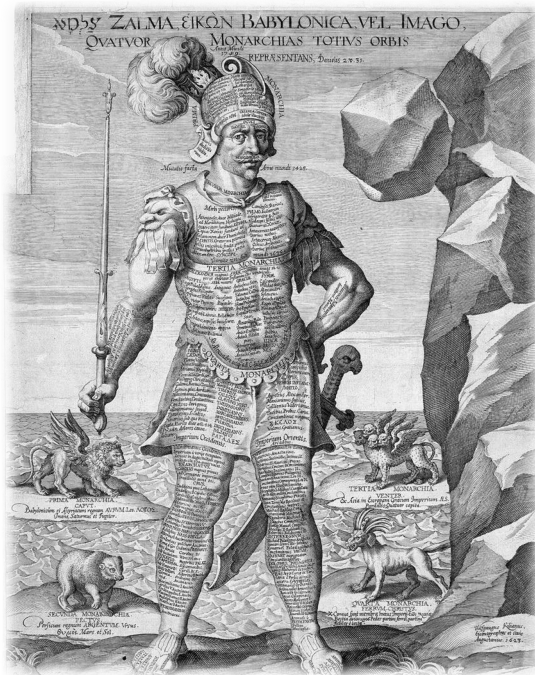


The Four Kingdoms who Ruled over the Temples in Jerusalem

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and the Four Kingdoms



Kapitel 2, Vers 31: Nebukadnezars Traum vom viergeteilten Standbild mit tönernen Füßen, 1623
 By Wolfgang Kilian - Galerie Bassenge, Berlin, 29 November 2012, lot 5109 via ARCADJA auction results, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=29081963>

דניאל ב, לא-לו Daniel 2:31-36

אָנְתָּהּ מַלְכָּא חֲזָה הַיְיִת וְאֵלֶיךָ צֵלַם חַד שְׂגִיָּא צִלְמָא דְגִנְרַב וְזִיגָה יִתִּיר קְאָם לְקַבְלָהּ וְהִיא דְחִיל:

O king, as you looked on, there appeared a great statue. This statue, which was huge and its brightness surpassing, stood before you, and its appearance was awesome.

הוּא צִלְמָא ראשֶׁהּ דִּי־דְהַב טֵב חֲדוּהִי וְדַרְעוּהִי דִּי כֶסֶף מְעוּהִי וְיִרְכַתָּהּ דִּי נְחֹשׁ: שְׂקוּהִי דִּי פְרָזֶל רַגְלוּהִי מִנְהִין דִּי פְרָזֶל וּמִנְהִין דִּי חֲסָף: חֲזָה הַיְיִת

The head of that statue was of **fine gold**; its breast and arms were of **silver**; its belly and thighs, of **copper**; its legs were of **iron**, and its feet part **iron** and part **clay**.

עַד דִּי הִתְגַּזְרַת אֲבָן דִּי־לֹא בִידֵין וּמַחַת לְצִלְמָא עַל־רַגְלוּהִי דִּי פְרָזֶלָא וְחֲסָפָא וְהִדְקַת הַמּוֹן: בְּאֵדִין דְקִו כַּחֲדָה פְרָזֶלָא חֲסָפָא נְחֹשָׁא וְדִהֲבָא וְהוּל כְּעוֹר מִן־אֲדָרִי־קִיט וּנְשָׂא הַמּוֹן רוּחָא וְכָל־אֲתֵר לֹא־הִשְׁתַּכַּח לְהוֹן וְאַבְנָא דִּי־מַחַת לְצִלְמָא הוֹת לְטוֹר רַב וּמַלְת כָּל־אַרְעָא: דְגָה חֲלֵמָא וּפְנִשְׂרָה נְאֻמַר קְדָם־מַלְכָּא:

As you looked on, a stone was hewn out, not by hands, and struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. All at once, the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were crushed, and became like chaff of the threshing floors of summer; a wind carried them off until no trace of them was left. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. "Such was the dream, and we will now tell the king its meaning."

