

# Daniel: Biblical Inspiration and Evidence in Prophecy

# Narrative and Prophecy in Daniel

- We spend more time reading the stories of Daniel than the prophecies of Daniel.
- However, all types of literature in the Bible are important (narrative, poetic, letters, prophetic, etc.) and need a regular place in our Bible study.

# Narrative and Prophecy in Daniel

- In the Book of Daniel, stories and prophecies work together to express a singular message: “the Almighty reigns in the kingdoms of men.”
- The message for the captives:  
“See how God **is** protecting his people (**stories**) and know he **will continue** to be with his people (**prophecy**).”
- The message for modern man:  
God protected his people in the **past** (**stories**); said he would be with his people in the **future** (**prophecy**). Now we see God accomplished his plans (**fulfillment**).

“Present your case,” the LORD says. “Bring forward your strong arguments,” The King of Jacob says. Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; As for the former events, declare what

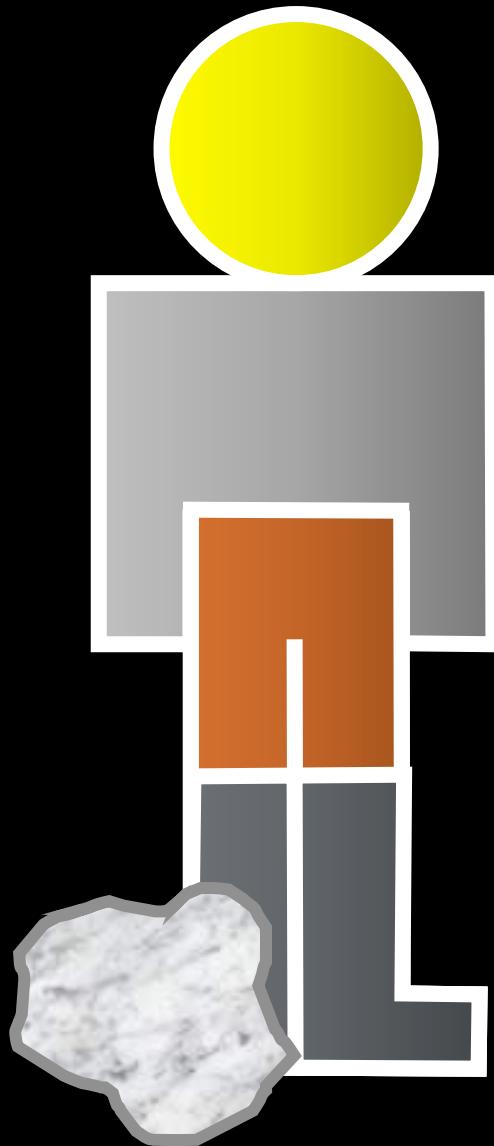
they were. Their diviners are all mute, their magicians have failed; Only Jehovah God can tell the future.

Declare the former things, so that we may consider,

That we may know that you are gods; Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together. Behold, you are of no account, And your work amounts to nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination.” (Isaiah 41:21–24, NASB95)

Babylon  
(605 BC)

