

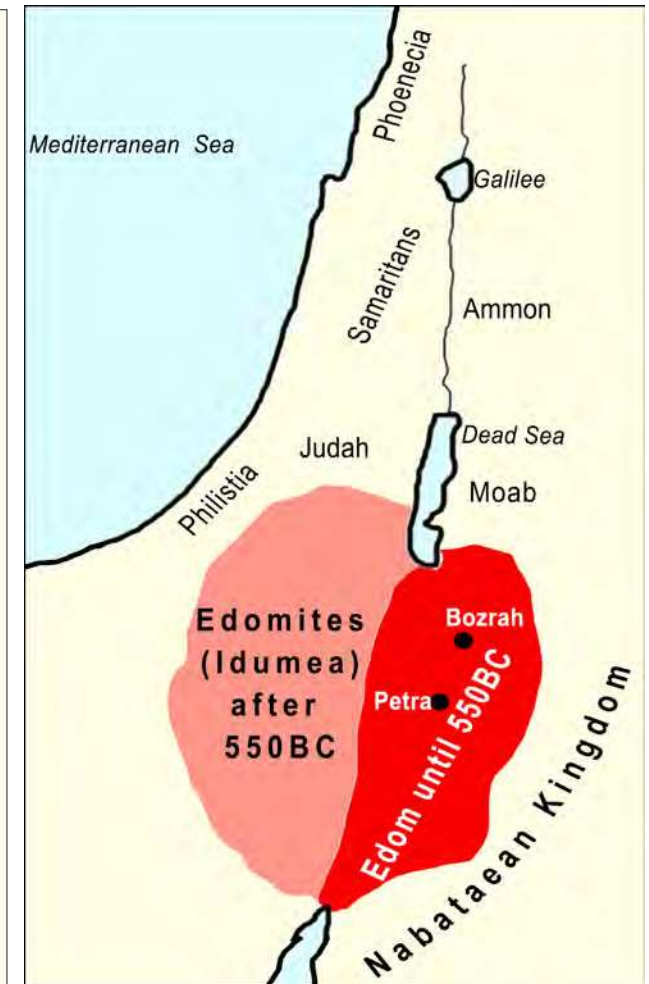
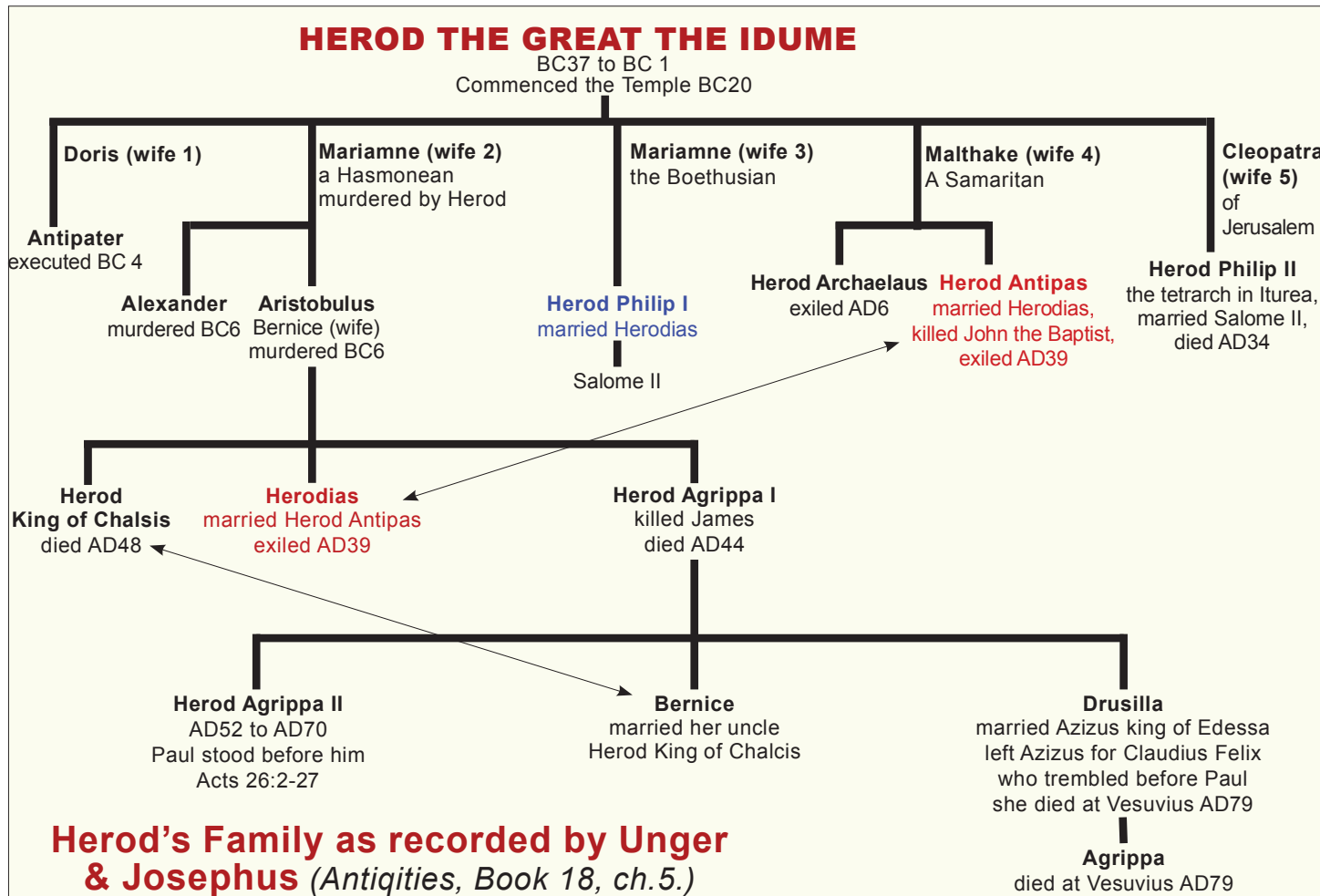
Judgment of Edom - 550BC

