

INTRODUCTION

Size is used in the World System as a barometer for measuring importance in the world. Size, however is not always an accurate means of measurement. China, for example, has nearly a billion and a half residents residing in its borders. The United States has just under four hundred million residents. Yet, currently, the U.S. wields much more influence than the nation of China. A similar case of size not being an accurate barometer for importance is seen in a comparison of the Babylonian and Medo-Persian empires.

- I. THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE WAS PROPHESED TO BE AN INFERIOR KINGDOM.
Dan. 2:39
 - A. The Aramaic word for “*inferior*” is *ara* which is the equivalent of the Hebrew word for earth -- *erets*.
 - B. “*Ara*” is used in contrast with heaven several times in the book of Daniel.
 1. “*Ara*” is used several times in the book of Daniel to emphasize earth in comparison to heaven. Dan. 4:11
 2. “*Ara*” is used to note the inferiority of the inhabitants of the earth in comparison to God of heaven. Dan. 4:35
 - C. The derived meaning in this context is ***lower, or under, inferior, as the earth is to heaven***. Cf. Dan 2:39

- II. THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE WAS LARGER IN SCOPE THAN THE BABYLONIAN KINGDOM.
 - A. The largest boundaries of the Empire of Babylon around 580 BC were as follows:
 1. The Northern Boundary were Carchemish and Cilicia in the northwest.
 2. The Western Boundary was the Mediterranean Sea with its cities all the way to Cyprus. In the south the western boundary extended to Egypt.
 3. The Eastern Boundary were the cities of the Medes and the Persians.

¹ Bible History online

4. The Southern Boundary went all the way to Arabia and westward to Egypt.

B. The largest boundaries of the Empire of Persia around 490 BC were as follows:

1. The Northern Boundary were the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.
2. The Western Boundary was the edge of Greece.
3. The Eastern Boundary were the cities north of India.
4. The Southern Boundary went all the way to Libya and Egypt.

III. THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE WAS INFERIOR TO THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE BECAUSE IT LACKED THE INFLUENCE OF THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE.

A. The "height" (loftiness) of the Babylonian empire reached "unto heaven". Dan. 4:11

1. "Unto" is the lamed preposition which can be translate towards.
2. "Heaven" is shamayim -- the heaven
3. This phrase is used several times in the book of Daniel. Cf. 4:20,22,34

B. The "sight" of the Babylonian empire reached the "end of all the earth".

1. "Sight" is the Aramaic word chazah -- which is used in Scripture to note **"visibility; appearance, aspect, especially of something grand or handsome"** -- Gesenius lexicon.
2. "All the earth" is used to note the world. Cf. Dan. 2:35 (of Christ's kingdom filling the whole earth)

C. It provided food fall all upon the earth. Dan. 4:12

D. The lack of fiat rule by the king made it inferior.

1. A decree made could not be over rode by the king.
 - a) Others encouraged kings to write a decree that could not be changed.
 - (1) Leaders of the provinces encouraged Darius to write a decree against worshipping other gods. Dan. 6:7-8
 - (2) Haman encouraged King Ahasuerus to write a decree against the Jews. Est. 3:8-10
 - b) Kings under the Medo-Persian empire could not change a decree.
 - (1) Darius could not change the decree against serving other gods. Dan. 6:14-15
 - (2) Ahasuerus could not change his decree that the Jews be eliminated. Est. 8:5-11
2. King Nebuchadnezzar had the ability to change his decrees.

- a) Nebuchadnezzar changed his decree concerning the killing of the wise men of Babylon. Dan. 2:13, 24
- b) Nebuchadnezzar changed his decree against Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Dan. 3:28

CONCLUSION