## DANIEL 2



“You, O king...are the head of gold.”  
Daniel 2:36-38

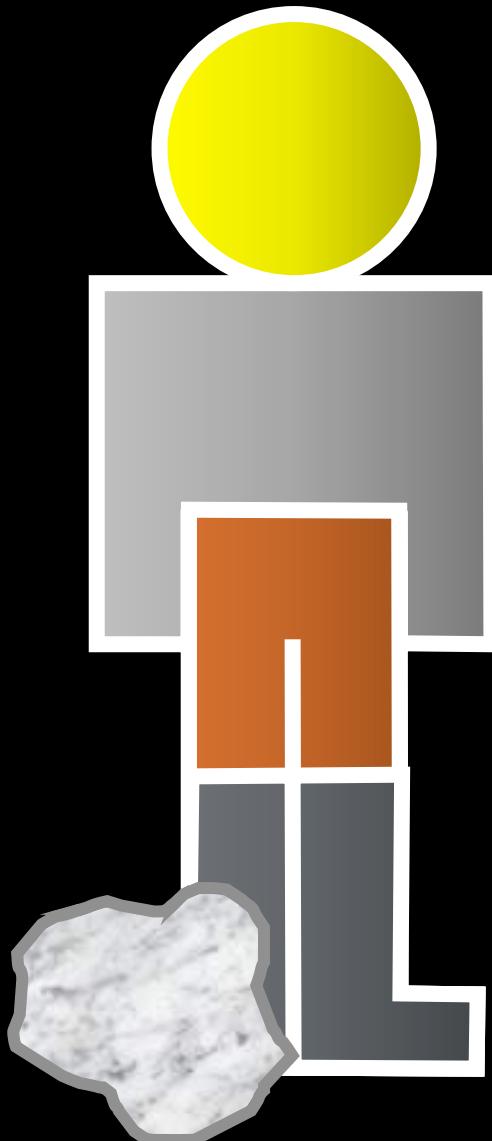
Babylon  
(605 BC)

Persia  
(539 BC)

Greece  
(331 BC)

Rome  
(168 BC)

## DANIEL 2



“After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron...”

Daniel 2:39-40

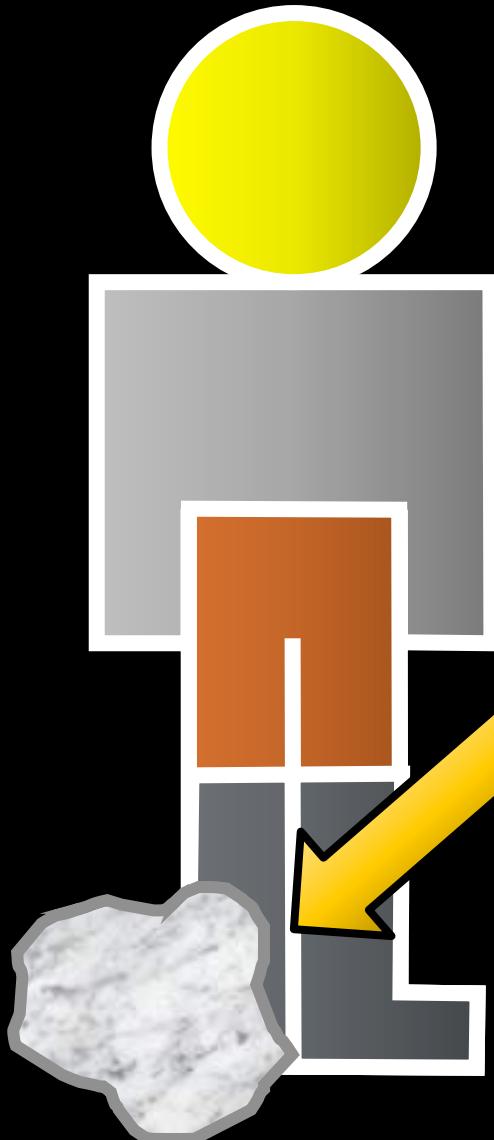
Babylon  
(605 BC)

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## DANIEL 2



"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever." (Daniel 2:44, NASB95)

### Observations:

- Daniel 2's prophecy is not very specific.
- But it's not hard to figure out what nations are being referred to.
- Overall message: God rules!

## DANIEL 2

Babylon  
(605 BC)

Persia  
(539 BC)

Greece  
(331 BC)

Rome  
(168 BC)

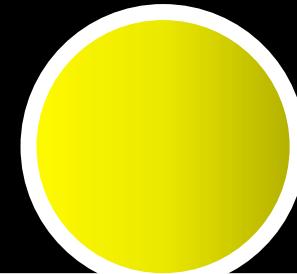
## DANIEL 7



PERSECUTION OF  
GOD'S PEOPLE  
UNDER THE ROMANS

Babylon  
(605 BC)