The Edomites were the descendants of Esau and they had a perpetual hatred for Israel. God gave them the land of Mt. Seir and they displaced the Horites who lived there. When Israel came out of Egypt the Edomites would not allow them to pass through their land.

When Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586BC the Edomites joined the Babylonians in ransacking the city. The Jewish captives in Babylon said: "Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof" (Ps.137:7). The non-canonical First

Book of Esdras states that "the Edomites burned (the Temple) when Judea was made desolate by the Chaldees" (1Esdras 4:45).

Obadiah's prophecy against Edom was fulfilled when the Nabataeans, an Arab people, drove the Edomites into Judea about 550BC and it became known as Idumea. When the Jews returned in the Persian era, the Edomites were made to hand back the cities to the Jews, then in the days of the Maccabeans, Edomites were forced to convert to Judaism. Herod was an Idumean.



The Book of Daniel

Daniel prophesied in Babylon, and while other prophets were largely concerned with Israel, Daniel's prophecies related largely to the Gentile nations in the "times of the Gentiles". Jesus said that "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, UNTIL the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24). Jerusalem began to be trodden down by the Gentiles when the Babylonians occupied the city in 606BC. From Daniel's prophecy we learn that the terminus point of the "times of the Gentiles" will be the return of Jesus Christ to reign. The last Gentile King to tread down Jerusalem and God's people Israel, will be a Roman prince called "the beast", "the man of sin", "the Wicked One", "the king of the north" and "Antichrist".

