

Nebuchadnezzar's prophetic dream of an Image and its connection to the beasts of Revelation



Daniel 2	Daniel 7 and 8	Revelation 13:1-3; 17:7-12
The head of gold is the Babylonian Empire	This empire is portrayed as a lion in Daniel 7:4.	This empire is the first head of the beast
The chest and arms of silver is the Medo-Persian Empire, also known as the Achaemenid Empire	This empire is also portrayed as a bear in Daniel 7:5 as well as a ram with two horns representing Media and Persia in Daniel 8:3, 20.	This empire is the second head of the beast
The belly and thighs of brass pictures the Greek Empire is	The Greek Empire is portrayed as a leopard with wings in Daniel 7:6; as well as single goat in Daniel 8:5. Its notable leader, Antiochus Epiphanies, defiled the sanctuary of the temple and was brutally cruel to the Jews.	The Greek Empire was divided into four districts after the death of Alexander the great. This empire is also portrayed as the third, fourth, fifth, sixth heads of the beast.
The legs of iron as well as the feet of iron mixed with clay are the Roman Empire that had strong forces in both eastern and western Europe.	This empire is also portrayed as the dreadful fourth beast with ten horns in Daniel 7:7-8. The little horn represents Justinian's rule who plucked out the three horns portraying the Arian kingdoms of the Vandals, Ostrogoths, and Heruli.	This empire is also the beast with seven heads and ten horns. The seven heads represent predominant eras of the Roman Empire including: Justinian, Charlemagne, Ottoman, Hapsburg, Napoleon, Axis powers Hitler & Mussolini, and a final era yet to rise

The Head of Gold
Babylon ≈ 605 - 539 B.C.

God proclaimed King Nebuchadnezzar's empire to be the head of gold (Dan. 2:38). Herodotus described the Babylonian god Marduk as a grand golden image seated on a gold throne before a massive golden table and altar. Pliny described the priests as wearing robes interwoven with gold. This nation also constituted a pivotal period in history—the beginning of what we know today as western civilization. It was also the empire God allowed to conquer the House of Judah and take the southern tribes captive as punishment for their many sins.

The Chest and Arms of Silver
The Achaemenid Empire ≈ 539 - 331 B.C.

Also known as the Medo-Persian Empire, the unified forces of Media and Persia were strong and bound together like the chest and two arms of a man. As prophesied, the Babylonian empire was conquered and divided between the Medes and Persians (Dan. 5:28). In time, King Cyrus joined these two kingdoms into the single nation of Persia. Silver was another fitting symbol for the empire. This precious metal was worn as personal adornment by its military warriors and used for the nation's coinage. The empire was famous for building an efficient nationwide mail system and its policy of pluralism allowed every culture in the empire to worship its own deity. King Cyrus also allowed Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem under the guidance and authority of Ezra and Nehemiah.

The Belly and Thighs of Brass
Greece ≈ 331 - 168 B.C.

The Macedonian empire, led by Alexander the Great, rapidly conquered the entire known world (Dan. 2:39). Soldiers would use bronze for body armor, battleaxes, and spears. After Alexander's death, his kingdom was divided by his four generals—Ptolemy who came to rule Egypt, Lysimachus who ruled Asia Minor, Seleucus who ruled Syria and Babylon, and Cassander who ruled Greece as king of Macedonia (Dan. 8:21-22). Antiochus Epiphanes arose from the Seleucids and became a type of the end-time beast by inflicting enormous persecution on the Jewish people and defiling the temple. He and his troops were finally overcome through the leadership of the zealous Jewish family of Maccabeus who restored the temple on Kislev 25. That event became the basis for the modern Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.

The Legs of Iron and Feet of Iron and Clay
Rome ≈ 168 B.C. - 476 A.D.

The divided empire of Greece eventually fell to the iron-like power of Rome. Motivated by a desire to expand defensible frontiers, the Roman empire began to grow six centuries before the birth of Christ. As it developed, it had distinct eastern and western territories presided over by a variety of rulers. This was portrayed by the image having two legs. This empire ruled the western world for centuries before a fatal wound inflicted by invading tribes such as the Vandals, Heruli, and Ostrogoths. Over a period of time, this fatal wound was healed and the famous kingdom of iron was resurrected by Justinian (Rev. 13:3). A dominating characteristic of the new empire was its union between an apostate church and the state. The leadership claimed the blasphemous title of Holy Roman Empire. Even though this religious and political partnership was often at odds with each other, it repeatedly waged war and persecuted everyone who did not display allegiance to the pope and Rome. Such horrific persecution also fell upon true Christians. The Bible indicates that this profane empire will rise up a final time with a coalition of ten kings that will be partly strong and partly weak (portrayed by the ten toes of iron mixed with clay). These kings will ally with a powerful leader referred to as "the beast" that will again unite with the apostate Roman church. However, Christ will destroy this final stage of the Roman Empire and establish the Kingdom of God on earth.