

Daniel Talk 2

"Daniel blessed the God of heaven"

Chapters 2,3,4 and 7

His prayer of thanks that the matter had been revealed to him

- Blesses (Heb. berak), kneels down, adores the God of heaven.
- Hallows God's Name.
- Acknowledges His wisdom and might.
- States that He rules in the kingdom of men.
- He reveals secrets and the truth (light).
- Thanks the God of his Fathers.

The Image Dream

- Neb. was thinking about what would happen to his empire when he was gone, and thought it would last for ever, but Daniel, like Isaiah (13:19) and Jeremiah (52:37), foresaw its demise.
- Image is a “vain shew” (Psalm 39:6).
- It foretold world history, especially those nations occupying the land.
- It predicted a confederacy in the “latter days”.
- It showed the decline from absolute dictatorship to the divided weak and strong kingdoms.

Babylon the golden city

- Isaiah 14:4.
- Gold was used to adorn the temples erected to the Babylonian gods.

Restored interior of the temple of the goddess Ishtar at Babylon



The ruins of Babylon



Silver breast and arms

- The Medo-Persian Empire – lasted 207 years.
- Silver talents were used to pay taxes and tribute.
- The Persian monarch was bound by his own laws (couldn't rescue Daniel from the jealous presidents).

Belly and thighs of brass

- Greek soldiers wore brass armour.
- The two thighs are the northern and southern kingdoms that continued after Alexander.
- Empire conquered the Persians in 333 B.C.

Iron legs and feet part iron and part clay

- Roman empire had Eastern and Western halves.
- When the barbarians invaded, weak and strong (clay and iron) kingdoms developed in the territory of the empire.
- Critics, who believe that the dream originated in the Maccabaeian period, claim that Assyria was the first empire and Greece was the last. But Daniel says Neb was the head of gold, and the stone power did not come in the Greek period.

Broken in pieces together

- All the territories of the image have never yet been confederated together.
- Persia was never part of the Roman Empire.

The Stone power

- Cut out of the mountain of humanity without human hands (Zech.4:6).
- Occurs throughout Scripture and applied to Jesus in the New Testament (Gen. 49:24; Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14, 28:16; Matt.21:43-44; Romans 9:33; 1 Peter 2:4-8).
- *A small stone becomes a great mountain.*

Is there evidence of the image coming together today?

- The Pope is very keen on the E.U. and wishes also to unite with the Greek Orthodox Church.
- Much of the territory of the Roman Empire has been “united” as the European Union (25 nations).
- President Putin wants Russia to be great again, and is using oil wealth to re-arm his country. He also has strong links with Germany.

Is there evidence of the image coming together today?

- The E.U. is trying to develop its own army, and a common foreign policy.
- All the above (Papacy, E.U. and Russia) are anti-Semitic to varying degrees.
- The final stages of the uniting of the image nations may take place after we have been called to the judgement seat of Christ.

Typical foreshadowing of the image

- Neb worships Daniel just as Jesus will be honoured in the Kingdom.
- God is honoured by Neb.
- Daniel is made great in Babylon and ruled it, just as Jesus will reign over Great Babylon.
- *Daniel's friends are exalted as the saints will be in the Kingdom.*

Nebuchadnezzar's golden idol in the Plain of Dura

- Don't know where it is – close to Babylon?
- Erected to try to defeat the prophecy of the Image? Or to copy Egyptian statues?
- 90 x 9 feet – not in proportion - had a pedestal?
- Titles in verse 2 have been found in Assyrian inscriptions; Papacy also has its titles – Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, Fathers, Nuns and Monks.

The idol in the plain of Dura

- Made of pure gold? An image of Nebuchadnezzar himself?
- It would be regarded as a Babylonian god such as Merodach.
- The clothes worn by the friends were "coats" = mantles or long robes ; "hosen" = head covering or decoration; "hats" = an undergarment or tunic . This is a contemporary description and accurate.

The musical instruments

- All Greek words, but only one or two are Greek in origin:

“Cornet” = a horn

“Flute” = a flute or double pipe, also called an “auloi”

“Harp” = a lyre

“Sackbut” = a sambuke, a 4 – stringed triangular harp

“Psaltery” = a stringed instrument of a triangular shape

“Dulcimer” = possibly a bagpipe or a tympanon

The musical instruments

- Though they are GREEK instruments it does not follow that the book of Daniel was written during the Greek empire.
- There was early communication between Greece, Assyria and Babylonia and other nations in terms of trade and commerce.
- Inscriptions of Sargon (Assyrian king) show the ancient name of Greece (Javan) and depict people playing harps, viols, tabors and pipes.

