

In Daniel 2, at the risk of his life, Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar the exact details of his dream. Knowing how bizarre dreams can be, this might be one of the greatest miracles in the Bible.

In the dream, Daniel saw a statue of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and finally, iron mixed with clay. Conservative scholars have traditionally viewed these kingdoms as Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome, and a Revived Roman Empire.

In Daniel 7, Daniel once again saw these same kingdoms, but this time, he saw them in the form of four beasts. He saw a lion with eagle’s wings plucked out and becoming a man. He then saw a bear tilted to one side, ribs in its mouth, devouring much meat. After this, he saw a leopard with four heads. And finally, Daniel saw a terrifying iron monster trampling down the earth.

Once again, conservative scholars have traditionally interpreted Daniel 7 as retelling Daniel 2. That is, the four empires revealed in Daniel 2 are the four empires revealed in Daniel 7. Babylon is the lion with eagle’s wings. Media-Persia is the bear. Greece is the four-headed leopard. And Rome is the terrifying iron monster.

Not only do Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 reiterate the same world empires. But some of these empires are also revealed in Daniel 8, 9, and 11.

The table below summarizes Daniel 2 and Daniel 7.

Daniel 2 & 7

#	Kingdom	Statue	Beast
1	Babylon	Gold	Lion
2	Media Persia	Silver	Bear
3	Greece	Bronze	Leopard
4	Rome?	Iron	Iron Monster

I am sure you noticed Rome followed by a question mark for the fourth kingdom. Since there’s a modern-day debate about the identity of the fourth kingdom, whether this kingdom is Rome or some other empire, such as the Ottoman Empire, I will attempt to identify the fourth empire later in this session. But first, we will look at the three kingdoms which are easy to identify.

One other note before diving in. Some teach the four beasts revealed in Daniel 7 are different empires than the four revealed in Daniel 2. Some claim the lion with eagle’s wings refers to Great Britain and America; the bear represents Russia; and the leopard with four heads symbolizes Germany. But if you carefully examine the context, this interpretation is not tenable.

For example, the lion with eagle’s wings plucked out is clearly referring to the humbling of Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon. Plus, the leopard with four heads obviously refers to the Greek Empire broken into four divisions after the death of Alexander the Great. And finally, the iron beast in Daniel 7 has ten horns whereas the statue has ten toes. This is obviously the same kingdom, which at some point during its reign, has ten leaders. Therefore, it’s safe to conclude the four beasts in Daniel 7 are the same empires revealed in Daniel 2.

With this in mind, let’s get started looking at the first three kingdoms, which are Babylon, Media-Persia, and Greece.

Babylon

Amazingly, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar the exact details of his dream, saying to him, “You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary

splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. The head of that statue was made of fine gold” (Dan. 2:31-32).

After telling Nebuchadnezzar the remaining parts of his dream, Daniel told him the interpretation, stating, “This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold” (Dan. 2:36-38). From these verses, we know the Babylonian Empire is the head of gold.

Some years later, just prior to Babylon’s fall to Media-Persia, Daniel had another “dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed” (Dan. 7:1). This time, his night vision contained “four great beasts,” which were “coming up from the sea, different from one another” (Dan. 7:3). The first beast was “like a lion and had the wings of an eagle” (Dan. 7:3). As Daniel kept looking, “its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it” (Dan. 7:4).

Most scholars believe the lion with eagle’s wings plucked out represents Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar, who went mad for seven years as God humbled him for his pride (Dan. 4).

The Babylonian Empire, also known as the Neo-Babylonian Empire, lasted from 626 B.C. – 539 B.C., with Nebuchadnezzar being the greatest king of this kingdom. This empire was created from the ashes of the old Babylonian empire, ruled by Assyrian kings.

After Nebuchadnezzar took the throne, he brought this kingdom to its zenith of power, turning Babylon into a fortified city filled with temples, palaces, and even the world-renowned Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar conquered the surrounding nations in the Middle East with ease, including Judah and Jerusalem in 587 B.C.

The Babylonian Empire stretched from the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt all the way to the border of modern-day Iran, cutting right through the heart of the Middle East, including Israel. Below is a map of the Babylonian Empire. You can also click this [link to view an online map](#) of the Babylonian Empire or see the footnote for the online address.¹



Media-Persia (Persian Empire)

Back to Daniel 2 and the statue, Daniel said the “breast and . . . arms” were “silver” (Dan. 2:32). He later interpreted this to mean after Babylon “will arise another kingdom [which is] inferior” (Dan. 2:39, emphasis mine). This is clearly referring to Media-Persia, which conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.

