

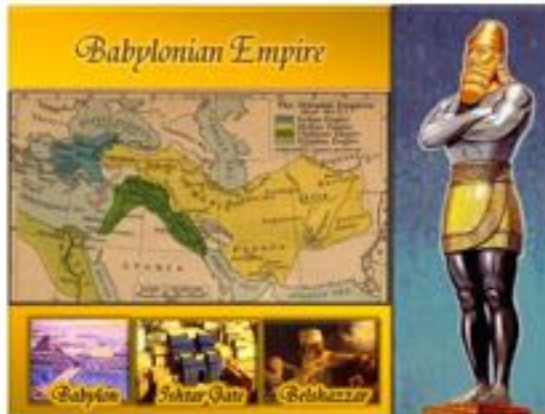
Daniel 11 – Marduk's Iron Legs: Rome

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Daniel 2-10



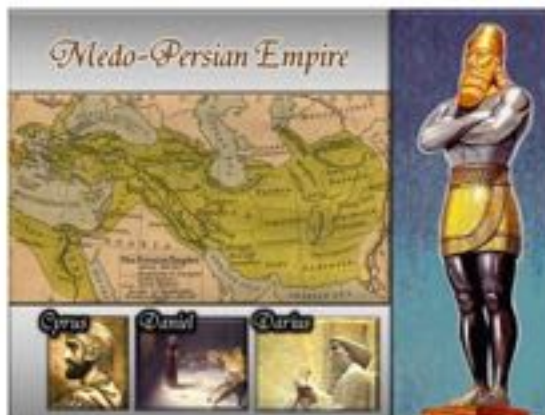
Head of Gold: Never Tarnishes

- Head controls body with 4 of 5 sensory inputs; interface of body and soul; Christ the head (Col 1:18)
- Head unites the diversity of the body; the interface between world and you
- Bridge of Ante- and Post-Diluvian world; seeding all civilizations
- God-given laws over man (Ro 13:1-7)
- Babylonia pinnacle of Mesopotamian culture but mixed with idolatry, i.e.; asabeia (Col 2:8-10)



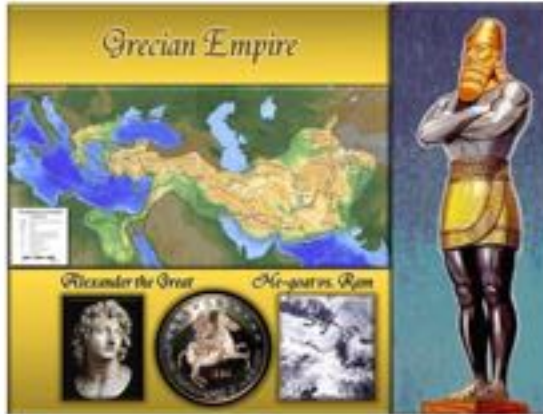
Chest of Silver: Tarnishes Black

- Chest is Persia with arms being Media and Paria
- Arms for writing, with roads, to spread God's knowledge
- First Japheth empire, Egypt descended from Ham; God of them hiding, presaging coming Diaspora of today
- Spirit of God, life of the body; Air and water, blood (Is 17:11; Jn 14:15-17 1Co 12:3-11)
- Cyrus only ruler anointed of God (lungs/heart)



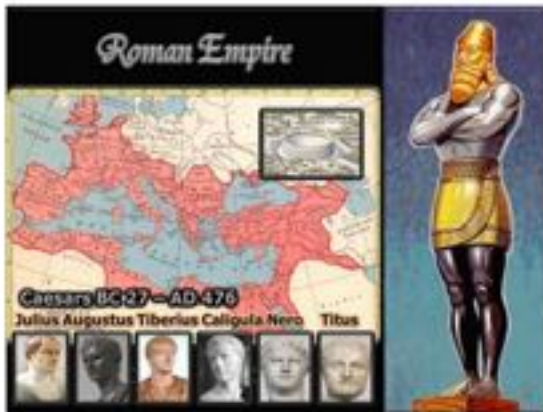
Bronze Loin-Thighs: Green Patina

- Alexander defeats Greece, Persia and Egypt; makes himself god (Ammon-Zeus)
- Single empire becomes two warring kingdoms with Judah torn by their conflicts
- Seeds world with Hellenism: man measure of all truth
- Rationalism masks fleshly passions AEB violence (2Ti 2:20-26)
- Used of God preparing for Christ's gospel (Ep 1:5-12)