Left to right : an auloi, a harp (with cithara
above it) and a lyre.
Painted Greek wine jar 440 B.C.



Neb's furnace

- Furnaces used to glaze tiles used in building.
- Open at both ends so Neb could see inside.
- Where was Daniel? Away on business?

The triumph of faith

- The three friends refuse to obey the law of the land where it conflicts with God's Law (Romans 13:1-7; Acts 4:19,20).
- "We will not serve thy gods" (faith - see Isaiah 43:2 and Hebrews 11:34).
- Was the fourth man seen in the furnace Michael, the angel for Israel? (Psalm 34:7).
- They were promoted (type of the kingdom).
- Our faith has to have some kind of fiery trial (1 Peter 1:6,7).

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree (Daniel 4)

- Verses 1-3 look back on his experiences and he acknowledges that the Kingdom of God will last for ever.
- His dream troubled him, but the magicians etc. could not help him.
- "At the last" (had Daniel been away previously?) Daniel addressed as the "Master of the Magicians".
- Neb had a high opinion of Daniel because he could interpret these dreams.

Neb's tree dream

- Assyria like a Cedar in Lebanon (Ezekiel 31 :3). Kingdom of God like a tree (Matt.13 :31). Nations are like animals and birds under the control of Babylon.
- Watcher, EVEN an Holy One (verse 13) – an angel - decreed the end of Babylon.
- But the stump was left to show that Babylon would continue.

Neb's tree dream – the continuation of Babylon

- A band of iron and brass (Rome and Greece) represents Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox religions.
- It also represents Rome and Constantinople, the capitals of the Eastern and Western halves of the Roman empire.
- "Among the grass of the field" (the people Isaiah 40:6).

Neb's tree dream

- Heart changed from human to a beast's: Neb's successors in the kingdom were not able to acknowledge God as he did (verses 1-3;34 - 37).
- 7 times to pass over him.
- Neb had a period of insanity which used to be called lycanthropy – he ate grass like an animal.
- This was the decree of the watchers (angels) who are the eyes of God in the earth (2 Chron. 16:9).

The angelic decree

- They are “holy ones” (4:17).
- They do God’s pleasure (Psalm 103:20 -22).
- They don’t know everything (Mark 13:32; 1 Peter 1:12).
- They form a heavenly council (1 Kings 22:19).
- They have differing roles (Luke 1:19; Dan.8:13).
- They are now subject to our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:22).

Neb's madness

- Not much is known about this period in Neb's life.
- His father (Nabonidus) had a 7 year illness.
- Neb's madness has not been proved or disproved.

Neb's madness

- Typical of the insanity of human rule whether dictatorship or democracy (Jeremiah 25:15,16; 51:7).
- God sets up “basest of men” in the kingdom of men.
- Nabopolassar, Neb's father, was called the “son of a nobody”.
- A messianic prophecy “ Exalt him that is low” (Ezekiel 21:27 and Isaiah 52 and 53).

The seven times

- One "time" equals 360 days.
- Revelation 11:2,3 says 42 months are the same as 1260 days.
- Revelation 12:6,14 says $3\frac{1}{2}$ times are 1260 days.
- $42 \times 30 = 1260$.
- $1260 / 3\frac{1}{2} = 360$.
- $12 \times 30 = 360$.
- If one "time" = 360 days, then 7 times = 2520 days.

The seven times

- There is evidence in Genesis that, prior to the Flood, the years were of 360 days duration (chapters 7 and 8).
- The 7 times were 7 years of insanity for Neb.

A day for a year

- Numbers 14:34: Israel wandered in the wilderness a year for each day the spies searched the land (40 days i.e. 40 years).
- Ezekiel lies on his side 430 days for the iniquity of Israel and Judah - "each day for a year".
- The 70 weeks' prophecy about the Messiah is proof that the principle is a sound interpretation.

Fulfillments of the 7 times over the Babylonian tree stump

- Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem in 603 B.C.
7 times bring us to.....1917 A.D.
This year saw the Balfour Declaration and the liberation of Palestine from the Ottoman (Turkish) rule.
- Belshazzar was taken by Darius the Mede in 538 B.C.
7 times bring us to..... .1982 A.D.
Nothing of great significance happened!
- Should the years be Solar (365 days)?
7 (solar) times bring us to2017 A.D. – the final end of the madness of the nations?

The Balfour Declaration November 2nd 1917

Foreign Office,

November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "A. J. Balfour". Above the signature, there is a small, faint handwritten note that appears to say "Y. in".