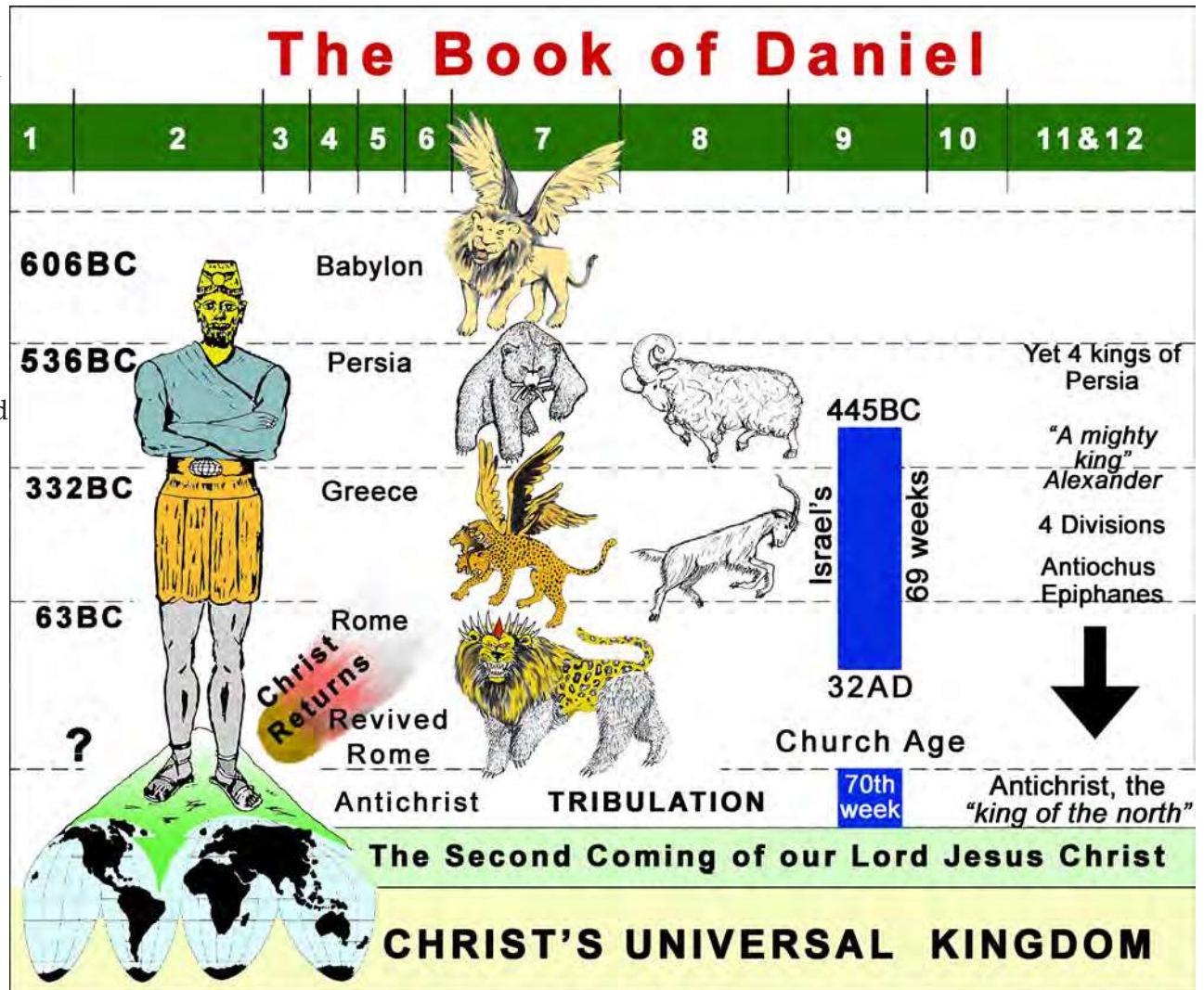
There are six chapters describing events in Daniel's time and six chapters of prophecy relating to some aspect of the Gentile occupation of Jerusalem before Christ reigns.