Legs of Iron: Rust Rots

- Rome divided throughout its history; obscure origins
- Implemented admired qualities from other cultures
- ~~From~~ Man as the measure of all ~~to~~ Man is god (Isa 2:2)
- Government crumbled due to relativism: Rust
- Foundation of Western culture: U.S. to Russia



Origins Shrouded in Mythos: Reality Shows Appropriation

- Rome's self-proclaimed origin myth: Romulus and Remus suckled by a ~~she-wolf~~ with Rome founded by Romulus after killing Remus – Fratricide
 - Mundane origins: Rome began as an Etruscan village settled by foreigners; Rome laid in Etruscan fashion overlooking Tiber River
 - Etruscans traded with Greek cities in Greece and Grecian colonies; advanced culture discovered in necropolises predating similar Roman practices
 - Monarchy was Etruscan kings; ended when Romans rebelled to create their own government: Republic – Public Affair
 - The Republic based on Etruscan tradition of electing their kings
 - Rome's origins dated circa 750 B.C. but the myths dated only to 3rd century B.C.
 - Origin myths depict divine foundation legitimizing their government after rebellion to prevent rebellion against itself (U.S. – The Revolution – Constitution)

The One Leg: Etruscan

- Rome was a chameleon as it adapted significant aspects Etruscan culture for its own like the Fasces symbol of authority (Bundle of rods and axe)
 - People flowed from Babel: gods were similar but adapted to each culture
 - Etruscan: Tinia, head god, had to obtain consent of the partheon to act and did not cheat on his consort, Uni, culture viewed women as near equals
 - Roman: Jupiter, head god, dealt punishment capriciously and frequently cheated on his consort, Juno (i.e., rape of Europa, Phoenician, producing people of Europe (Crete))
 - Augury, haruspicy, originally Etruscan and practices persisted into Medieval era
 - Sitting a symbol of authority began with the Etruscans: Bema Seat (1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th)
 - Aqueducts and sewage systems began with the Etruscans; Romans developed concrete technology that is used today
 - Chariot races and gladiatorial games had Etruscan origins

The Other Leg: Hellenism

- Romans greatly influenced by Hellenism during their Republic period
 - Rome's partheon of gods took on Greek coloration with Latin names
 - Roman army based on Etruscan model but rejected heroic warrior; Roman army adopted the Greek phalanx but modified it into the maniple which fought as brothers in arms and was more maneuverable: beginning of small unit tactics
 - Romans adapted Greek alphabet to Latin; first developed by the Hebrews, picked up by the Phoenicians then adapted by the Greeks
 - Hellenistic philosophy influenced Rome, man the measure of all; which in Rome became man as god
 - Hellenistic artistry became popular in Rome; i.e., stone statues, frescoes, etc.
- Rome first empire without definitive cultural hegemony

Roman Republic: Quick Overview

- Elements of Roman Republic influenced Western culture
 - Republic never a democracy, nor was Greece: an oligarchy of the powerful, cultured elites, the nobles, formed from three major early tribes
 - Government: Three branches to balance power [\(see Roman Republic's Evolution of Government\)](#)
 - Senate: Represented the noble families, to advise the Consul; controlled the budgets
 - Comitia Plebis: These passed the law; Comitia Centuriata represented the Patricians and Concilium Plebis represented other wealthier members/tribes or Patricians (House)
 - Consuls: Chosen by Comitia Centuriata, served for one-year, non-consecutive, as political and military heads of state; two to prevent despotism and answerable for decisions of term's end; Magistrates subset of Consul, bureaucracy (Executive-Judicial)
 - Rome governed by unwritten, precedence and written, religious, traditions to form its Constitution, foundation of Roman government: Republic to Empire

Rome's Expansion and Wars: Mirrors Today's Middle East Issues

- Rome aggressively expanded its control through wars and intimidation
 - Rome conquered Italian peninsula, though subjugated cities still inferior to Rome
 - Punic Wars, Carthage (Phoenician), secured North African and Mediterranean influence, especially after Egypt came under Roman control – Wheat basket
 - Through wars Rome gained Iberia (Spain), Gaul (France), Hellen (Greece) and Anatolia (Turkey) and tried to extend into ancient Persian regions
 - Through diplomacy and annexation Rome gained the Levant including Judea; installed Herod the Great as King of Judea, with a Roman army
 - Herods were Idumeans, Nabataeans, forcibly converted to Judaism during Maccabean rule; ironic they came to rule over the Jews; like medieval Ashkenaz-Khazars Jews who largely, though not totally, morphed into atheistic, socialist Jews forming Zionism (Salvation via the sword not God's method=Wars)