The Balfour Declaration, 1917

General Allenby captures Jerusalem for the Allies, Dec.1917



Seven times shall pass over thee (using solar years)

- Neb came to power B.C.605.
Add 7 x 365 years – 1950 A.D.
State of Israel just established.
- End of Neb's dynasty (the Babylonian tree cut down) B.C. 535.
Add 7 x 365 years –2020 A.D.
End of madness of the nations, humbled before God and His Son.

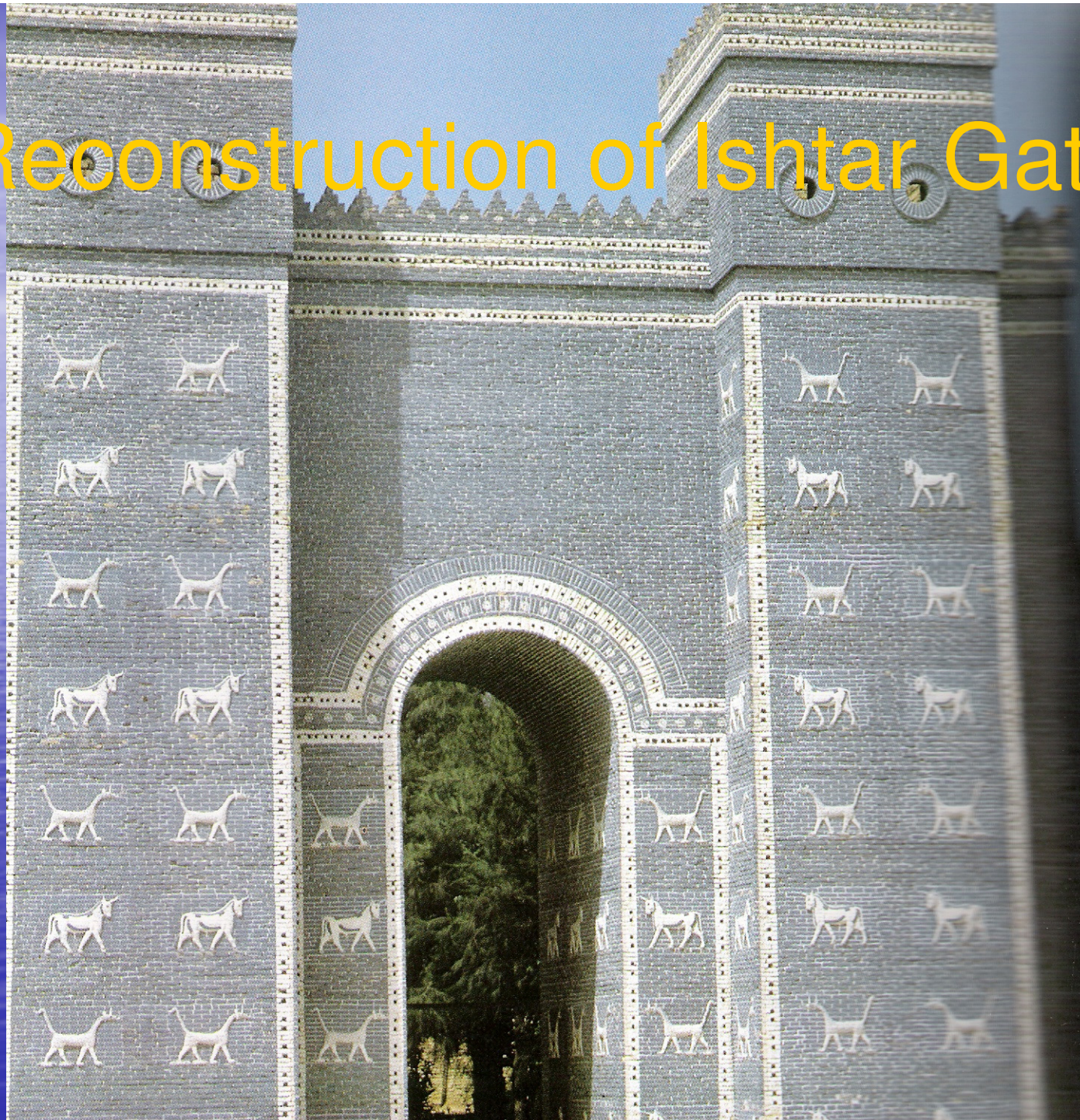
“Is not this great Babylon that I have built ?”

- Nebuchadnezzar wrote: “I finished the great twofold wall of Babylon. I made strong the city with bricks burnt hard as stones, and piled high as huge masses of mountains. Behold besides the Imgoul-Bel the impregnable fortifications of Babylon. I made inside Babylon on the eastern bank of the river such fortifications as no king before me had ever made. I excavated the ditch; with bricks and mortar I bound its bed; I built above the strong rampart; I adorned its gates;

“Is this not great Babylon that I have built?”