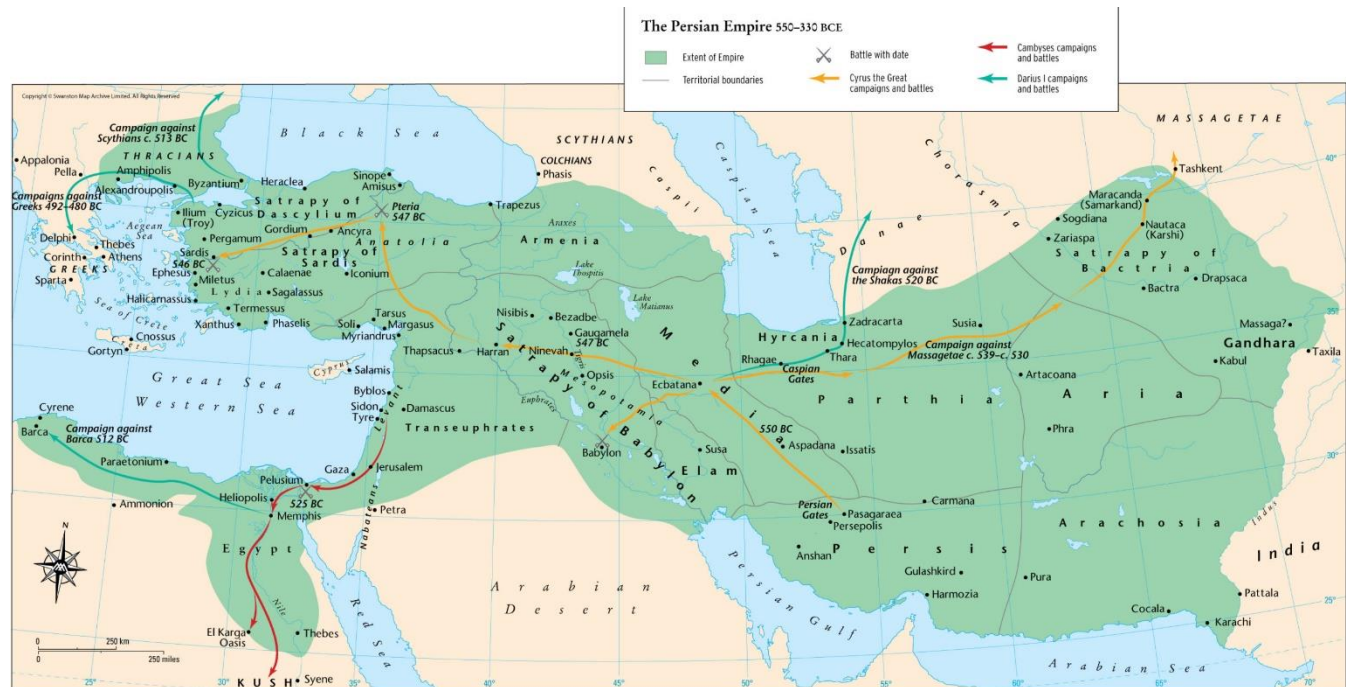
The Media-Persia empire, commonly referred to as just the Persian Empire, was also revealed in Daniel 7, symbolized by a bear. Daniel saw this bear “raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth” (Dan. 7:5). As Daniel gazed at this bear, he heard a command for the bear to “arise, devour much meat!” (Dan. 7:5).

Cyrus the Great, who founded the Persian Empire, began his military conquest by defeating the nearby kingdoms of Media, Lydia, and Babylon, solidifying these areas under one rule. After this, Cyrus turned the Persian Empire into a superpower of the then-known world, uniting under one government three sites of early human civilization. Namely, Mesopotamia, Egypt’s Nile Valley, and India’s Indus Valley.

Under his successors, the empire eventually stretched from the Caucasus and West Asia to what was then Macedonia (today’s Balkans), the Black Sea, Central Asia, and even into Africa, including parts of Libya and Egypt. Nevertheless, the Persian Empire started to decline after Xerxes failed invasion of Greece in 480 B.C. Eventually, Alexander the Great, the leader of the Greek Empire, conquered the Persian Empire in 330 B.C.

Most students of the Bible are somewhat familiar with the Persian Empire, reading about it in Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. During the reign of the Persian Empire, the Jews in Babylon were permitted to return to Judah and rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the temple. Esther, the beautiful Jewish woman who exposed the devious plot of Haman, became the queen of the Persian Empire.