Chapters 2 and 7 provide a complete outline of Gentile history from the first world Empire, Babylon, to the last stage; the fourth Gentile world power, Rome. In chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar sees Gentile political power as a glorious image but in chapter 7 Daniel sees the same empires as wild beasts.

Chapter 8 describes the Grecian Empire from Alexander the Great to Antiochus Epiphanes. After Alexander died the kingdom divided into four parts and Antiochus became the Seleucid king north of Israel (175-164BC). Antiochus fought against Egypt and defiled the Temple at Jerusalem. The Temple was cleansed by the Maccabees in 165BC. Antiochus stands as a "type" of the future Antichrist.

Chapter 9 provides the key to all Bible prophecy and especially the Book of Revelation. God's entire program for Israel is outlined in the 70 "weeks" (sevens) prophecy which determines 490 prophetic years on the Jews and Jerusalem until the nation is cleansed and blessed in Christ's Kingdom. The presentation of Christ as Israel's king on Palm Sunday is foretold at the end of 69 "weeks" or 483 prophetic years. A long gap is indicated between the 69th and 70th "weeks". The 70th "week" is the Tribulation.

Chapters 11 and 12 are one prophecy beginning with the Persian era to Xerxes who, in 480BC, offended the Greeks and gave cause for Alexander (334-323BC) to overthrow the Persian Empire. History during the four divisions of the Grecian empire after Alexander are described in amazing detail down to Antiochus Epiphanes in chapter 11:4 to 35 when the prophecy leaps forward to Antichrist and his activities in the Last Days.



The Times of the Gentiles - Luke 21:24

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream but he could not remember what it was so he called the wise men, who claimed to be able to interpret dreams, and demanded that they recall the dream and interpret it. The wise men and magicians could not tell what the dream was but God revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel (Daniel chapter 2).

Nebuchadnezzar had seen an image with a head of gold, shoulders of silver, belly and thighs of brass and legs of iron. The feet and ten toes were part iron and part clay.

As Daniel watched he saw a stone come down from heaven which smote the image on the feet and the stone became a great mountain which filled the whole earth.

Head of Gold

Babylonian Empire
606BC to 536BC

Shoulders of Silver

Persian Empire
536BC to 332BC

Belly and Thighs of Brass

Grecian Empire
332BC to 63BC

Legs of Iron

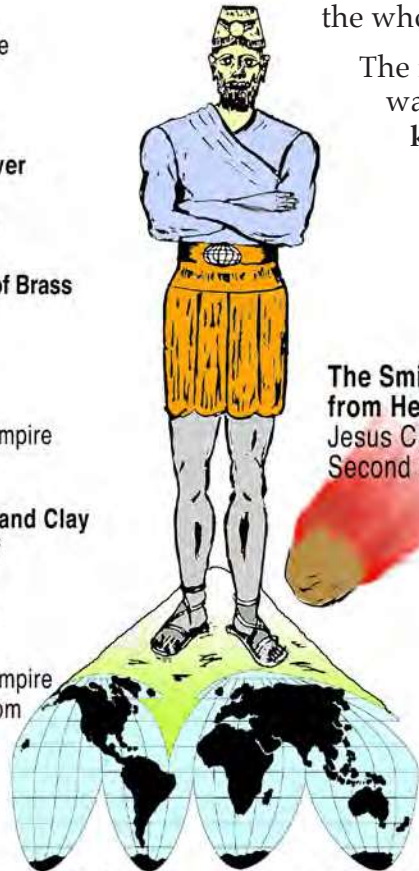
Imperial Roman Empire
63BC to 476BC

Feet of Part Iron and Clay

Weakened form of
Roman Empire
AD476 to present

Ten Toes

Revived Roman Empire
Antichrist's Kingdom
in the Tribulation



CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

The interpretation given to Daniel was that there would be **four kingdoms** on earth before Christ would come from heaven to establish His Kingdom that would last for ever.