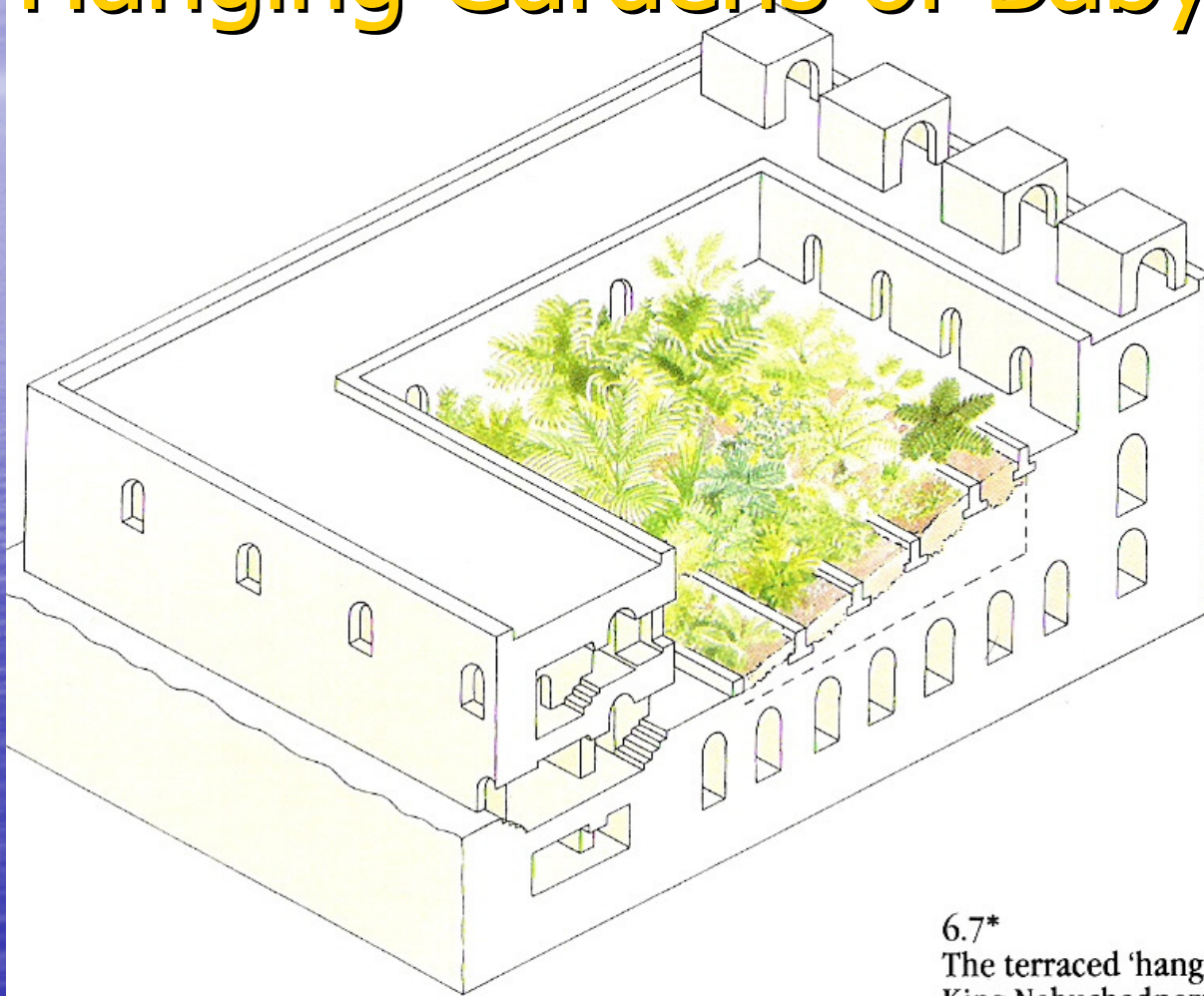
- The portals and pillars I plated with bronze. Against presumptuous enemies, the foes of Babylon, I made use of great waters like that of the seas. Thus I made strong the defences of Babylon. May it last for ever. Babylon the city which is the delight of my eyes, which I have made glorious.....”

