

itself

And raise themselves up on one side. And other say that's a description of the way a bear walks with one side sort of lifted up! Well, I haven't see enough bears walking to make a judgment, between those interpretations.

At any rate that was true of the second kingdom, does this here give a picture of that or not? I don't think we can say for certain. At least it's a possibility.

Then it says: It had 3 ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said, Arise, devour much flesh. This is a good picture of what Cyrus did because Cyrus rose in his kingdom and gained supremacy over all the beasts, and then he led his army westward and conquered the region north of Babylonia and all of Asia Minor and then he led it back and down again and conquered Babylon and then again he went east and conquered further going right to the very borders of India.

So this "rise and devour much flesh" is a picture of the conquests of Cyrus going way beyond the territory held by the Babylonians. But it says there were 3 ribs in its mouth, between its teeth. Many commentators will tell you what these three ribs represent.

I have a footnote here: That is Lydia, Babylonia, Egypt, etc. And the important word in that note is ETC. He conquered many areas, and I don't think we have a right to pick three and say these are the most important. We can't because he conquered so many areas including several of very great importance.

I think we can say here of the three ribs that a vivid picture of the fact he was conquering nations and absorbing them and the number three here is not just the conquest of the Babylonian empire; it was the conquest of _____. But the attempt to precisely say what these three refer to, we have no clear evidence in history to pick out three and I think it just means he conquered a number, a lot.

So I don't think there is any special significance here to the number three.

Then we look at what we are told about the fourth kingdom. We read in v.6, "After his I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon its back four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads, and dominion was given to it." I don't think the number four in four wings of a fowl has any particular ~~significance~~ importance. But I do think you'd never expect a leopard to have wings, and to say it has four wings stresses the fact of great mobility. The kingdom of Alexander, and the conquests which he made so rapidly, can hardly be paralleled in history until you get to Napoleon and Hitler and the blitzkrieg that ~~sign~~ each of these men carried out.

Cyrus was a tremendous conqueror and conquered ~~many~~ many areas. It was hard to parallel, but it was a steady constant conquest over a series of years. But Alexander in a short reign of only 12 years conquered the greatest empire the world has ever seen to that time. It was marked by its tremendous rapidity.