*The Four Kingdoms who Ruled over the Temples in Jerusalem***Babylon - בבל**

626-539 BCE

Lions, oh my! ([Linkedin Article](#))

יהודה כנגד מלכות בבל, זה נמשל באריה וזה נמשל באריה, זה נמשל באריה (בראשית מט, ט): גור אריה יהודה, וזה נמשל באריה (דניאל ז, ד):

קדמיתא כאריה, ביד מי מלכות בבל נופלת, ביד דניאל שהוא בא משל יהודה. (בראשית רבה צט, ב)

Judah is opposed to the **Kingdom of Babylon**. Both are compared to a **lion**: This (Judah) is compared to a lion, as stated (genesis 49, 9) "Judah is a lion's whelp", and the other (Babylon) is compared to a lion, as is stated (Daniel 7, 4): "The first was like a lion". And by whose hand does the Kingdom of Babylon fall? In the hands of Daniel, who comes from Judah. (Bereshit Rabba 99:2)

ראשה די דהב טב
Head of fine
Gold



אלהא די ליה יקר ורבותא. פרוק ית ענה מפום אריותא. ואפיק ית עמה מגו גלותא. עמה די בחרת מפל אמיא:

י-ה ריבון עולם, ישראל נגארה (מאה ט"ז)

The Lord to whom belongs glory and grandeur, deliver your sheep from **the mouth of the lion**; And deliver thy nation from amidst the Exile, your Nation whom you have Chosen from all of the Nations.

Y-ah Ribom Olam, Israel Najara poet (16th century)



Isthmian Gates of Babylon

איש יהודי היה בשושן הבירה ושמו מרדכי בן יאיר בן שמעי בן קיש איש ימיני: אשר הגלה מירושלים עם הגלה אשר הגלתה עם יכניה מלך יהודה אשר הגלה בבוכדנאצר מלך בבל: (אסתר ב, ה-ו)

In the fortress Shushan lived a **Jew** by the name of Mordecai, son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a **Benjaminite**. [Kish] had been exiled from Jerusalem in the group that was carried into exile along with **King Yechoniah of Judah, which had been driven into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon**. (Esther 2:5-6)

ודרשו את שלום העיר אשר הגלית אתכם שמה והתפללו בעדה אלה' כי בשלומה יהיה לכם שלום: (ירמיהו כט, ז)

And seek the welfare of the city to which I have exiled you and pray to G-d in its behalf; for in its prosperity you shall prosper. (Jeremiah 29:7)

*The Four Kingdoms who Ruled over the Temples in Jerusalem***Persia and Media - פרס ומדי**

539-332 BCE

Cyrus the Great

ובשנת אחת לכוּרש מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס לְכָלוֹת דְּבַר־ה' מִפִּי יְרֵמְיָה הַעֵיר ה' אֶת־רוּחַ כְּרֹשׁ
מֶלֶךְ־פָּרַס וַיַּעֲבֹר־קוֹל בְּכָל־מַלְכוּתוֹ וְגַם־בְּמִכְתָּב לְאֹמֶר: כֹּה אָמַר כְּרֹשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס כָּל־
מַמְלָכוֹת הָאָרֶץ גָּתַן לִי ה' אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהוּא־פָקַד עָלַי לְבָנוֹת־לוֹ בַּיַּת בִּירוּשָׁלַם
אֲשֶׁר בִּיהוּדָה: (עזרא א, א-ב)

תְּדוּהָ וְדָרְעוּהָ דִּי
כֶּסֶף
Silver torso



In the first year of **King Cyrus of Persia**, when the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah was fulfilled, the LORD roused the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia to issue a proclamation throughout his realm by word of mouth and in writing as follows:
“Thus said King Cyrus of Persia: The LORD God of Heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and has charged me with **building Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.** (Ezra 1:1-2)



וְהִי בִימֵי אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ הוּא אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵהַדוּ וְעַד־כּוּשׁ שֶׁבַע וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה: בִּימֵים הָהֵם כָּשְׁבַת
הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ עַל כֹּסֵא מַלְכוּתוֹ אֲשֶׁר בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה: בְּשָׁנַת שְׁלוֹשׁ לְמַלְכוּתוֹ עָשָׂה מִשְׁתֵּה לְכָל־שָׂרָיו וְעַבְדָּיו
חֵיל פָּרַס וּמְדֵי הַפְּרָתַיִם וְשָׂרֵי הַמְּדִינֹת לְפָנָיו: בְּהִרְאֹתוֹ אֶת־עֶשֶׂר כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ וְאֶת־יָקָר תַּפְאֲרַת גְּדוּלְתוֹ
יָמִים רַבִּים שְׁמוֹנִים וּמֵאֹת יוֹם: (אסתר א, א-ד)

It happened in the days of **Ahasuerus**—that Ahasuerus who reigned over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces from **India to Ethiopia**. In those days, when King Ahasuerus occupied the royal throne in the fortress **Shushan**, in the third year of his reign, he gave a banquet for all the officials and courtiers—the administration of **Persia and Media**, the nobles and the governors of the provinces in his service. For no fewer than a **hundred and eighty days** he displayed the vast riches of his kingdom and the splendid glory of his majesty. (Esther 1:1-4)

וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים אֶל־כָּל־מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה כְּכַתְּבָהּ וְאֶל־עַם וְעַם כְּלָשׁוֹנוֹ לְהִיּוֹת כְּלָשׁוֹן שָׂרָר
בְּבֵיתוֹ וּמְדַבֵּר כְּלָשׁוֹן עַמּוֹ: (אסתר א, כב)

Dispatches were sent to all the provinces of the king, **to every province in its own script and to every nation in its own language**, that every man should wield authority in his home and speak the language of his own people. (Esther 1:22)

*The Four Kingdoms who Ruled over the Temples in Jerusalem***Greece - יוון**

332–63 BCE

Beauty and Competition

אמר קרא: יִפֶּתְ אֱלֹקִים לְיִפֶּתְ וַיִּשְׁכֵּן בְּאֶהֱלֵי־שֵׁם (בראשית ט, כז) – דבריו של יפת יהיו באהלי שם (בבלי מגילה ט ע"ב)

...May God beautify Yefet, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem” (Gen. 9:27)...

The language of Yavan, who is the forbear of the Greek nation and one of the descendants of Yefet, will also serve as a sacred language in the tents of Shem, where Torah is studied (b. Megillah 9b)

מְעוּהֵי וַיִּרְכָּתֶהּ דִּי נְחֹשׁ

Copper thighs

“There is no greater glory for a man as long as he lives than that which he wins by his own hands and feet!”

~ Homer, Odyssey VIII: 146

“Good heavens!” explained a Persian soldier to his commander; “what kind of men are these against whom you have brought us to battle? Men who compete with each other...for naught but glory!”

~ Herodotus III; 26

“Our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority, but of the whole people.”

~ Pericles



הַתְּהַלֵּךְ לְפָנַי וְהִיָּה תָמִים: (בראשית יז, א)

Walk **before Me** and be **wholesome**. (Genesis 17:1)



...וגברו בני חשמונאי הכהנים הגדולים והרגו והושיעו ישראל מידם והעמידו מלך מן הכהנים וחזרה מלכות לישראל יתר על מאתים שנה עד החרבן השני: (רמב"ם משנה תורה הלכות מגילה וחנוכה ג, א)

...The Hasmonean great priests won victories, defeating the Syrian Greeks and saving Israel from their power. They set up a king from among the priests and Israel's kingdom was restored for a period of more than two centuries, until the destruction of the second Temple (Rambam, Laws of Hanukkah 3:1)

The Four Kingdoms who Ruled over the Temples in Jerusalem

Rome - אדום

63 BCE – 476 CE

שְׁקוּהֵי דֵי פְּרִזְל

Iron legs

Brothers or Enemies?

וּמְלָכוֹ רְבִיעִיָּה [רְבִיעֵאָה] תִּהְיֶה תְּהוּא תְּקִיפָה כְּפְרִזְלָא (דניאל ב, מ)

But the fourth kingdom will be **as strong as iron** (Daniel 2:40)



וְעַל־חַרְבֶּךָ תַחֲיֶה וְאֶת־אֲחִיךָ תַעֲבֹד וְהָיָה כְּאִשֶׁר תִּלְיֹד וּפְרִקְתָּ עָלָיו מֵעַל צוּאָרְךָ: (בראשית כז, מ)

Yet by your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; But when you grow restive, You shall break his yoke from your neck.” (Genesis 27:40)



וַיֹּאמֶר נִסְעָה וְנִלְכָה וְאִלְכָה לְנִגְדְךָ: (לב, יב)

וְעִבְרָנָא אֲדָנִי לְפָנֵי עֲבָדוֹ...עַד אֲשֶׁר־אָבֵא אֶל־אֲדָנִי שְׁעִירָה: (יד)

And [Esav] said, “Let us start on our journey, and I will proceed at your pace.” (33:12)

[Yaakov:] “Let my lord go on ahead of his servant...until I come to my lord in Seir.” (14)



מַעִיקְרָא דְרוּשׁ “נִסְעָה וְנִלְכָה וְאִלְכָה לְנִגְדְךָ”, וּלְבִסוּף דְרוּשׁ “עִבְרָנָא אֲדָנִי לְפָנֵי עֲבָדוֹ” ~ עֲבוּדָה זְרָה ח ע"א

Initially, they (the Romans) interpreted “Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before you”. And ultimately, they interpreted “Let my lord, I pray you, pass over before his servant”

~ b. Avoda Zara 8a



Vespasian
69-79



Titus
79-81



Hadrian
117-138



Antoninus Pius
138-161



Marcus Aurelius
161-180



Caracalla
211-217