Reconstruction of Ishtar Gate





A possible reconstruction of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon



6.7*

The terraced 'hanging gardens' of King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, reconstructed here, were among the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Seven times shall pass over thee

- Epoch of Babylonian empire.
- Neb defeats Egypt and Assyria B.C.603.
- Neb and descendants rule Babylon 70 years to B.C.533.
- Epoch of the rise of Israel.
- British Government policy favours establishment of a Jewish state A.D.1917.
- In 70 years, Israel reborn (1948), Jerusalem taken, (1967), and peace made with neighbour (Egypt 1979).

The first year of Belshazzar, Daniel chapter 7

- Nebuchadnezzar dies in B.C.562.
- Succeeded by Evil-Merodach (son) 2 years.
- Then Neriglissar (son-in-law) 4 years.
- Laboroso-archod (son) 1 year.
- Nabonidus (son) and Belshazzar (grandson) reigned jointly for 17 years.

Nabonidus the father of Belshazzar



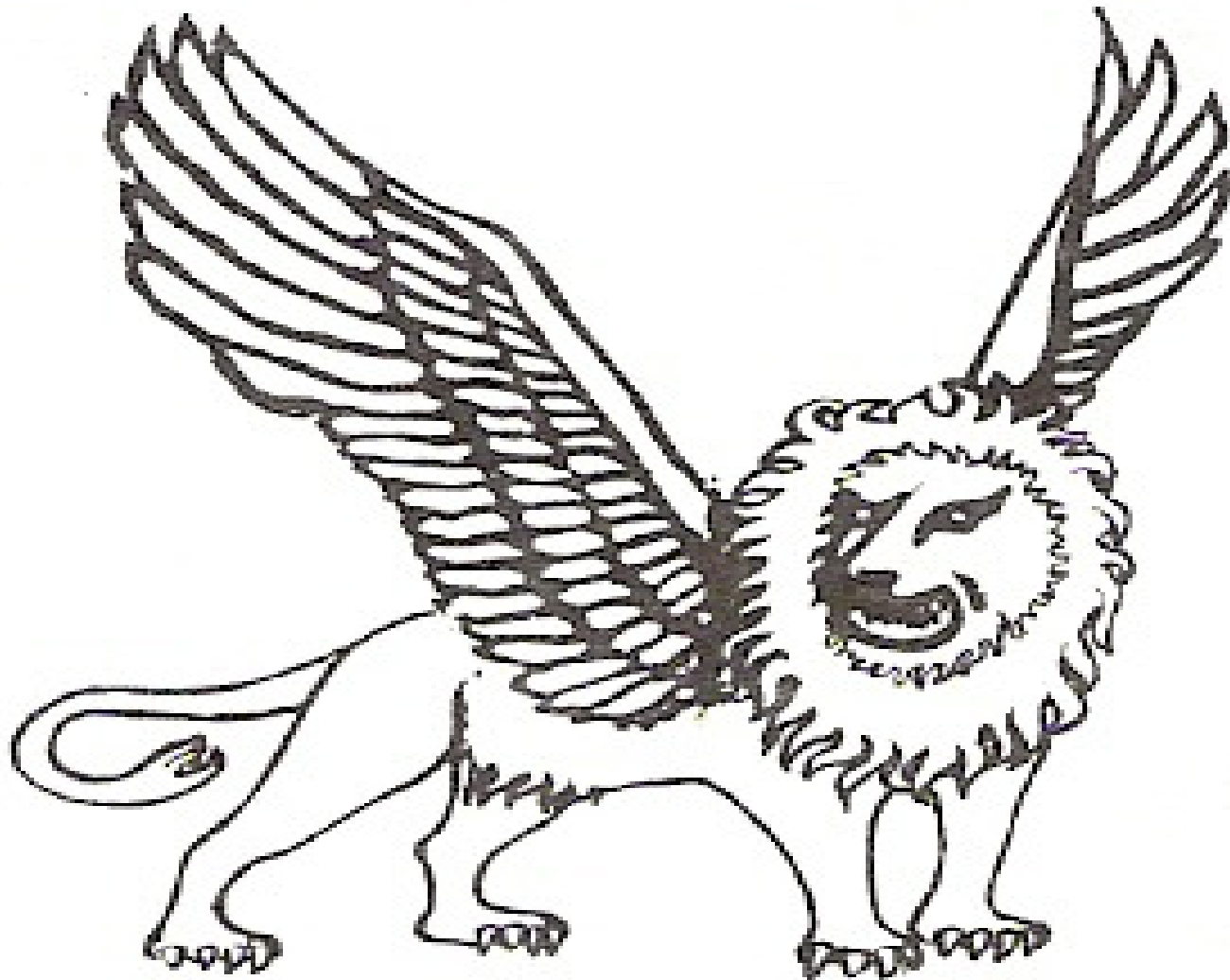
B.C. 554 1st Year of Belshazzar

- Daniel's turn to have a dream from God.
- He writes it down!
- Winds strive on the Great Sea (armies contest on the Mediterranean).
- Carnivorous beasts represent the empires of men who are like animals (Psalm 49 :12,20) in contrast to Neb's view of the empires as a mighty warlike image man!