The Smiting Stone from Heaven
Jesus Christ at His Second Coming

The head of gold was Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Kingdom which would be replaced by the Medeo-Persian Kingdom which would be replaced by the Grecian Kingdom and finally the fourth Kingdom would be Rome which have 10 divisions in its final stage symbolized by the 10 toes.

These four kingdoms would tread down Jerusalem until Christ returned (Luke 21:24).

Nearly 50 years later, in the first year of the reign of Belshazzar over Babylon, Daniel dreamed of four wild beasts (Daniel chapter 7). The first was like a **lion with eagles** wings and this represented Babylon since the symbol of a lion was common in Babylon where 120 lions feature in glazed brick along the Processional Way inside the Ishtar Gate.

The second beast was like a **bear with three ribs** in its mouth. The ribs said to the bear "*arise devour much flesh*". The bear was the Persian Kingdom and the three ribs were Babylon, Media and Persia that made up the kingdom.

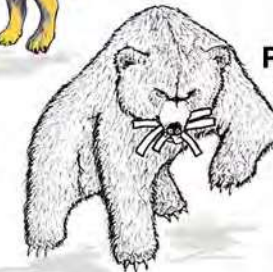
The third beast was like a **leopard with four wings and four heads** which represented the Grecian Kingdom that divided into four parts after the death of Alexander.

The fourth beast represented Rome and the 10 horns represented 10 kings that **shall arise in the last days** over a revived Roman Empire (EU).

The little horn that arises from among the 10 horns is the final king, Antichrist, who will be destroyed by Christ at His second coming.



Babylonian Empire
606BC to 536BC



Persian Empire
536 to 332BC



Grecian Empire
332 to 63BC



Roman Empire
63BC till
Christ returns

DANIEL CHAPTER 7

("the Times of the Gentiles"-
Luke 21:24)

