Persia defeated Babylon building on its accomplishments
  - Lydia was first to develop money in the form of coinage; adopted by Persia and all later nations; Efficient form of value exchange over weights and measures
  - But Persia would discover its military limitations by awakening a sleeping giant, Greece; the successor in Satan's panoply of developing empires toward his ultimate achievement which we still await today as it arises before our eyes
  - Antichrist will have Persia's bear's paws; Swift lines of communications, lingual proficiencies and efficient means of wealth transmission

## Proper Hermeneutics Or: Adrift on a Sea of Fantasies

- There are many diverse interpretations of Daniel's visions and eschatology
  - Bible does not picture man's imagination in a positive light; comes from fleshly asebeia (Worldview) which remains embraced by immature believers (26:1, 34:26, 44:5, 11-14)
  - These, and false teachers, defy Christ's words that no one can know the time of His return except the Father; Faith of many shipwrecked by this (24:29-32, 34:9-12)
  - Some have equated the bear with the Soviet Union (20<sup>th</sup> Century) or Russia (21<sup>st</sup> Century); This display of eisegetical ignorance blatantly ignores Bible
  - See that no one takes you captive by philosophies or deceits leading you away from the source of your faith, the Bible (24:2-14, 17, 34:28-32)
  - God will reveal who is who in His time; until then we are to teach the Gospel and prepare for the fiery trials to come for Satan will bring them; Great Tribulation (27:31-32, 39, 41-42)