Below is a map of the massive territory of the Persian Empire. You can also click this [link to view an online map](#) of the Persian Empire or see the footnote for the online address.²

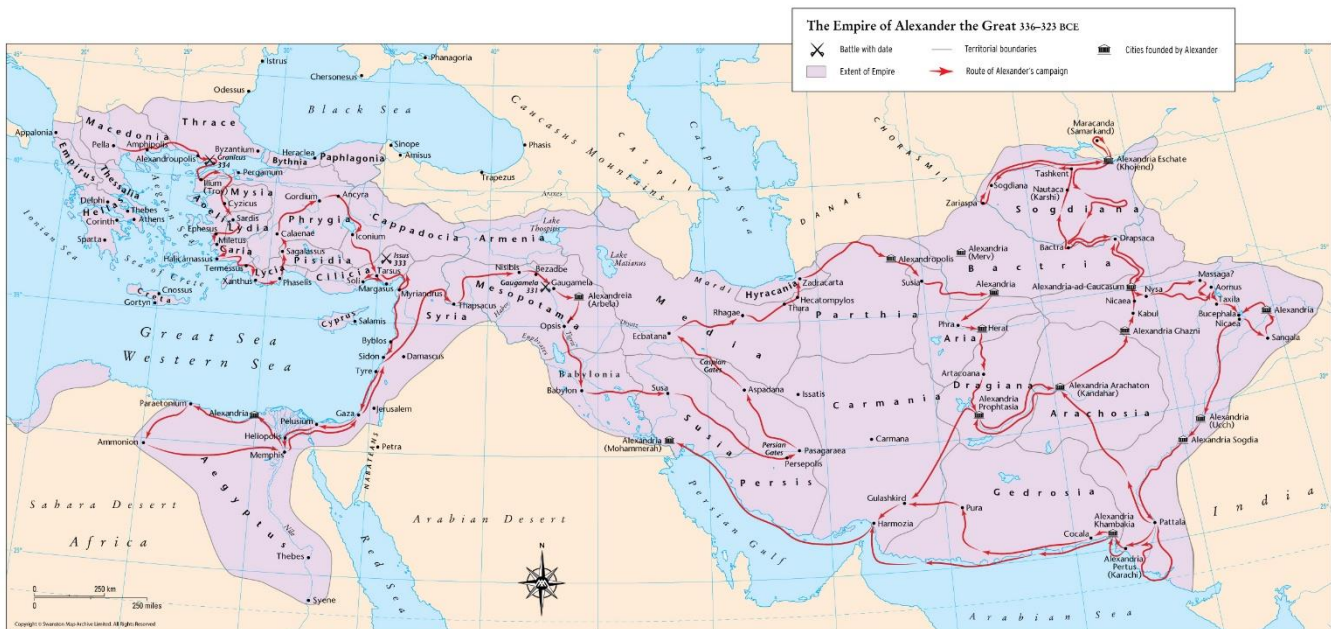


Greece

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, “After you there will raise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth” (Dan. 2:39). The third kingdom of bronze, which came after the Persian Empire and ruled over all the then-known earth, was the Greek Empire, led by Alexander the Great.

Alexander III of Macedon, commonly known as Alexander the Great, is widely considered one of the most brilliant and successful military commanders in history. Ascending to the throne at the age of 20,

Alexander spent the next ten years on a military conquest to subdue the then-known world. By the time Alexander was 30, he created one of the largest empires of the ancient world, stretching from Greece, through the heart of the Middle East, all the way to northwestern India. Below is a map of the massive territory of the Greek Empire. You can also click this [link to view an online map](#) of the Greek Empire or see the footnote for the online address.³

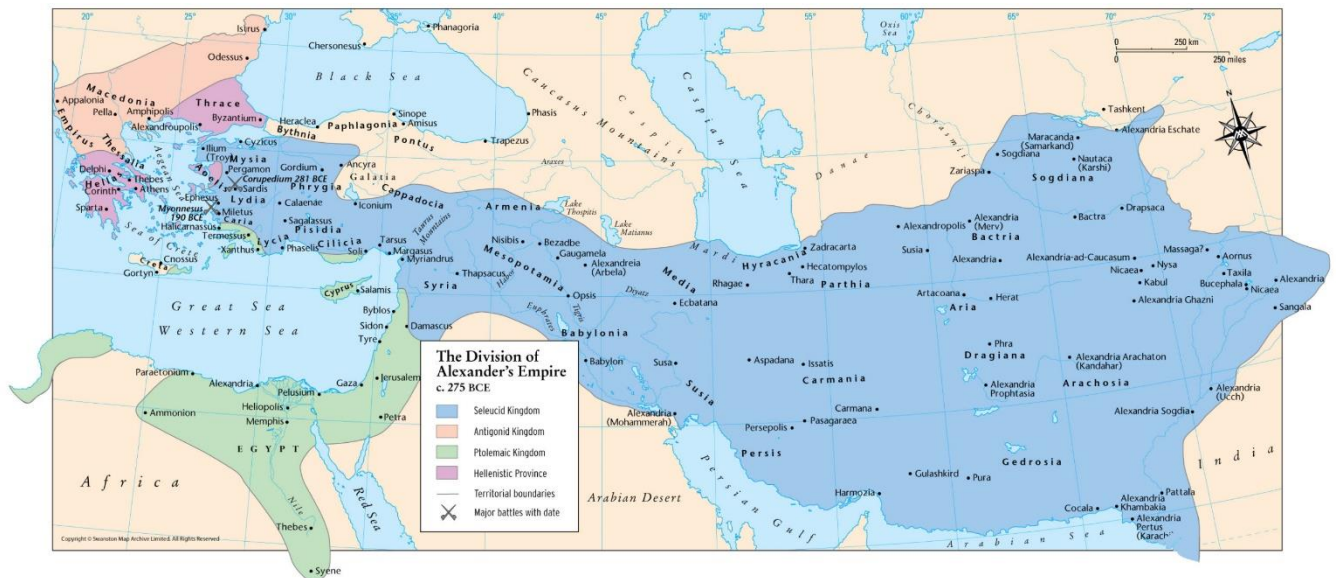


The beast used to symbolize the Greek Empire was a leopard. Daniel described it like this: “I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it” (Dan. 7:6).

