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The Second Beast of Daniel: A Bear with a Chest and Arms of Silver Dani’el 2:32b, 2:39a, 7:5 and 8:1-4, 20

The second beast of Dani’el: a bear with a chest and arms of silver **DIG**: In what three ways is Medo-Persia pictured here? Who were the four great beasts out of the sea? What made this bear different from other bears? Why was it raised up on one of its sides? What did the three ribs in its mouth represent? What did the ram represent? Why was one of its horns longer than the other? How were the three ways it charged similar to the three ribs in the mouth of the bear?

The chest and arms of silver represented the second Gentile kingdom, which was **the Medo-Persian Empire (Dani’el 2:32b)**. As we go down the statue, there is a decrease in the value of the metals, gold, being the most valuable, **silver**, being less valuable than gold, bronze, being less valuable than **silver**, and iron being the least valuable. Thus, they lacked the inner unity of the Babylon Empire and never blended into one people. So there was an increase in the hardness and strength of the metals. **Silver** is stronger than gold, and so on. This increase in hardness was reflected in the increased strength of each empire. Therefore, **the Medo-Persians** were militarily stronger than the Babylonians. They were the second of four Gentile empires to dominate Jerusalem.

Dear Heavenly **Father**, I marvel at **Your** wisdom to predict hundreds of years in advance, with perfect accuracy all the future kingdoms of the world. It is a joy to call **You** my **Father** for **You** are full of: **holiness (Leviticus 11:45)**, **love (Psalms 63:6, 103:17, First John 4:16)**, **compassion (Psalms 103:13)**, **kindness (Romans 2:4)**, **righteousness (Psalms 103:13)**, **greatness (Psalms 104:1)**, and so many more wonderful qualities. I can look to the future with peace, for **You** have it all in control. Though there will be battles, plagues and war, for those who are **Your children (John 1:12, 3:3; First John 3:1, 3)** who have chosen to love and follow **You** - there will be **eternal life** of everlasting **peace** and **joy** in heaven forever! **You** are awesome! In the name of **Your** holy **Son** and power of **His**

resurrection. Amen



When **Dani’el** interpreted **King Nebuchadnezzar’s** dream, **he** said to him: **After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours (Dani’el 2:39a)**. Many years later, **ADONAI** gave **Daniel** more details about that **kingdom** in **his own vision**. **He** said: **And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear**, and like **the chest and arms of silver**, it represented **the Medo-Persian Empire**. It wasn’t a **bear**, but its primary features **looked like a bear**. It was less majestic than the lion. However, it is frequently associated with lions in Scripture (**1 Samuel 17:34-36; 2 Samuel 17:8; Proverbs 28:15; Hosea 13:8**). **Bears** are bulky and weighty and **Medo-Persia** conquered by sheer force of numbers. This empire started with the union of **the Medes** and **the Persians**; however, later **the Persians** became the much more dominant of the two nations. Hence, **it was raised up on one of its sides. And it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth**. To solidify its empire, **Medo-Persia** had to conquer **three** other kingdoms, Lydia, Babylonia and Egypt. But even beyond these **three** kingdoms, **God** had given **them** the power to make even more conquests outside **their** borders. **It was told, “Get up and eat your fill of flesh” (Dan 7:5)!**

In the third year of King Belshazzar’s reign, or two years after his first **vision** about the four beasts, **Dani’el had** another **vision**. It was twelve years before the end of the Babylonian Empire. At this time **Dani’el** was about 70 years old. In his **vision he** was transported 230 miles away from Babylon to **the king’s** palace at **Susa, beside the Ulai Canal (Dani’el 8:1-2)**, or modern day Iran. At that time **Susa** was a little known town. But it was destined to become the capitol of **the Persian Empire (Nehemiah 1:1; Esther 1:2)**. In fact, the palace in **his vision**

hadn’t even been built yet!

There **he** saw **a ram with two horns**, which represented **the Medo-Persian Empire (Dani’el 8:20)**. The guardian spirit of **the Persian Kingdom** was pictured as **a ram**. Whenever a **Persian king** stood before **his** army, instead of wearing a crown, **he** wore **a ram’s horn**. See my commentary on **Genesis, to see link click Me - Aries (The Ram)**. **Dani’el was standing beside the canal, and the ram that he saw had horns that were long** because both **the Medes and the Persians** were powerful **kingdoms**. **But one of the horns was longer than the other** because **the Persians** were more powerful than **the Medes**. **But the** higher one **grew up later**. Before Cyrus **the Persian** came to power, **Media** was already a major **kingdom**. In fact, a century earlier in the year 612 BC, it was **Media** that helped Babylon to conquer the Assyrian Empire.

So the vision of **the ram** is a further development of the **chest and arms of silver** in the statue in **King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Dani’el 2:32)**, and the **bear raised up on one of its sides, with three ribs in its mouth (Dani’el 7:5)**. Each vision gave more detail. Like the **three ribs in its mouth, the ram charged in three** different directions. It **charged toward the west** because in history **Medo-Persia charged west** conquering Babylon, Syria and Asia Minor. It **charged** as far **north** as the Caspian Sea because it conquered Scythia and Armenia. **And the ram also charged south** taking Egypt and Ethiopia. It doesn’t mention going east because **Medo-Persia** made no significant conquests eastward. As I mentioned above, **God** had given **them** the power to make even more conquests outside **their** borders. Therefore, **no animal** or **no other kingdom could stand against the ram, or Medo-Persia, and none could rescue themselves from their power. They did as they pleased, and became a great empire (Dani’el 8:3-4)**.

However, **the Medo-Persian Empire** was **inferior** to the Babylonian Empire in influence and achievement. The roots of the Babylonian Empire began soon after The Flood (**Genesis 10-11**); but **the Medo-Persian Empire** does not go that far back. **They** lacked the inner unity of Babylon. Although **the Medes and the Persians** were united politically, **they** never blended into one people. **They** were an **inferior** type of government. **God** gives each Gentile Empire a certain amount of time, and then **He** terminates their **kingdom** and gives it to another. So as **the Medo-Persian Empire** faded away, **YHVH** raised up the Greek Empire.