Daniel's dream

- First beast is a LION – Assyria and then Babylon (Jer.4:7 and 50:17).
- Sir Henry Layard found winged lions in Nineveh.
- Wings plucked when Nabopolassar defeated Assyria.
- A man's heart given to the lion – the Babylonians were more humane than the cruel Assyrians.

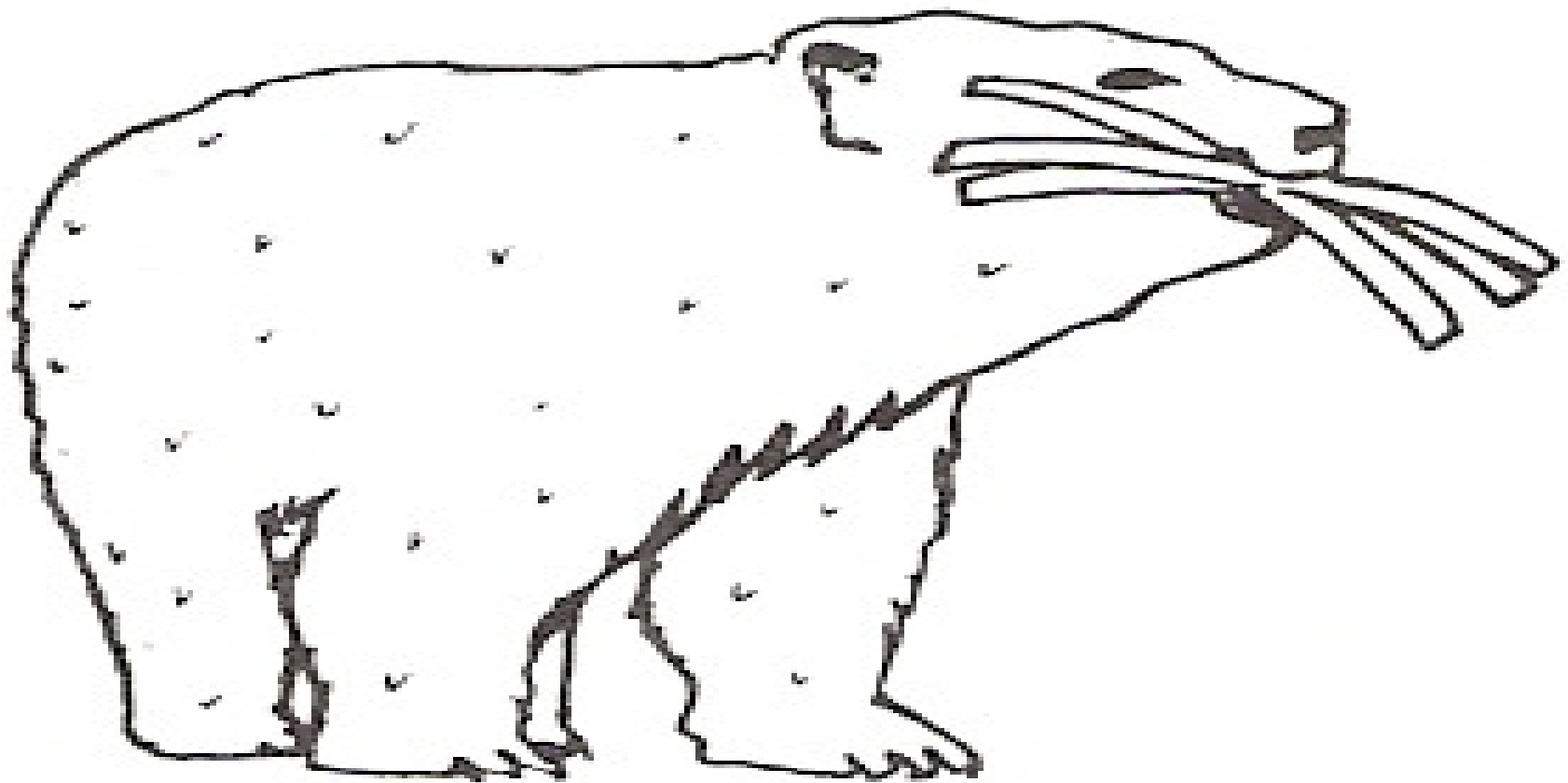
The Babylonian Lion



2nd Beast – a bear raised on one side

- Medo – Persian empire.
- A cunning animal – greedy for more prey.
- 3 ribs in mouth might be Babylon, Egypt and Lydia (conquered) or three presidents (6:12).
- The angel watchers said “arise, devour much flesh” – larger territory than Babylonian empire.

