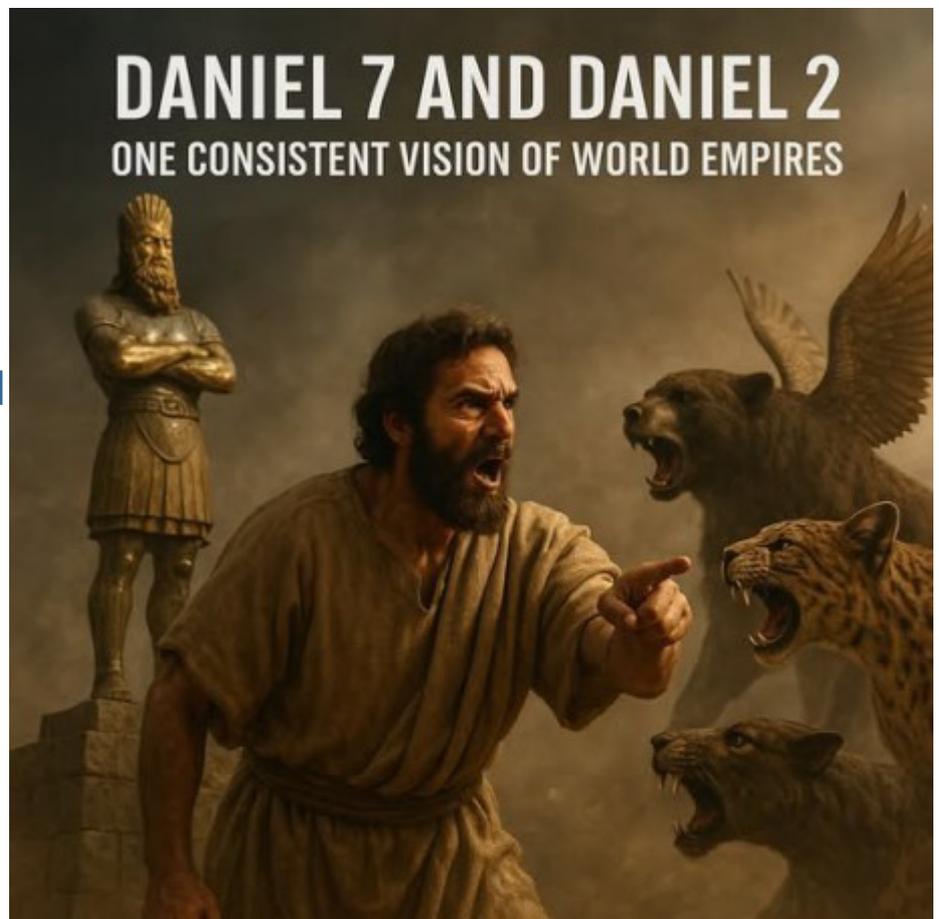


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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## Daniel 7 and Daniel 2 – One Consistent Vision of World Empires



By Dan Maines

## Daniel 7 and Daniel 2 – One Consistent Vision of World Empires

Daniel's prophecy shows a single, unified picture of the kingdoms that ruled God's covenant people from Babylon to the arrival of Christ's everlasting kingdom. Some teachers claim the beasts of Daniel 7 cannot represent the same empires as the metals in Daniel 2. They point to Daniel 8:20-21, where the ram is identified as Medo-Persia and the goat as Greece, and argue these true beastly symbols mean the bear and the leopard of

chapter 7 must be something else. Scripture shows otherwise.

## **Daniel 2 – The Four Metals**

Daniel 2:37-38 Head of gold – Babylon

Daniel 2:39 Chest and arms of silver – Medo-Persia

Daniel 2:39 Belly and thighs of bronze – Greece

Daniel 2:40 Legs of iron with feet of iron and clay – Rome

† God interprets these for us: In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44). This points to the first-century arrival of Christ's kingdom.

† The four metals portray a steady decline in glory and strength, showing the impermanence of earthly empires compared to God's eternal rule.

† The mixed iron and clay feet reveal a divided final empire, historically fulfilled in the fragile alliances of Rome's provinces.