Leopards are known as great hunters, able to run up to 36 mph, jump forward 20 feet, and leap 10 feet straight up. The leopard was an appropriate animal to symbolize the Greek Empire, for Alexander the Great squashed every military foe with swiftness. Nevertheless, at the height of his power, Alexander died suddenly in 323 B.C., leaving behind a vast empire from Macedonia to India, Egypt, and eastern Mediterranean.

Since Alexander died young and had no successor, many of his commanders fought intensely for land and power. These series of conflicts were known as the Wars of the Diadochi or the Wars of Alexander’s Successors. When these wars finally ended, Alexander’s empire had been partitioned into four areas. This is exactly what Daniel saw in his vision of the leopard with “four wings of a bird” and “four heads.” Daniel was seeing the division of Alexander the Great’s empire into four territories, each having dominion.

You can see these four partitions in the map on the following page. You can also click this [link to view an online map](#) of the division of Alexander’s empire or see the footnote for the online address.⁴



Is Rome the Fourth Empire?

As a student of end-time prophecy, I initially accepted Rome as the fourth empire. It made sense because the other empires were in consecutive order and Rome was the empire Jesus was born and crucified under. But for a few years, I began to question whether the fourth empire was indeed Rome.

I didn't want to just accept this traditional view without clearly seeing it in Scripture. I wondered *could the iron empire just be the end-time empire? Could it even be the Ottoman Empire?* So, I made this a matter of diligent study and prayer. After about five years of wrestling with this question off-and-on, I am confident the fourth empire is Rome. But before explaining the three reasons that persuaded me, let me make one important point.

Describing the four empires, Daniel 7:17-23 states, "These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth. . . . The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth" (Dan. 7:17,23). These verses show how *kings* and *kingdoms* are used interchangeably in the book of Daniel. That said, here's three reasons why I believe the fourth empire is Rome.

1. The first three empires were in consecutive order; therefore, it makes sense the fourth would follow the same pattern.

As we have seen, Babylon was conquered by Media-Persia which was subsequently conquered by Greece. Since Rome conquered the Greek Empire in 146 B.C. and established dominion over the then-known world, it makes perfect sense for Rome to be the fourth empire.

2. It's hard to imagine the Lord leaving out the empire under which Jesus was born and crucified.

This is a no-brainer. Would God really fail to mention the world empire under which His beloved Son was born and crucified? I highly doubt it. This was another reason I concluded Rome was the fourth empire.

3. These empires are directly related to the Jewish people living in Israel, occupying the city of Jerusalem, and performing temple sacrifices.

Daniel's Seventy-Week Prophecy is the key to determining the four world empires in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. These empires are directly related to the Jewish people living in Israel, occupying Jerusalem, and performing sacrifices in the temple. With this in mind, let's consider how this prophetic condition relates to Babylon, Media-Persia, and Greece—the three empires we have already identified with confidence. After this, we can then see if Rome follows this same pattern.

In 586 B.C., while the Jewish people dwelt securely in the land of Israel, Babylon invaded the land, ransacked Jerusalem, and destroyed the temple. Nebuchadnezzar then took the Jewish people as captives back to Babylon.

After the Jewish people were captives in Babylon for 70 years and the Persians conquered Babylon, King Cyrus gave a decree allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple. This was followed by Artaxerxes' two decrees in 457 B.C. and 444 B.C. to complete the temple and rebuild Jerusalem. In the case of both Babylon and Media-Persia, there's a strong connection between the Jews living in Israel, occupying Jerusalem, and performing sacrifices in the temple.

The same is true with the Greek Empire after the death of Alexander the Great. As we have seen, Alexander's kingdom was divided into four divisions. One of these divisions was the Seleucid Empire, which was eventually ruled by Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who took the throne in 175 B.C.

Antiochus attacked the Jewish people ferociously. He outlawed Judaism, abolished the daily Jewish sacrifice, and even sacrificed a pig on the altar in the Jewish temple, spreading its juices through the temple as a means of defilement. Antiochus IV Epiphanes was undoubtedly one of the greatest prototypes of the antichrist.

Once again, we see the Greek Empire connected to the Jews living in Israel, occupying Jerusalem, and performing temple sacrifices.

