

BBC – Wed, 2/19/25 – Biblical End Times Study #3 – “Times of the Gentiles”:

1) What is: “Times of the Gentiles”?

Luke 21:24 – *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive unto all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

- The “**Times of the Gentiles**” refers to a period of time in history when **no** divinely appointed king, from the tribe of Judah, from the royal lineage of David, is sitting on the throne of David in Jerusalem (from 586BC to the present).
- This period of time began when Judah’s king Zedekiah (the **last** king of Judah), was deposed by Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 25)
 - Nebuchadnezzar captured King Zedekiah, killed his sons in his presence, plucked out his eyes, then kept him prisoner in Babylon until his death (2 Kings 25:7).
- Nebuchadnezzar replaced Zedekiah with Gedaliah, a politically seated governor who was **not** in the lineage of David, and who was thereafter killed by Ishmael of the “royal seed” (2Kings 25:25).
- From that day in 586BC until today (2025) there has **not** been a sitting king in Jerusalem from the lineage of David. The “**Times of the Gentiles**” will **continue** until the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ.
- The “**Day of the Lord**” events will **end** the “*Times of the Gentiles*,” at which time the Messiah (*Jesus Christ, of the lineage of David through both his earthly mother Mary & step-father Joseph*) will, after purging the earth, establish His Millennial Kingdom and reign in absolute righteousness from the “Throne of David” in Jerusalem for 1,000 years.

2) Gentile Kingdoms: While in Babylonian exile, God gave both Nebuchadnezzar & Daniel visions concerning the succession of Gentile Kingdoms and events that would occur during this period of time identified as the “**Times of the Gentiles**.”

- The book of **Daniel** describes the “*Times of the Gentiles*” **first in chapter 2** (*Nebuchadnezzar’s dream*), then in chpts. 7-12 (*Daniel’s visions*). These are all **parallel** visions. *Interestingly, Daniel 2:4-7:28 was written in **Aramaic!***

Chapter 2	Chapter 7	Chapter 8	Interpretation of Chapters 2, 7, 8
The COURSE of the Gentile Kingdoms	The CHARACTER of the Gentile Kingdoms	Some more detail for Daniel on what was to come next	IDENTIFICATION of the Gentile Kingdoms (<u>DANIEL 2:38b-45; 7:17-27; 8:20-26</u>)
Head of gold	Lion w/eagle’s wings	xxx	Babylon
Breast/arms - silver	Bear leaning on one side	Ram with 2 horns (1 higher)	Medo-Persia (Persia being dominant) (8:20)
Belly/thighs - brass	Leopard: with 4 wings & 4 heads	He-goat with a notable horn, replaced by 4 horns	Greece: Alexander the Great & 4 Generals, the 4 post-Greece kingdoms: (<u>Greece</u> , <u>Turkey</u> , <u>Egypt</u> [<i>Ptolemy</i>], & <u>Syria</u> [<i>Seleucus</i>]) (8:21-22)
Legs of iron	Dreadful & diverse beast	xxx	Roman Empire
Feet of iron & clay	10 horns & “ little horn ”	Little horn’s 3½ yr reign after defiling Temple	“Revived” Roman empire w/ Antichrist as its eventual Ruler (<i>also Antiochus IV</i>)
Stone cut w/o hands	<u>Thrones</u> cast down	<i>Broken</i> by Prince of Princes “without hand”	Ancient of Days commissions Jesus Christ to reign

- In 539BC **Babylon** was overthrown by the Medo-Persians (Daniel 5). Belshazzar was Nebuchadnezzar’s offspring and successor in the Babylonian empire. Darius was king of the **Medes**, and Cyrus was king of the **Persians** (Daniel 6:28)
- In 331BC Alexander the Great overthrew the Persians & founded the **Grecian** empire, Hellenizing the known world. Alexander died in 323BC at the age of 32 with no heir. His 4 generals each took control of a region of the empire.

- [Daniel 8](#) also describes the Medo-Persian empire as a Ram with two uneven horns, defeated by Alexander (*Greece*) who is depicted as a he-Goat with 1 great horn, which then breaks off and is replaced by 4 lesser horns.
- 2 of these “horns” are significant throughout the remainder of Daniel, in that the Ptolemys south of Israel in **Egypt**, and the Seleucids north of Israel in **Syria**, battle each other for unification and control, resulting in the inter-testament “**abomination of desolation**” caused by the Syrian “Antiochus ‘Theos Epiphanes’ IV” (175-164 BC) - ([Dan 9:27](#), [Mt 24:15](#), [Mk 13:14](#))
- [Ch. 8](#) also describes a future “**little horn**”:
 - Historically = *Antiochus*
 - Prophetically = a type of the 70th Week **Antichrist**