† Early church writers such as Hippolytus affirmed this sequence, identifying the fourth kingdom with Rome long before modern debate arose.

† The stone cut without hands points directly to Christ's kingdom, not a future earthly empire, but a spiritual reign inaugurated in the first century.

## **Daniel 7 – The Four Beasts**

Daniel later sees four beasts rise from the sea.

Lion with eagle's wings

Bear raised up on one side

Leopard with four wings and four heads

A dreadful beast with iron teeth

† The angel explains: These great beasts are four kings which will arise from the earth (Daniel 7:17). The sequence matches the four in Daniel 2. The imagery changes from metals to animals, but the order and meaning stay the same, world empires dominating God's people until Messiah reigns.

† The lion's plucked wings mirror Babylon's humbling under God, matching Nebuchadnezzar's own fall and restoration (Daniel 4:28-37).

† The bear lifted on one side fits the unequal partnership of the Medes and Persians, one side stronger than the other (Daniel 8:3).

† The leopard with four heads reflects the rapid Greek conquest and the fourfold division after Alexander's death (Daniel 8:8, 8:22).

† The dreadful beast with iron teeth clearly matches Rome's unmatched power and the iron legs of Daniel 2 (Daniel 7:7, 7:23).

† Daniel 7:26-27 shows the handoff of dominion to the saints, perfectly matching Hebrews 12:28 where believers receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

### **Why Daniel 8 Doesn't Break the Pattern**

Daniel 8 narrows the lens to focus on the second and third empires only. The angel says plainly: The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia. The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece (Daniel 8:20-21).

† This is not a new set of symbols replacing the earlier ones. It is a close-up of the Medo-Persian and Greek phase, giving more detail about how Greece would rise and splinter, fulfilled in Alexander the Great and his four generals.

† Daniel 8 confirms, rather than contradicts, the sequence of Daniel 2 and 7 by naming Medo-Persia and Greece explicitly.

† The vision highlights God's sovereignty in revealing the exact empires centuries in advance, silencing claims of coincidence.

† Historical records from Josephus show that Jewish leaders recognized these prophecies as fulfilled in Alexander's day (Antiquities 11.8.5).

† The detail of the great horn broken and replaced by four smaller horns perfectly fits the historical division among Alexander's generals (Daniel 8:8, 8:22).

† The four Diadochi named in history—Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Ptolemy—fulfill this prophecy exactly, confirming the inspired precision of Daniel's vision.

## **Historical Fulfillment**

† Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians (539 BC, Daniel 5:30-31).

† Greece, led by Alexander, conquered Persia (331 BC, Daniel 8:21-22).

† Rome absorbed the Greek world and ruled during Christ's ministry and the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70, Luke 21:20-24).

All four empires ruled consecutively, just as Daniel 2 and 7 predict.

† The accuracy of these fulfillments proves that biblical prophecy is anchored in verifiable history.

† Secular historians like Tacitus and Josephus confirm Rome's dominance during the time of Christ and the fall of Jerusalem (Tacitus Histories 5:11-13, Josephus War 6.8.5).

† The destruction of the Temple in AD 70 stands as the decisive end of the old covenant order (Matthew 24:1-2, Luke 21:5-6).

† Each empire's fall demonstrates that human power is temporary, but God's kingdom endures forever (Hebrews 12:28).

† Luke 21:22 adds Christ's own declaration: "These are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled," confirming that Daniel's timeline reached its completion in that generation.

## **One Continuous Prophecy**

The claim that Daniel 7's beasts are different from Daniel 2's metals ignores the angelic explanation. Both visions outline the same succession of kingdoms, culminating in the kingdom of God that would never be destroyed, a kingdom inaugurated by Christ in the first century (Luke 1:32-33, Hebrews 12:28).

† The repetition of the same empires in multiple visions reinforces the certainty of the message.

† Christ's kingdom was not postponed but established, fulfilling the stone that struck the statue and the Son of Man receiving dominion (Daniel 2:34-35, Daniel 7:13-14).

† Early Christian writers consistently interpreted these

prophecies as completed in their own generation (Eusebius Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† This unified timeline leaves no room for a future earthly empire to fit between the fourth kingdom and Christ's reign.