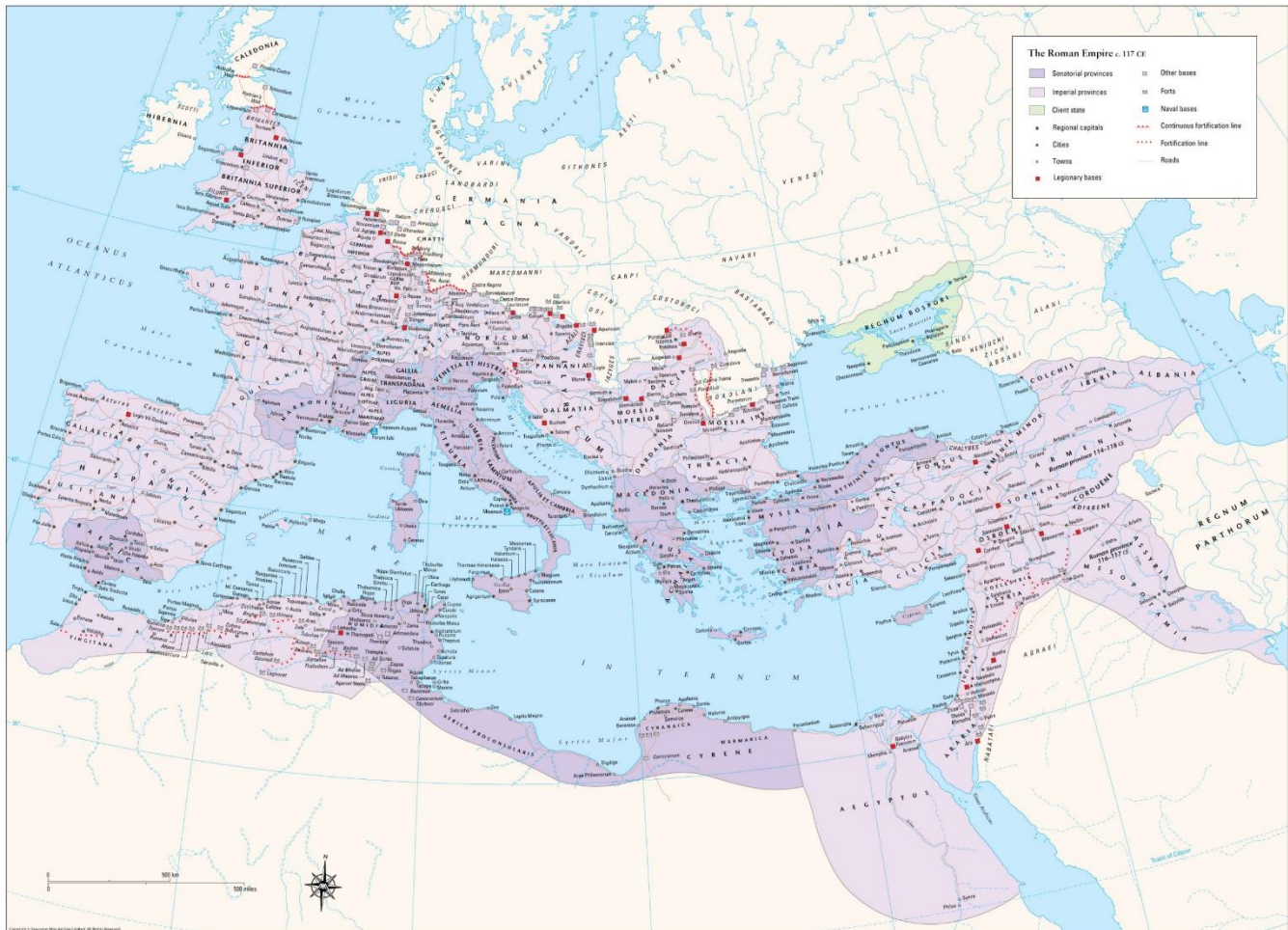
Seeing how the Babylonian, Persian, and Greek Empires were all connected to Daniel's Seventy-Week Prophecy, when the Jews lived in Israel, occupied Jerusalem, and performed temple sacrifices, let's see if the Roman Empire follows this pattern.

In about 40 B.C., Judea became a province of the Roman Empire, and three years later, Rome appointed Herod King of Judea. One of Herod's great achievements was remodeling the temple into one of the most magnificent buildings of its day. Known as the Second Temple, this stunning complex took 46 years to build. Nevertheless, Rome set this temple ablaze in 70 A.D., burning to ashes this marvel of the ancient world. Ultimately, in 135 A.D., the Roman Emperor Hadrian changed the name of the holy land to Palaestina and Jerusalem to Aelia Capitolina. This was in an attempt to completely eradicate the Jewish people's history and claim to the land.