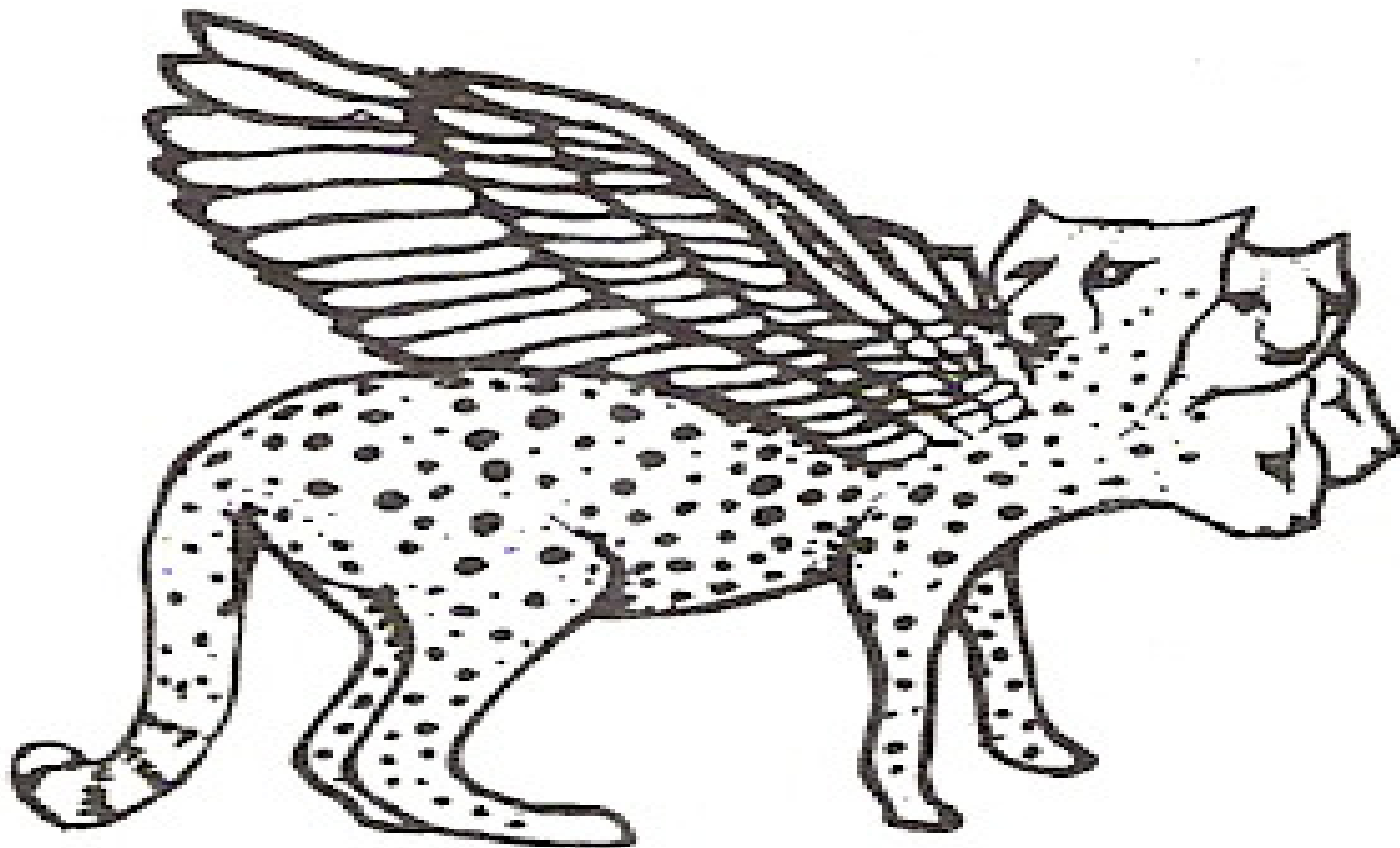
The Persian Bear



3rd Beast - Leopard with 4 wings and heads

- Grecian empire. Leopard noted for its speed of attack.
- Alexander the Great conquered the known world by the age of 33.
- His empire carved up between 4 of his generals : Ptolemy (south), Lysimachus (north west), Seleucus (north east) and Cassander (west).