† The passive singulars describing the ram in Daniel 8:3-4 underscore that Medo-Persia is a single united kingdom, answering objections that try to split Media and Persia into separate prophetic empires.

### **How This Applies Today**

† Christ's kingdom is present now, giving believers confidence that no political power can overthrow God's rule (Colossians 1:13).

† We are called to live as citizens of that unshakable kingdom, showing loyalty to Christ above all nations (Philippians 3:20).

† The fall of every earthly empire reminds us that our security is not in governments or economies but in God's promises (Psalm 46:1-2).

† The fulfilled prophecies strengthen our witness, proving that God's word is true and encouraging us to proclaim His reign with boldness (Revelation 1:5-6).

### **Historical Writers**

† Josephus – The Jewish War 6.8.5, Antiquities of the Jews 11.8.5 document the fall of Jerusalem and Rome's supremacy, aligning with Daniel's outline.

† Tacitus – Histories 5.11-13, The Annals 15.44 describe Rome's dominance, Nero's persecution, and first-century conditions tied to the New Testament setting.

† Eusebius – Ecclesiastical History 3.5, 3.7 records the early church's testimony that Christ's kingdom had begun and that Daniel's visions were fulfilled.

† Hippolytus – Commentary on Daniel 4.9 identifies the fourth kingdom as Rome, reflecting the ancient Christian consensus on Daniel 2 and 7.

# † This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

**Proof Appendix – Every statement sourced**

## **Daniel 2 – The Four Metals**

† Babylon as head of gold: Daniel 2:37-38

† Second, third, fourth kingdoms follow: Daniel 2:39-40

† Feet of iron and clay: Daniel 2:41-43

† Everlasting kingdom established: Daniel 2:44-45

† Early Christian identification of the fourth kingdom as Rome: Hippolytus, Commentary on Daniel 4.9

## **Daniel 7 – The Four Beasts**

† Four beasts = four kings/kingdoms: Daniel 7:3, 7:17, 7:23

† Lion imagery with Nebuchadnezzar's humbling: Daniel 4:28-37

† Bear lifted on one side: Daniel 8:3

† Leopard with four heads/wings: Daniel 8:8, 8:22

† Dreadful beast with iron teeth: Daniel 7:7, 7:23

† Dominion to the saints: Daniel 7:26-27

## **Daniel 8 – Identification of Medo-Persia and Greece**

† Ram = Medo-Persia, Goat = Greece: Daniel 8:20-21

† Great horn broken, four arise: Daniel 8:8, 8:22

† Four Diadochi successors: Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, Ptolemy (Diodorus Siculus 18-20, Arrian Anabasis 7, Plutarch Life of Alexander)

## **Historical Fulfillment Timeline**

† Babylon falls 539 BC: Daniel 5:30-31; Nabonidus Chronicle

† Greece defeats Persia 331 BC: Daniel 8:21-22; Arrian Anabasis 3.15-16

† Roman domination and Jerusalem's fall AD 70: Luke 21:20-24; Tacitus Histories 5.11-13; Josephus War 6.8.5

## **Unification and Fulfillment in Christ**

† Christ receives everlasting kingdom: Daniel 7:13-14; Luke 1:32-33

† Believers receive unshakable kingdom: Hebrews 12:28

† All things fulfilled in first century: Luke 21:22

† Transfer of dominion to the saints: Daniel 7:26-27; Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 1:5-6

## **Medo-Persia as one kingdom**

† Ram identified as Media and Persia together: Daniel 8:20

† Unified action of the ram described with singular verbs: Daniel 8:3-4

## **Early Christian and Jewish testimony**

† Josephus: War 6.8.5, Antiquities 11.8.5

† Tacitus: Histories 5.11-13, Annals 15.44

† Eusebius: Ecclesiastical History 3.5, 3.7

† Hippolytus: Commentary on Daniel 4.9

## **How This Applies Today**

† Present transfer into Christ's kingdom: Colossians 1:13

† Heavenly citizenship now: Philippians 3:20

† God as refuge beyond political upheavals: Psalm 46:1-2

† Priestly standing and present kingdom service: Revelation 1:5-6

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