

And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear....

In the last days of the kingdom of Babylon,
Belshazzar the king made a great feast,
Inviting a thousand of his lords,
To drink the wine of Babylon with him.

Whiles he tasted the wine,
He commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels,
Which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple,
From the house of God which was in Jerusalem,
That the king, his princes, his wives and his concubines might drink therein.

While they drank the wine of Babylon,
They praised the gods of gold and silver, of brass, of iron, wood and stone.

In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand,
And wrote upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace,
And the king of Babylon saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Then the king's countenance was changed,
And his thoughts troubled him much, so that the joints of his loins were loosed,
And his knees smote one against another.

Then the king cried out loud to bring in the astrologers,
The Chaldeans and the soothsayers.

And the king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon,
Whosoever shall read this writing and show me the interpretation thereof,

Shall be clothed with scarlet and have a chain of gold about his neck,
And shall be third ruler in the kingdom of Babylon.

Then came in all the kings wise men,
But they could not read the writing on the wall,
Nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.
Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled,
And his countenance was changed in him and his lords were astounded.

Now the queen of Babylon, Belshazzar's mother,
By reason of the words of the king came into banquet house,
And spoke:

"O King live forever, let not thy thoughts trouble thee,
Nor let thy countenance be changed.
There is a man in thy kingdom,
In whom is the spirit of the holy gods,
And in the days of thy father was found light,
Knowledge, understanding and wisdom,
Let Daniel be called to interpret the writing on the wall."

Then was Daniel brought in before the king.
And the king spoke and said unto Daniel:
"Art thou Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah,
Whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?"

The wise men and astrologers have been brought in before me,
But they could not show me the interpretation of the thing.

If thou canst read the writing,
And make known to me the interpretation thereof,
Thou shalt be clothed with scarlet and have a chain of gold about thy neck,
And shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom of Babylon.”

Then Daniel answered and said before the king:
“Let thy gifts be to thy and give thy rewards to another,
Yet I will read the writing unto the king,
And make known to him the interpretation thereof.
O thou king, the most high God, gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom,
Majesty, glory and honour.

And for the majesty that He gave him,
All people, nations, languages trembled and feared before him.

But when his heart was lifted up and his mind hardened in pride,
He was deposed from his kingly throne,
And they took his glory from him till he knew,
That the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men,
And that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.
And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart,
Though thou knewest all this.

Thou hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven,
And they have brought the vessels of His house before thee,
And thou, and thy lords, thy wives and thy concubines,
Have drunk wine in them and thou hast praised the gods of silver,
And gold, of brass, iron, wood and stone,

Which see not, nor hear, nor know,
But the God in whose hand thy breath is,
And whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified.

Then was the part of the hand sent from him,
And this writing was written.

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

This is the interpretation of the thing:

MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it.

TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting.

PERES; Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Then commanded Belshazzar,
And they clothed Daniel with scarlet and put a chain of gold about his neck,
And made a proclamation concerning him,
That he should be the third ruler in the kingdom of Babylon.
In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain,
And Darius the Median took the kingdom of Babylon,
Being about threescore and two years old.

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes,
Which should be over the whole kingdom;
And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first:
That the princes might give accounts unto them,
And the king should have no damage.
Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes,
Because an excellent spirit was in him;

And the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Then the presidents and princes,
Sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom;
But they could find none occasion nor fault;
Forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.
Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel,
Except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king,
And said thus unto him;
“King Darius, live for ever.”
All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes,
The counsellors, and the captains,
Have consulted together,
To establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree,
That whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days,
Save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing,
That it be not changed,
According to the law of the Medes and Persians,
Which altereth not.

Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.
Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed,
He went into his house;
And his windows being open in his chamber,

Toward Jerusalem,
He kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed,
And gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Then these men assembled,
And found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.
Then they came near, and spake before the king,
Concerning the king's decree;
“Hast thou not signed a decree,
That every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days,
Save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?”
The king answered and said;
“The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians,
Which altereth not.”

Then answered they and said before the king:
“Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah,
Regardeth not thee, O king,
Nor the decree that thou hast signed,
But maketh his petition three times a day.”
Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself,
And set his heart on Daniel to deliver him:
And he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king,
“Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is,
That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.”

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel,

And cast him into the den of lions.

Now the king spake and said unto Daniel,

“Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.”

And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den;

And the king sealed it with his own signet,

And with the signet of his lords;

That the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting:

Neither were instruments of musick brought before him:

And his sleep went from him.

Then the king arose very early in the morning,

And went in haste unto the den of lions.

And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel:

And the king spake and said to Daniel,

“O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God,

Whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?”

Then said Daniel unto the king, “O king, live for ever.

My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths,

That they have not hurt me:

Forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me;

And also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.”

Then was the king exceeding glad for him,

And commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den.

So Daniel was taken up out of the den,

And no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

And the king commanded,

And they brought those men which had accused Daniel,

And they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives;

And the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces,

Or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages,

That dwell in all the earth;

Peace be multiplied unto you.

I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom,

Men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel:

For he is the living God, and stedfast for ever,

And his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed,

And his dominion shall be even unto the end.

He delivereth and rescueth,

And he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth,

Who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

So Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius the Median,

And in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

And Daniel knew and studied the prophecies of Isaiah,

Where it was written down long before Cyrus even was born,

Or even named:

“Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,

Whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him;
I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates;

And the gates shall not be shut;

He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure:

Even saying to Jerusalem,

Thou shalt be built; and to the temple,

Thy foundation shall be laid.”

And Cyrus king of Persia was well informed through Daniel and said,

Related the prophecies of Isaiah:

“The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth;

And he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah”

And Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD,

Which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem,

And had put them in the house of his gods;

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,

Because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

To proclaim freedom for the captives

And release from darkness for the prisoners.

And Daniel remembered himself back in time,

To the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon,

(Only a few years, before the kingdom of Babylon,

Was conquered by Darius the Median,)

That Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed:

And he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

“I saw in my vision by night, and, behold,

The four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings:

I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth,

And made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear,

And it raised up itself on one side,

And it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it:

Symbolizing Babylon, Lydia and Egypt,

And they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard,

Which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl;

The beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

After this I saw in the night visions,

And behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly;

And it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces,

And stamped the residue with the feet of it:

And it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it;

And it had ten horns.

I considered the horns, and, behold,

There came up among them another little horn,
Before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots:
And, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man,
And a mouth speaking great things.

These great beasts, which are four, are four kings,
Which shall arise out of the earth,
Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast,
Which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful,
Whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass;
Which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

And of the ten horns that were in his head,
And of the other which came up, and before whom three fell;
Even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things,
Whose look was more stout than his fellows.

I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints,
And prevailed against them;
Until the Ancient of days came,
And judgment was given to the saints of the most High;
And the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth,
Which shall be diverse from all kingdoms,
And shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.
And he shall speak great words against the most High,
And shall wear out the saints of the most High,

And think to change times and laws:
And they shall be given into his hand,
Until a time and times and the dividing of time.
But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion,
To consume and to destroy it unto the end.

And the kingdom and dominion,
And the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,
Shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High,
Whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Hitherto is the end of the matter.
As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me,
And my countenance changed in me:
But I kept the matter in my heart.