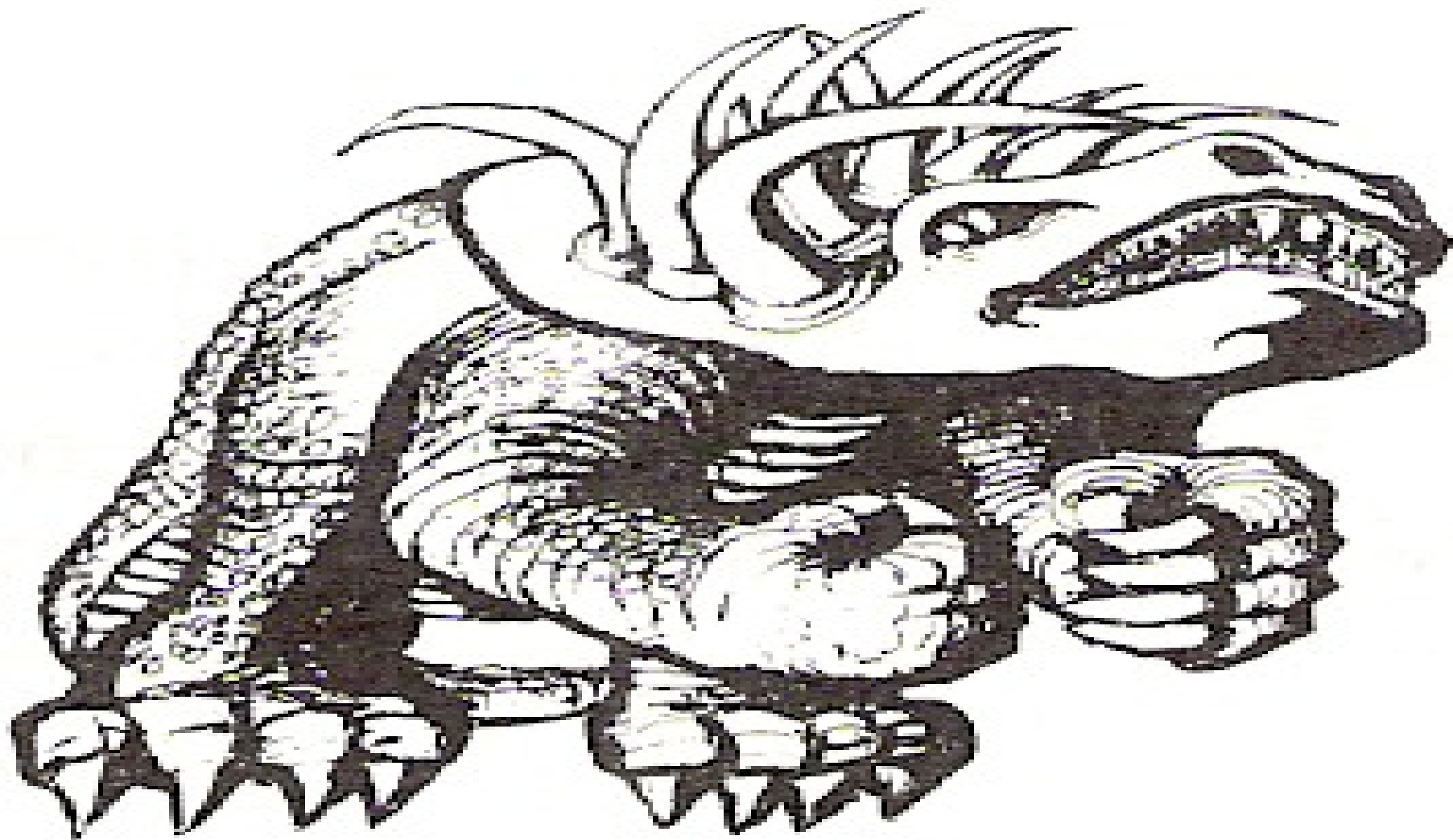
The Greek Leopard



4th Beast: dragonic, dreadful and terrible and strong exceedingly: ROME

- Great iron teeth (Neb's image link) in verse 7.
- Brass claws (a Greek element) in verse 19.
- 10 horns – ten kingdoms that arose when the western empire came under attack from the barbarians.
- The little horn is the Papacy that eventually developed in the western empire.

The Dreadful Roman Beast



"I was as a beast before Thee"

- The nations are like animals, but we can be too (Psalm 73:22-25).
- We can behave as a wild animal like the Apostle Paul before his conversion (Acts 9:1).
- *Only in Christ can we achieve true and complete manhood (Eccl.12:13).*