

Daniel 2—7

Chiastic Parallels

	Daniel 2	Daniel 7
<i>Early in the Reign of a Babylonian King</i>	“In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar” (2:1a)	“In the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon” (7:1a)
<i>Night Dream Vision</i>	“Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him” (2:1b) “Your dream [חלם] and the visions [חזון] of your head as you lay in bed are these” (2:28b)	“Daniel saw a dream [חלם] and visions [חזון] of his head as he lay in his bed” (7:1b)
<i>Reaction to Vision</i>	“his spirit [רוח] was troubled, and his sleep left him” (2:1c)	“As for me, Daniel, my spirit [רוח] within me was anxious” (7:15a)
<i>Symbolic Portrayal of Four Successive Kingdoms Ultimately Overthrown by the Kingdom of God</i>	Head of gold (2:32a)	A lion with eagles’ wings (7:4)
	Chest and arms of silver (2:32b)	A bear (7:5)
	Middle and thighs of bronze (2:32c)	A leopard with four kings (7:6)
	Legs of Iron, feet partly of iron and partly of clay (2:33)	“a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong ... and it had ten horns” (7:7)
	Stone struck image and became a great mountain (2:34-35) “a kingdom that shall never be destroyed ... it shall stand forever [עלם]” (2:44)	“the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed ... and given to the people of the saints of the Most High” (7:26a, 27a) “His kingdom shall be an everlasting [עלם] kingdom” (7:27b)
<i>Interpretation of the Vision</i>	“bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation [פֶּשֶׁר]” (2:24b) “I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known [ידע] to the king the interpretation [פֶּשֶׁר]” (2:25)	“he told me and made known [ידע] to me the interpretation [פֶּשֶׁר] of the things” (7:16)
<i>Response to Interpretation of the Vision</i>	“the king gave Daniel high honors and many great [שָׂגִיֵּא] gifts” (2:48a)	“As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly [שָׂגִיֵּא] alarmed me” (7:28b)

Daniel 3		Daniel 6
<i>Jews Tested: Break Torah, Or...</i>	“You are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up” (3:4)	“establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king... ” (6:7b)
<i>...Or Be Killed!</i>	“And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into [רמה] a burning fiery furnace ” (3:6)	“... shall be cast into [רמה] the den of lions. ” (6:7c)
<i>Faithful Exiles Past the Test</i>	“be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (3:18b)	“Daniel ... went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. ” (6:10)
<i>Accusation by Jealous Officials</i>	“At that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews ” (3:8) “There are certain Jews ... Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention [שים] to you ; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up” (3:8, 12)	“the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel ” (6:4a) “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention [שים] to you, O king , or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” (6:13)
<i>God Is Able to Save</i>	“And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?” (3:15b) “If this be so, our God whom we serve [פלה] is able [יכל] to deliver [יזב] us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ” (3:17)	“O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve [פלה] continually, been able [יכל] to deliver [יזב] you from the lions? ” (6:20b)
<i>Miraculous Deliverance</i>	“unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt [חבל] ... the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed [חבל], and no smell of fire had come upon them. ” (3:25b, 27b)	“ “they have not harmed [חבל] me’ ... So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm [חבל] was found on him ” (6:22b, 23b)
<i>Angelic Guardian</i>	“Did we not cast three men bound into the fire? ... But I see four men ... and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.” (3:24-25)	“My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths” (6:22a)
<i>King Acknowledges Yahweh with Decree</i>	“Therefore I make [שים] a decree [טעם]: Any people [עם], nation [אמה], or language [לשן] that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue ” (3:29a)	Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples [עם], nations [אמה], and languages [לשן] that dwell in all the earth ... I make [שים] a decree [טעם], that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God ” (6:25a, 26a)
<i>Faithful Exiles Exalted</i>	“Then the king promoted [צלה] Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon. ” (3:30)	“So this Daniel prospered [צלה] during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. ” (6:28)
<i>Universal Kingdom Formula</i>	“ His kingdom [מלכו] is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion [שלטון] endures from generation to generation. ” (4:3b)	“ His kingdom [מלכו] shall never be destroyed, and his dominion [שלטון] shall be to the end. ” (6:26b)

Daniel 4		Daniel 5
<i>King Acts with Great Pride</i>	“Is not this great [רב] Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” (4:30)	“ ¹ King Belshazzar made a great [רב] feast ... ³ Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. ⁴ They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.” (5:3-4)
<i>He Is Given an Alarming Vision</i>	“I saw a dream that made me afraid” (4:5a) “Chop down the tree ... But leave the stump ... bound with a band of iron and bronze” (4:14b, 15a) “Let his mind be changed from a man’s, and let a beast’s mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him.” (4:16)	“Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace” (5:5) “And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN.” (5:25)
<i>Failure of the Wisemen to Offer Interpretation</i>	“Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in [עלל], and I told them the dream, but they could not [אל] make known [ידע] to me its interpretation [פשר].” (4:7)	“Then all the king’s wise men came in [עלל], but they could not [אל] read the writing or make known [ידע] to the king the interpretation [פשר].” (5:8)
<i>Daniel Interprets Vision</i>	“ ⁸ At last Daniel came in before me ... in whom is the spirit [רוח] of the holy [קדיש] gods [אלה] ... ⁹ O Belshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation.” (4:8, 9)	“ ¹¹ There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit [רוח] of the holy [קדיש] gods [אלה] ... ¹⁴ I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you ... read the writing and make known to me its interpretation” (5:11a, 14, 16b)
<i>The Vision’s Interpretation</i>	“ ²⁰ The tree you saw ... ²² it is you, O king ... ²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, ²⁵ that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field.” (4:20a, 22a, 24-25)	“ ²⁶ This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; ²⁷ TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; ²⁸ PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” (5:26-28)
<i>God Acts Against Prideful King</i>	“ ³¹ While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven ... ³³ Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox” (4:31a, 33a)	“That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed.” (5:30)
<i>Purpose: Know God Is King</i>	“to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.” (4:17b) “till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” (4:25b) “your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules.” (4:26b) “until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” (4:32b)	“[your father’s] mind was made like that of a beast ... until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will.” (5:21b)
<i>Response: Persistent Pride or Humility?</i>	“ ³⁴ At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever ... ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven” (4:34a, 37a) “for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble [שפל] ” (4:37b)	“ ²⁰ But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down ... ²² And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled [שפל] your heart, though you knew all this, ²³ but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven.” (5:20a, 22-23a)