

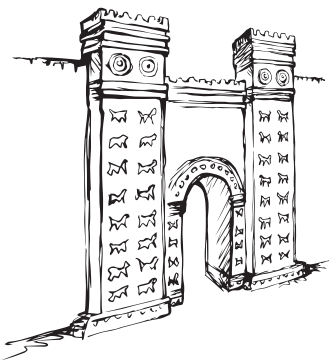
Prophecies *in* Daniel

The prophecies of the four ancient empires recorded in Daniel provide such elaborate detail that liberal theologians argued the book of Daniel had to have been written during the Maccabean period.

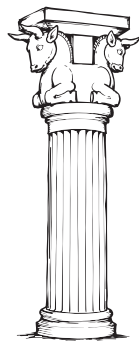
Daniel was taken to Babylon as a youth in 605 BC. Daniel had a dream the first year Belshazzar became co-regent of Babylon (c. 550 BC). Daniel described the characteristics of the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman empires with remarkable distinction (Daniel 7–8). Daniel referenced a prophetic vision during the third year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia (Daniel 10:1), which historians date to around 535 BC. Daniel prophesied there would be four more kings of Persia—that last king, often identified as Xerxes, would incite conflict with the kingdom of Greece (Daniel 11:2). Then a mighty king, widely understood to be Alexander the Great, would arise, but as soon as he dominated, the kingdom would be divided four ways among his generals rather than passed to his descendants (Daniel 11:3–4).

The conflict between the “king of the North” and “king of the South” foretells dramatic events between the Seleucid and Ptolemaic kingdoms. Daniel describes alliances, intrigue, victories, defeats, battle plans, the rise of the Roman Empire, the desecration of the Temple in Jerusalem under Antiochus Epiphanes (168 BC), and the rise of Jewish opposition through the Maccabees (Daniel 11:5–35).

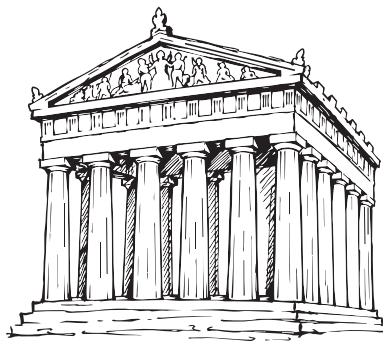
Some interpreters see parallels to Herod the Great in the latter part of Daniel 11, while others consider this section as prophecy of the end-time Antichrist. Jesus’ warning of the destruction of the Temple and the “abomination of desolation” (Matthew 24:2; 24:15) suggests the prophecy could be interpreted as having more than one fulfillment, including events in 168 BC, AD 70, and the future.



Babylon



Medo Persia



Greece



Rome