Roman Citizenship: Basis of Modern Citizenship

- Rome developed concept of citizenship to legally differentiate Romans from others, unique rights, responsibilities and suffragium (Suffrage; Vote)
 - Limited to Patricians (Fathers) but extended to Plebeians who agitated for rights based on their contribution of wealth and power (Caesar was Patrician)
 - Citizenship did not mean equality; the proletariat, (producing ones; Proletariat), poorest class were voting citizens and thus above slaves and foreigners
 - Some people bought their citizenship (1st/2nd/3rd C)
 - Rome extended citizenship to conquered Italian peoples, secure its borders
 - Military duty could gain citizenship; barbarians prized Roman citizenship and attacked Rome when it was denied them; Rome's demise (Starship Troopers)
 - Children of citizens were citizens (U.S. adopted this concept)
 - Paul born Roman and Jewish like his father; one did not negate other (1st/2nd/3rd C)


Republic Disintegration: Rise of Imperial Order

- Rome's Republic lacked ability to bring peace to Rome and Italian peninsula due to political intrigues, murders and riots of the populace
 - Sinners always seek power for self and no safeguards can prevent this
 - Republican government became increasingly ineffective; riled in controversy
 - Certain Consuls sought to increase their power by increased liberty to proletariat, this was defeated which resulted in more societal breakdown (Modern pattern)
 - Julius Caesar deftly orchestrated his election as magister populi or dictator by Senate, supposedly for six months but changed to life; Patrician Senate revolted and murdered him – His name became title that endured to 20th century
 - Violence begets violence resulting in another civil war which Caesar's adopted son, Octavius, won resulting in his election as Princeps, first citizen (Princeps root of Prince and Principles; first or greatest or most important), not dictator



Imperial Order: Imperial Religion

- Augustus accepted Senate title of Princeps and sought to restore declining Roman morality by resurrecting the Republic's paganism
 - The office of chief priest, Pontifex Maximus, was a separate office in the Republic
 - Augustus took that title for himself as had the Etruscan kings
 - After his death Augustus was deified, following Egyptian and Mesopotamian cultures resulting in a new imperial religion: Emperor Worship
- Many other religions allowed, including mystery religions, if the annual incense offering was made to the emperor; sign of allegiance to Rome, refusal meant rebellion and execution
- Thus, Rome legalized worship of man as god; began with equality to other gods but became the deciding factor between life and death for Christians who would not burn incense or worship anyone other than Christ




Rome in the Bible: New Testament

- Having discussed basic aspects of Rome to understand its significance in New Testament
 - Pilate was an Eques (Equestrian) or military knight, primarily Grecian background, hostile to Jew's monotheism as inferior; Equites, between patrician and plebeian ranks increasingly filled imperial Rome's bureaucracy
 - Pilate displayed bureaucratic attitude, superior inflexibility which made for poor diplomacy; recent power changes in Rome made him insecure
 - Pilate mingled blood of Jews with their offerings, brutal; censured by Rome (Lk 13:1)
 - Jews astute politicians; understood his insecure position and manipulated him into executing an innocent man – Christ: "No king but Caesar" (Lk 23:2-14)
 - Point of Pilate's, Rome's, discussion with Christ, "What is truth?" (Lk 23:18)




Which Truth: Which God

- Created in God's image, man worships, compelled to develop a basis for morality, right and wrong, but god, God's truth; man's truth is law and governments force their truth, law, onto others – Sword evangelism (Is 1:18-25)
 - Might makes right is the mantra of sin; thus, Cain killed Abel (Gen 4:1-11)
 - Beginnings of imperial worship; Pilate confronted with one who claimed deity but evidenced god trappings of power to command his allegiance
 - Pilate agreed with the Jewish hierarchy which looked for one with power, a conquering Messiah who ruled via fear and death; Satan's rule (Lk 23:18-25; Jn 6:14)
 - Christ conquered death for sinners, this is beyond man's comprehension (Lk 23:46)
 - Christ has absolute power; He came to save sinners who accept His gift (Is 53:4; Jn 1:1-18; 17:13; 2Pe 3:9-10; Re 20:11-15)