In summary, Babylon attacked *Jerusalem*, took the *Jews* captive, and destroyed the *temple*. Media-Persia permitted *Jerusalem* to be rebuilt, allowed the *Jews* to return to Judea, and authorized the reconstruction of the *temple*. Greece, through Antiochus IV Epiphanes, invaded *Jerusalem*, persecuted the *Jews*, and defiled the *temple* with an abomination. And Rome attacked *Jerusalem*, killed over 1 million *Jews*, and burned the *temple* to the ground.

Do you see the common denominator of *Jerusalem*, the *Jews*, and the *temple* with these four empires? Since Daniel's Seventy-Week Prophecy is centered on *Jerusalem*, the *Jews*, and the *temple* and these four empires had a special relationship with this city, people, and sanctuary, it's safe to say these four empires are the ones mentioned in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. That's why I believe Rome is the fourth empire.

You can see a map of the Roman Empire in 117 A.D. on the following page. You can also click this [link to view an online map](#) of the Roman Empire or see the footnote for the online address.⁵



The Revived Roman Empire

Because these four empires are related to Daniel’s Seventy-Week Prophecy, it’s clear these four empires are the instruments God used in history to help accomplish the six-fold purpose revealed in Daniel 9:24. Namely, “to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place” (Dan. 9:24). God has used these four empires in history to refine, purify, purge, prepare, and judge Israel. And He will use the fourth empire, when it is fully revived at the end of the age, in the same way.

Let me explain why I believe there will be a Revived Roman Empire in the end times. To begin, let’s examine Revelation 17-18, which, if understood properly, holds the key to understanding this mystery. As we begin to analyze these two chapters, it’s vital to bring into this study what we already learned from Daniel 2, 7, and 9:24-27. This is important because Revelation 17-18 builds upon Daniel’s previous revelations. That’s one reason why I spent so much time detailing the prophetic revelations from the book of Daniel.

In Revelation 17-18, John was shown a voluptuous woman, a seductively clothed harlot dressed with purple and scarlet, arrayed in gold and other precious stones. On her forehead was written *Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots*. As John gazed at her, he noticed she was drunk with the blood of the saints and the witnesses of Jesus. This harlot also had a gold cup full of abominations, and because of her extensive harlotry, the inhabitants of the world were intoxicated by her influence; the kings of the earth fornicated with her; and the merchants of the earth, who are the great men of the earth, became rich by the wealth of her sensuality. This harlot, through her witchcraft, deceived all the nations.

One of the great mysteries of this two-chapter prophecy is the scarlet beast who carries her. This 7-headed, 10-horned monster is the one responsible for carrying the harlot to world-wide prominence. This wanton woman and scarlet beast are so intertwined it’s impossible to understand the woman apart from the beast. This is why the angel told John, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman

and of the beast that carries her” (Rev. 17:7). Probing deeper, the angel unpacked the mystery of the beast, telling John,

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. (Rev. 17:8)

The beast, who is the antichrist, “was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss.” Basically, this means the antichrist will be raised from the dead. Whether this is a true, physical resurrection from the dead or one that is staged, remains to be seen. But to a world hungry for power, signs, and wonders, this will cause “those who dwell on the earth” to “wonder when they see the beast” resurrected. Ultimately, this resurrection will inspire the inhabitants of the earth to worship the antichrist (Rev. 13:3-4).

Next, the angel told John,

Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. (Rev. 17:9-12)

Notice the seven heads are seven kings. Whereas Daniel mentioned four kings, John listed seven. Some scholars, mostly Preterists, claim the seven kings are seven Roman emperors. But this is not what the verse is conveying. Rather, John was building off the foundation already laid in the book of Daniel. Namely, the four empires we have already looked at. Also, keep in mind *kings* and *kingdoms* are used interchangeably, as we saw in Daniel 7:17-23.

We also need to consider what was communicated in Revelation 17:9-11, when the angel told John the “beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth.” So, here’s a new twist. There are not just seven kingdoms; there are eight kingdoms we need to consider.

In summary, these eight kings are eight worldwide, antichrist kingdoms, each having a preeminent king, who was or will be the perfect example and full embodiment of the kingdom. Building off what we learned about the four empires in Daniel 2 and 7, these kingdoms have a unique place in Jewish history.

Using these criteria, many conservative scholars agree the five historical kingdoms, which had fallen when John wrote the book of Revelation and had a unique place in Israel’s history, are: 1) Egypt; 2) Assyria; 3) Babylon; 4) Media Persia; and 5) Greece. These same scholars also agree the sixth kingdom is Rome, whom the angel referred to as the “one [who] is [presently in power]” (emphasis mine).

The real debate is around the seventh and eighth kingdoms. There are numerous speculations about the identity of the seventh kingdom. But I will keep it simple. Two criteria must be met. First, the seventh kingdom must be in power for “a short time” (Rev. 17:10, NKJV). Second, the seventh kingdom is likely connected to Daniel’s Seventy-Week Prophecy. Therefore, this kingdom must come to the apex of power when the Jewish people dwell in Israel, occupy Jerusalem, and are allowed to perform sacrifices in the temple.

