

THE BEAST STRUCTURE

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SCRIPTURES CONCERNING THE SECOND BEAST

539-330 BC

Note: In 539 BC Darius the Mede and his nephew, or grandson, Cyrus attacked and conquered Babylon. Cyrus found the Jews in Babylon and determined to restore them to their own country. (Ezra 1:2-4) He issued a decree for the people to return and rebuild the temple in 539 BC. His successor was Cambyses who took Egypt in 525 BC. (Ezra 4:6) Cambyses was succeeded by Gomates who reversed the policy of Cyrus and forbade further building of the temple. (Ezra 4:17-22) Gomates was succeeded by Darius who allowed the Jews to resume building. (Ezra 6:1-15) He also issued a decree having to do with rebuilding the temple in 519 BC. Darius was succeeded by Xerxes, probably the Ahasuerus of Esther. Xerxes was succeeded by Artaxerxes. (Ezra 7:11-28 and Ne. 2:1-9) He was the king who issued the decree in 457 BC that began the seventy-weeks prophecy. Six more successors reigned after him from 424 BC to 330 BC ending with Darius Codomannus who is probably the "Darius the Persian" of Ne. 12:22. The collapse of the Empire under Alexander the Great took place 330 BC.

THE IMAGE

Dan 2:32 ... his breast and his arms of silver...

Dan 2:39 And after thee (Nebuchadnezzar) shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee...

Note: Here is the second part of the great image, the breast and arms of silver which is interpreted in verse 39 as another kingdom to come after Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon.

THE BEAST

Dan 7:5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, (Margin: It raised up one dominion or a united sovereignty.) and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

Note: Here we see the Second Beast like a bear. The three ribs in its mouth are said to be Media, Lydia, and Babylon, which were brought under the Persian rule.

THE RAM

Dan 8:3 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.

Dan 8:4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.

Dan 8:20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

Note: In verse 20 this ram with two horns is identified as the Kings of Media and Persia. As for the higher horn coming up last, it is said that Persia, was an insignificant kingdom until Cyrus's time, then it ascended over Media, the more ancient kingdom. Also, the King of Persia was actually said to wear a jeweled ram's head of gold instead of a crown. The ram's head is seen on the Pillars of Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid or Persian Empire.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/paulk/2062844645/>

THE RICH KING OF PERSIA

Dan 11:2 And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.

Note: Actually there were 12 more kings in the Persian Empire, but the first four following Cyrus fulfill this prophecy. They were Cambyses, Pseudo-Smerdis or Gomates, Darius the Great, and Xerxes (the Ahasuerus of Esther). It was the last king, Xerxes, who was the richest of all and waged war with Greece. Then he captured Athens before being defeated at Salamis in 480 BC. Thereafter, he withdrew and stayed in Persia.