Essence of Iron: Inherent Weakness

- Pontius Pilate was quintessential Roman, militaristic, proud, superior and possessor of the only truth that mattered: Roman truth
 - Rome had no intrinsic truth: it was a compilation of adapted cultures cobbled together bringing everyone under its dominion by force and intimidation
 - Those it viewed as competitors, though too different to assimilate, it eliminated such as Carthage
 - The only power, the only worship and the only truth that mattered was Caesar
 - This made Rome inwardly weak as evidenced by its many internal wars and conflicts which required diluting Roman citizens with barbarians whose priorities were to appear as Romans but were in fact not Romans; no Roman allegiance
 - Like iron that breaks in pieces, it is inherently susceptible to rust which destroys its integrity



Legs Attach to the Body via Loins and Thighs

- Legs are not independent entities, acting apart from the body; they are totally dependent on the body just as the body is dependent on the legs
 - Belief of man as god could not have become reality without Hellenistic philosophy that envisioned man as the measure of all
 - Hellenism gave Rome, the copier, legitimacy of rule by oligarchy and inspired Marcus Aurelius to become Plato's philosopher-king but his son, Commodus, saw himself as god, as Hercules-Romulus; he was murdered by his gladiatorial trainer
 - Rome took what others gave: roads, aqueducts, military tactics improving them on a grand scale which impressed every culture in their present and the future
 - Everything Roman became everyone's goal; yet, all hated Rome's superiority and eventual destroyed Rome's exclusivism (Eastern empire: Byzantium-Greek)
 - Rome festered during Medievalism but revived in Western culture/governments



Western Culture and Americanism

- Renaissance revived classical Greco-Romanism which morphed into the Enlightenment giving new life to government and philosophical concepts
 - New nation-states sought legitimacy from Roman Catholicism via Protestantism in state religions which also suppressed detractors
 - U.S. founders legitimized their new government basing it on Declaration of Independence, underpinned by Greco-Roman philosophies: Bronze and Iron
 - America's classically educated Founding Fathers sought to copy many aspects of Roman government including a Constitution to control government's power
 - Balance of Power between three branches: Executive, Legislative and Judicial
 - Expansion of American citizenship also followed Roman precedence; limited its members but gradually expanded inclusion as was demanded greater support

One Final Roman Gift: Socialism

- Imperium Rome was saddled with a burgeoning problem: democracy or mob rule which Plato and Aristotle rejected
 - Many displaced persons gravitated to Rome for government help
 - They became a rule unto themselves which could barely be contained
 - Imperium Rome often devalue its currency and fixed grain prices to supply the mob with cheap or free bread as a means of control (Welfare-Socialism)
 - Farmers, not able to obtain market value for their crops either created black markets or left farms to come to Rome for free bread (Join the Welfare state)
 - Without farmers Rome became increasingly desperate to avert famines; thus, Rome passed laws tying farmers to the land: Feudalism-Serfdom; i.e., slavery
 - Western socialism rose again in French to Soviet Revolutions and remains in the forms of national and international socialisms today: Return to Serfdom)

Legacy of Rome: Failure of Strength

- Rome gave the world many goals to aspire
 - Title of Caesar became Russian Tsar and German Kaiser
 - Medieval monarchies and feudalism kept everyone imprisoned in ignorance
 - Through Augustine’s worship of Platonism and Romanism, Roman Catholicism gained dominance and hid the true gospel during the Dark Ages
 - New nation-states were militaristic expansionistic oligarchies increasingly using democratic mob-rule to solidify socialistic policies insuring return to serfdom
 - Man the measure of all, Secularism: man as god, Evolutionism: God not needed, with Socialism for the elites and Serfdom, slavery, for all others
 - Emperor worship expressed in Washington’s apotheosis in America’s capital
 - Militarism for right is the main, justifying use of force to expand culture; i.e., if man is god then all are gods, war decides which god is the right god

Christians: Torn Between Two Gods

- Christians often torn between allegiance to government and to God; it oft appears they equate the Bible equal or inferior to the Constitution
 - Based on poor hermeneutical interpretation of Paul’s writing (1st Cor 13:1-7)
 - Christians are not to rebel against government, but neither are we to support the wrongs of government; salvation is in Christ alone, not culture (1st Cor 4:13-21)
 - Natural rights is a philosophy that ignores God as the basis of truth; we are slaves to Christ and like Abraham, we look for the city to come (1st Cor 13:24-25; 1st Cor 10:13; 1st Cor 16:21-24)
 - The lost express their naturariness, sin, succumbing to Satan’s delusion (1st Cor 13:12)
 - The saved, have the new nature of Christ and we are to live as He lived; He is our example in all things (1st Cor 11:1; 1st Cor 2:20; 1st Cor 4:17; 1st Cor 2:21-23)
- Satan has yet one more kingdom; strongest but weakest yet future to us