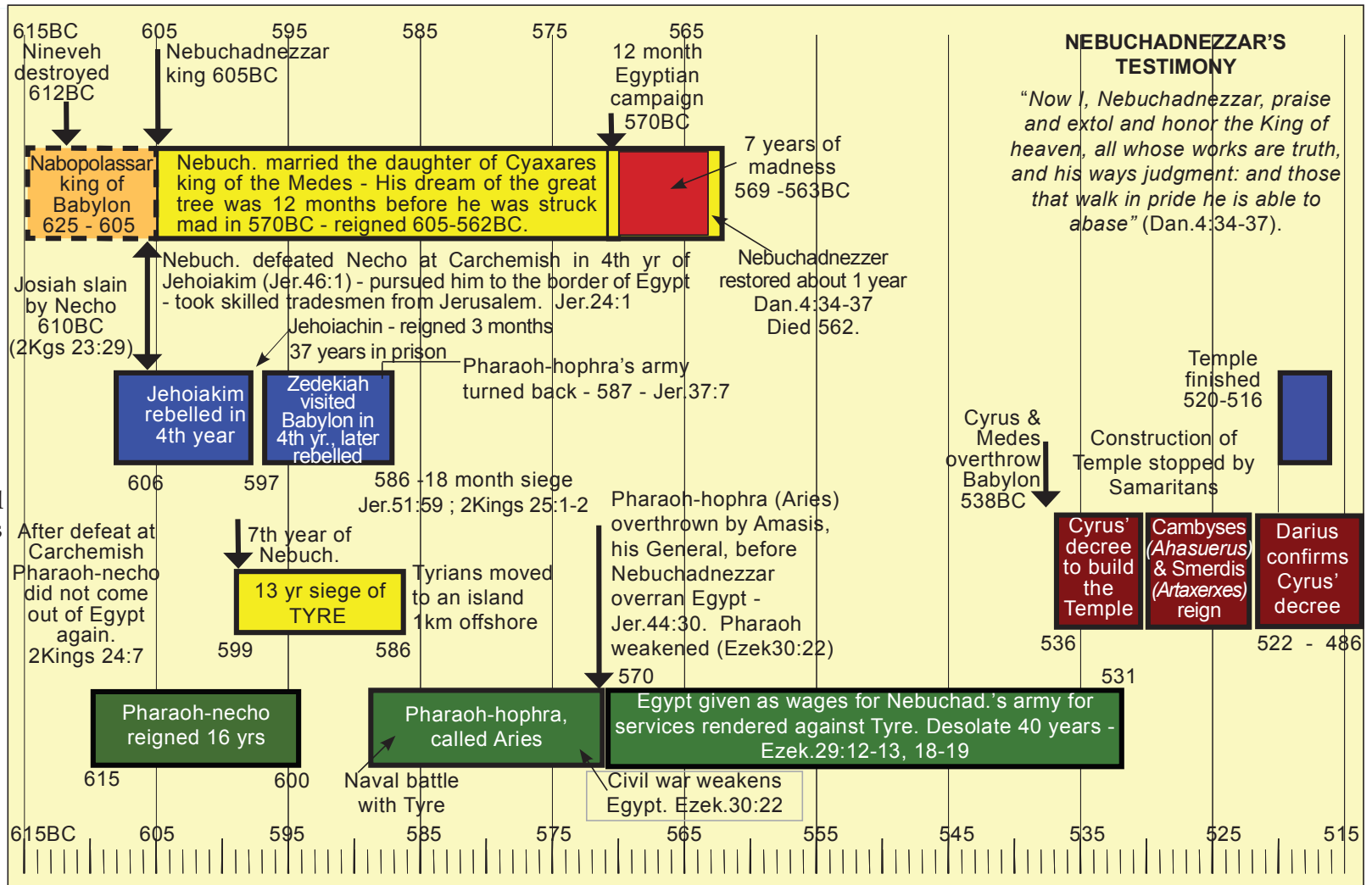
Nebuchadnezzar

Nebuchadnezzar was the son of Nabopolassar King of Babylon who, together with the Medes, captured the city of Nineveh in 612BC. In 610BC Pharaoh-necho King of Egypt took his army north and when Josiah tried to stop him, was killed. Pharaoh-necho continued north to the Euphrates River to secure Syria for Egypt but Nebuchadnezzar led his father's armies out against him and smote his army in the 4th year of Jehoiakim (606BC) at Carchemish. That same year Nebuchadnezzar took away captives from Jerusalem and returned to Babylon to take the throne after his father's death. Daniel was taken to Babylon in 606BC. Nebuchadnezzar returned twice more, in 597 and 586BC. In 597BC King Jehoiachin and Ezekiel were taken to Babylon. The city and Temple were burned in 586BC.

Josephus states that Nebuchadnezzar began his 13-year siege of the coastal city of Tyre in the 7th year of his reign (599BC). When he finally captured

the coastal city he found that all the treasures had been transferred to an island one kilometre off-shore. God promised him all the treasures of Egypt as wages for his soldiers (Ezek.29:18-19) for the service that he rendered to God against Tyre. This was accomplished in 570BC at a time when Egypt was weakened by civil war between Pharaoh-hophra and his General, Amasis.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great tree cut down which Daniel interpreted in Dan.ch.4 was given **before** the Egyptian campaign. When Nebuchadnezzar



returned from Egypt 12 months later, he boasted of the great kingdom he had finally established. At that moment he was struck down with madness and lived like a wild beast for 7 years. After the 7 years he was restored and reigned for only one year during which time he glorified God.

Nebuchadnezzar was followed by Evil-merodach, then by Neriglissar, then by Nabonidus who was son-in-law to Nebuchadnezzar, and who reigned as **co-regent with his son, Belshazzar**. Belshazzar was slain when Babylon fell to Darius the Mede as the Medes and Persians overthrew the Babylonian empire.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S TESTIMONY
"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase" (Dan.4:34-37).