For these reasons, I believe the seventh kingdom is a future kingdom, taken to preeminence by the antichrist. This seventh kingdom will be in power when the antichrist signs the seven-year peace treaty with Israel, allowing the Jews to reinstitute Levitical worship in the temple. I’ll explain in a minute exactly who I believe this kingdom will be.

The angel told John, “The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction” (Rev. 17:11). The antichrist is both the seventh king of the seventh empire and the eighth king of the eighth empire.

This eighth kingdom is vividly displayed throughout the entire chapter of Revelation 13, where we see ten kings coming to power with the antichrist. These kings, along with the false prophet, who performs jaw-dropping signs and wonders, even calling fire down from heaven, will be the pillars of the antichrist’s empire. These 10 kings will form a 10-nation confederacy that will be virtually unconquerably.

Time will tell who these ten nations will be. But one thing is certain. Many nations will be subdued by the antichrist and these ten kings. Those in the nations will ask, "Who can wage war with him" (Rev. 13:4). This will be a totalitarian regime, which completely controls the world's economic, governmental, and religious systems.

Now I will unpack exactly who I believe the seventh kingdom will be.

Identifying the Seventh Kingdom

The antichrist is the preeminent king of both the seventh and eighth kingdoms. Seeing how the antichrist brings the harlot to prominence (the seventh kingdom) but destroys her later to set up his totalitarian regime (the eighth kingdom), if we can identify the harlot, we can also identify the seventh kingdom.

To be honest, Revelation 17-18 has been one of the most difficult passages for me to interpret. I have literally spent years trying to figure out the identity of the harlot woman who rides the scarlet beast. I have searched for answers incessantly, scouring commentaries, watching videos, reading books, and listening to various teachings.

The range of interpretations of this passage are vast. Throughout history, Bible teachers believed the woman was Rome, Islam, or the Roman Catholic Church. Modern-day teachers have theorized she might be New York City, the United Nations, modern-day Jerusalem, a literal rebuilt Babylon in Iraq, apostate Christianity, the Illuminati, or Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

To help sort through the clutter, let me list some criteria the woman must meet. She must be: 1) a real city; 2) a port city; 3) a city that exports false religion to the nations; 4) a world-renowned city; and 5) a city responsible for the murder of countless Christians.

I will quickly list the reasons why these five criteria must be met, then I will explain who I think this city is, and finally, I will explain how this city meets these five criteria.

1. The harlot is a real city.

The angel told John, "The woman whom you saw is the great city" (Rev. 17:18). Several other verses in Revelation 17-18 also describe her as a great city (Rev. 18:10, 16, 18-19, 21). Bottom line: The harlot must be a literal city. She cannot be spiritualized or allegorized to mean anything other than a real city. The harlot, therefore, cannot be the apostate church, a hidden cabal of elites, or Islam.

2. The harlot is a port city.

When the harlot is set ablaze by the antichrist and ten kings to start the Great Tribulation, shipmasters, on their boats in the ocean, will see the smoke of her burning. John wrote, "Every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'" (Rev. 18:17-18). This proves the harlot city must be a port city. Those in their boats at sea must be able to see her burning. This eliminates many inland cities from the conversation.

3. The harlot is a city that exports false religion to the nations.

Throughout Revelation 17-18, the woman is described as a great harlot, the mother of harlots, and the one with whom kings fornicate. She holds in her hand a gold cup of abominations and the unclean things of her immorality. As a result, multitudes in the nations are intoxicated by her harlotry while the great merchants of the earth become rich by her sensuality.

Obviously, the woman is not a literal harlot who physically gives her body to kings, merchants, and the mass of humanity. Any serious Bible student knows harlotry is synonymous with idolatry. Throughout the Scriptures, harlotry was the worship of any god other than Yahweh, the one true God of the Bible. This term was applied to both Jews who apostatized from the Lord and pagan Gentiles who never knew the Lord.

This harlot is a city who exports false, idolatrous religion to the nations. Her compromised theology and doctrines of demons intoxicate multitudes of people in the nations, blinding them to the truth, deceiving them from the absoluteness of Christ, and preparing their hearts for the outright worship of Lucifer through his proxy the antichrist.

4. The harlot is world-renowned city.

Throughout Revelation 17-18, the woman is described as the great city. When she is burned with fire, much of the earth, who loved her, will mourn over the smoke of her burning. Thus, the great harlot is a world-renowned city adored by the earth.

5. The harlot is responsible for the murder of countless Christians throughout history.

John “saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus” (Rev. 17:6). He also wrote, “In her was found the blood of prophets and of saints” (Rev. 18:24). And following the final judgment of harlot Babylon, heaven rejoices and proclaims, “He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her” (Rev. 19:2).

Clearly, the harlot city is responsible for murdering innumerable Christians throughout history.

