

what it presents of the anti-god kgdms. that are there described, how they come to an end, and the establishment of Messiah's own kgdm.

In ch. 7 we have a vision, not given to a heathen king as the one was in ch. 2, but given to the great prophet of God, Dan. himself. We read in Dan. 7:1 that in the first yr. of Belshazzar, king of Babylon -- this would be perhaps 30 yrs. at least after Neb. had his vision in ch. 2. The first yr. of Belshazzar king of Babylon. Belshazzar may have been the grandson of Neb. He was a successor, and in Biblical terminology a successor could be called a son, but he probably was a ~~successor~~ in a more true way than simply being successor. It is most likely, though we are not sure, that his mother was a daughter of Neb. But in the first yr. of Belshazzar's reign as the Babylonian kingdom was approaching its end, Daniel saw a vision at night and the four winds of the heavens strove upon the great sea and four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. And these four beasts that came up from the sea one after the other, correspond to the four parts of the image Neb. saw going down from the top. So the first of them is like a lion. This again was complementing the Babylonians. It was like a lion having eagles wings. But you notice it gives a little more detail about its end. The other simply said, After you will come another king inferior to you. This one says, I beheld till its wings were plucked and it ~~was~~ was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man. This shows the terrible downfall of the Babylonian empire. This was a vision given to Dan. and probably told about to his friends, but hardly made public till after it had taken place. The first one to Neb. was probably widely known and that simply says After you will come another one. But this one expresses things that it would have been dangerous to have said in the Babylonian empire until after it was destroyed.

But then he said, Behold another beast, a second, like a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, ~~and it raised up itself on one side,~~ --- illustrating the fact that this Medo-Persian empire was -- it was originally the Medes who had the power, then the Persians' gained control of the empire and raised themselves up to a stronger position than the Medes, and so it "raised itself up on one side." "It had three ribs in the mouth of it between its teeth, and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh." And the Persian empire had come and conquered the great empires of the day, not only the Babylonian empire but conquered Egypt, conquered the territories to the north and west of Babylonia as well. So he passes over in this instance the Medo-Persian empire in these few words.

He goes on to the third empire which he says is like a leopard. That illustrates the speed with which Alexander the great conquered the Persian empire. It was like a leopard and it had on its back four wings of a fowl; this beast also had four heads. When Alexander died, the attempt was made to keep his empire together. But it failed. Four of his generals seized parts of his empire and it was broken into four but four different sections which had the same general viewpoint and outlook -- outlook -- they were truly successors of Alexander the Great -- so it can be spoken of as very properly one kingdom with four heads.