Why Rome Is the Harlot City

Before I explain how Rome meets all of these criteria, there are two clear statements revealing the identity of the harlot. The first is when the angel told John straight up, “The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth” (Rev. 17:18). Think about it. At the time John wrote the book of Revelation, there was only one city who could meet this criterion—and that was Rome. Rome was the great city who reigned over the kings of the earth when John received this revelation of the great harlot.

Second, the angel told John, “The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits” (Rev. 17:9). Rome, known throughout history as the city on seven hills, clearly meets this requirement. When the first-century church read this description of the woman in Revelation 17:9, they knew immediately to whom this was referring. First-century coins even portrayed the goddess Roma, a personification of the city, sitting on seven hills.

With these two clear context clues, I want to make one more important statement about interpreting Revelation 17-18. Almost universally, end-time scholars and prophecy teachers make a common mistake. They try to interpret Revelation 17-18 from the perspective of their own day rather than the future, just prior to when the antichrist and ten kings rise to power at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. But Revelation 17-18 clearly pictures the rise of the great harlot on the back of the antichrist immediately before the last 3.5 years of the age. Therefore, if we try to interpret this passage as a modern-day phenomenon, we will be confused and misled. This prophecy pertains to the future. It is not a prophecy that is currently being fulfilled.

Rome Meets the Five Criteria

Obviously, Rome is a real city with worldwide renown. And, if you look at Rome on Google maps, it’s clear those in boats would be able to see her set ablaze.

In addition, through the Catholic Church, false religion has been exported from Rome to the nations for centuries. The Catholic Church worships Mary, whom they adore as the queen of heaven. This is the same idolatrous queen of heaven Jeremiah rebuked Israel for worshipping thousands of years ago, now rebranded as the Virgin Mary (Jer. 7:18; 44:17-19).

Though many born-again believers belong to the Catholic Church, the church itself is anything but a pure bride set apart for Jesus Christ. Throughout history, the works-based religion of Catholicism has distorted the pure and simple gospel of Christ. Paul told the Galatians if anyone preaches another gospel different from his, which was by grace through faith apart from works, then he was to be accursed (Gal. 1:8-9).

For centuries, the Catholic Church has promulgated numerous doctrines of demons, leading multitudes away from Christ. Doctrines such as the infallibility of the Pope, Mary worship, transubstantiation, purgatory, indulgences, and the rosary cannot be found in Scripture. Ever since Constantine legalized Christianity in 313 A.D., the Catholic Church has intoxicated her followers with false doctrines. So clearly, Rome meets the criteria for exporting harlotry to the nations.

Finally, there is no other city in the world who has murdered more Christians throughout history than Rome. The city of Rome has more bloodguilt for killing Christ followers than any other city. There’s simply no rival. When you consider the Christians who lost their lives through Nero’s and Domitian’s persecutions, there’s no comparison (54 A.D. to 68 A.D. and 89 A.D. to 96 A.D.). Not to mention Rome throwing Christians

to wild beasts, as bloodthirsty fans cheered in the Roman Colosseum, while these faithful witnesses were tortured to death. Add to this Rome’s culpability in the apostles’ death, their role in Christ’s crucifixion, and the Catholic Church’s responsibility for killing those who committed heresy for clinging to the truth of Scripture, there’s simply no other city in history that comes close to meeting this criterion like Rome.


For all of these reasons, the city of Rome, not the Catholic Church by itself, is the great harlot of Revelation 17-18.

Combining Revelation 17:9-11 with Daniel 2,7

With the knowledge gained so far, let’s combine Revelation 17:9-11 with Daniel 2 and 7. The table below shows how these three passages of Scripture fit together.

Revelation 17:9-11 & Daniel 2, 7

#	Kingdom	Statue	Beast
1	Egypt		
2	Assyria		
3	Babylon	Gold	Lion
4	Media Persia	Silver	Bear
5	Greece	Bronze	Leopard
6	Rome	Iron	Iron Monster
7	Revived Roman Empire	Iron & Clay	Iron Monster
8	Antichrist Empire	Iron & Clay	Iron Monster

4th Kingdom of Iron (Daniel 2 & 7)  6th, 7th, and 8th Kingdom (Revelation 17:9-11)

Moving On . . .

We covered a lot of ground in this session. But this is all critical information both for this class and the entire Forerunner School. In the next session, we will look in detail at the seventh kingdom’s one-world religion, economy, and government and how this mighty play out in the coming years.

¹ <https://radicalpursuit.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/NeoBabylonianEmpire-scaled.jpg>

² <https://radicalpursuit.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PersianEmpire-scaled.jpg>

³ <https://radicalpursuit.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/GreekEmpire.jpg>

⁴ https://radicalpursuit.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/GreekEmpire_4Parts-scaled.jpg

⁵ <https://radicalpursuit.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/RomanEmpire-scaled.jpg>