## DANIEL 2



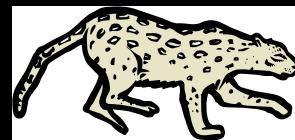
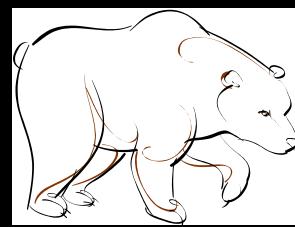
Persia  
(539 BC)

Greece  
(331 BC)

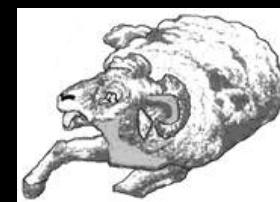
Rome  
(168 BC)



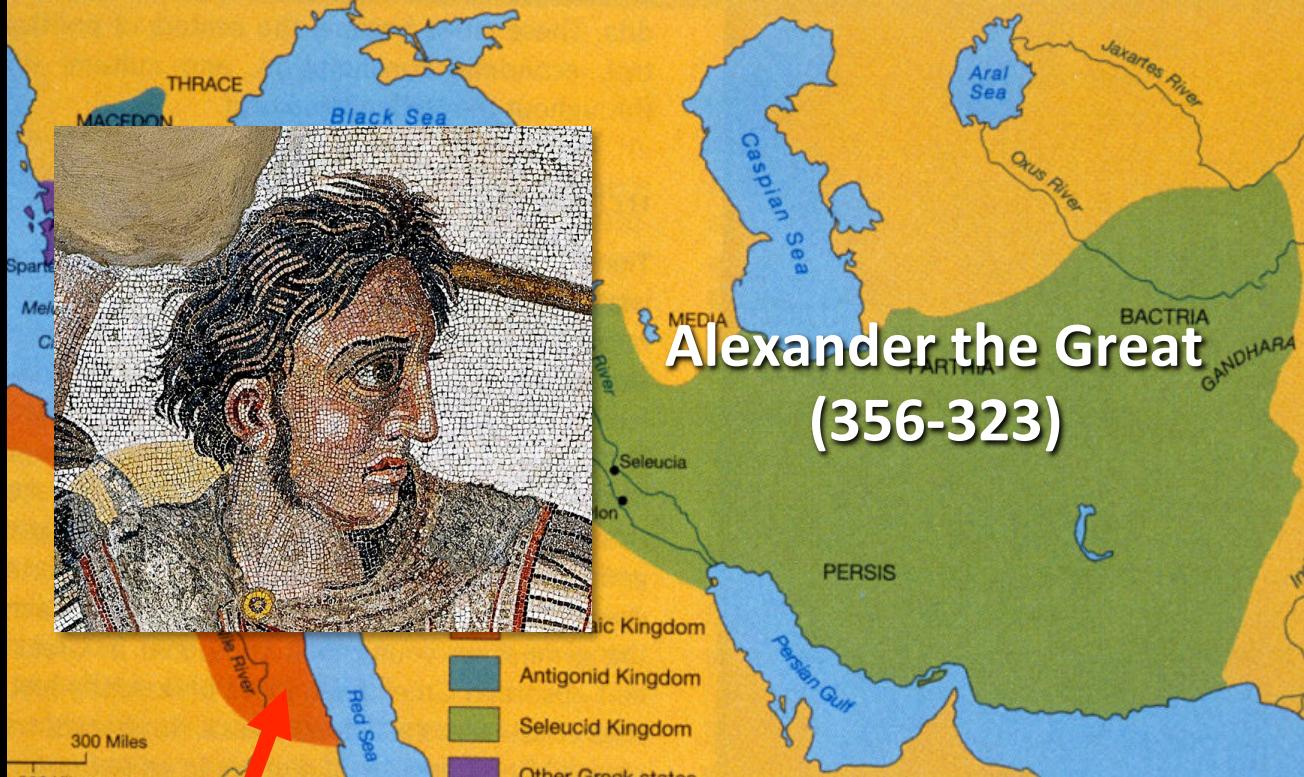
## DANIEL 7



## DANIEL 8

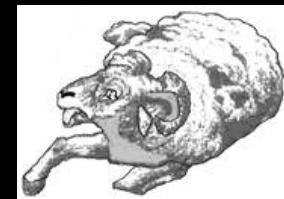


## DANIEL 8



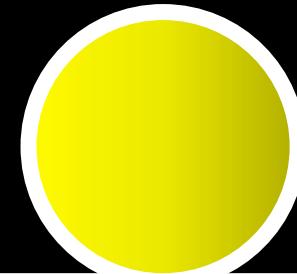
“The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia. The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king. The broken horn and the four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms which will arise from his nation, although not with his power.” (Daniel 8:20–22, NASB95)

Antiochus IV  
(188-164 BC)



Babylon  
(605 BC)

## DANIEL 2



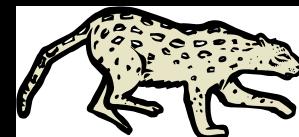
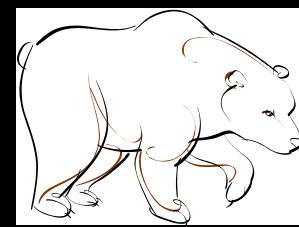
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(539 BC)

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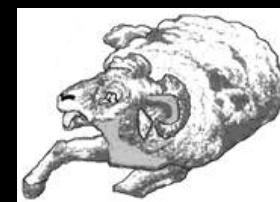
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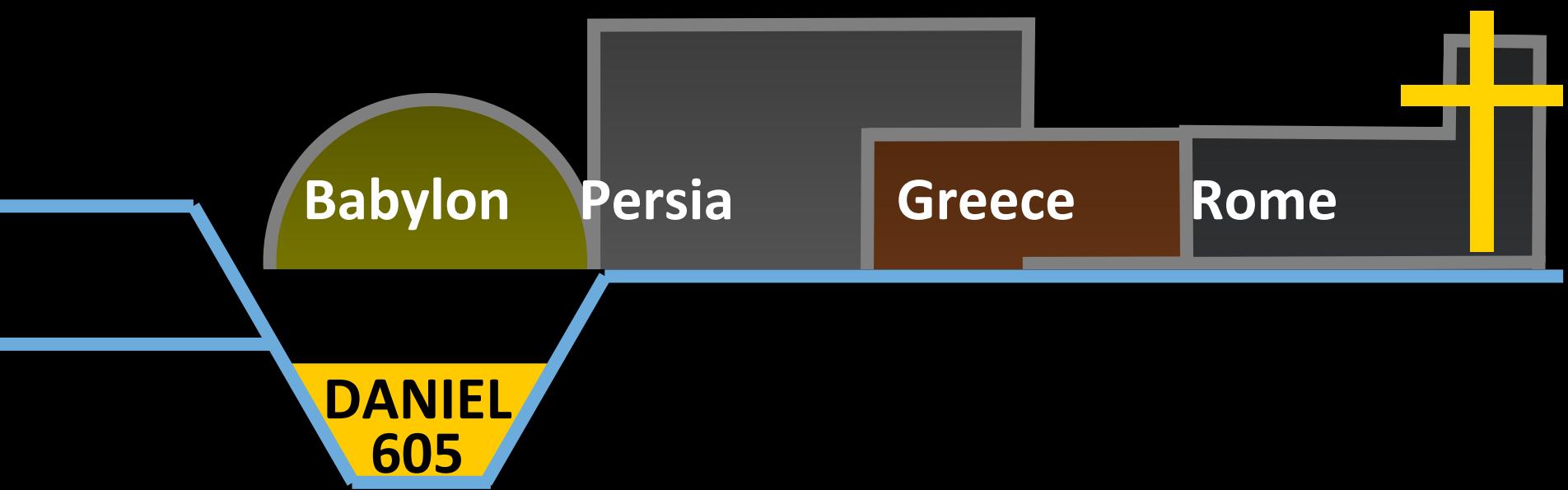


## DANIEL 7



## DANIEL 8



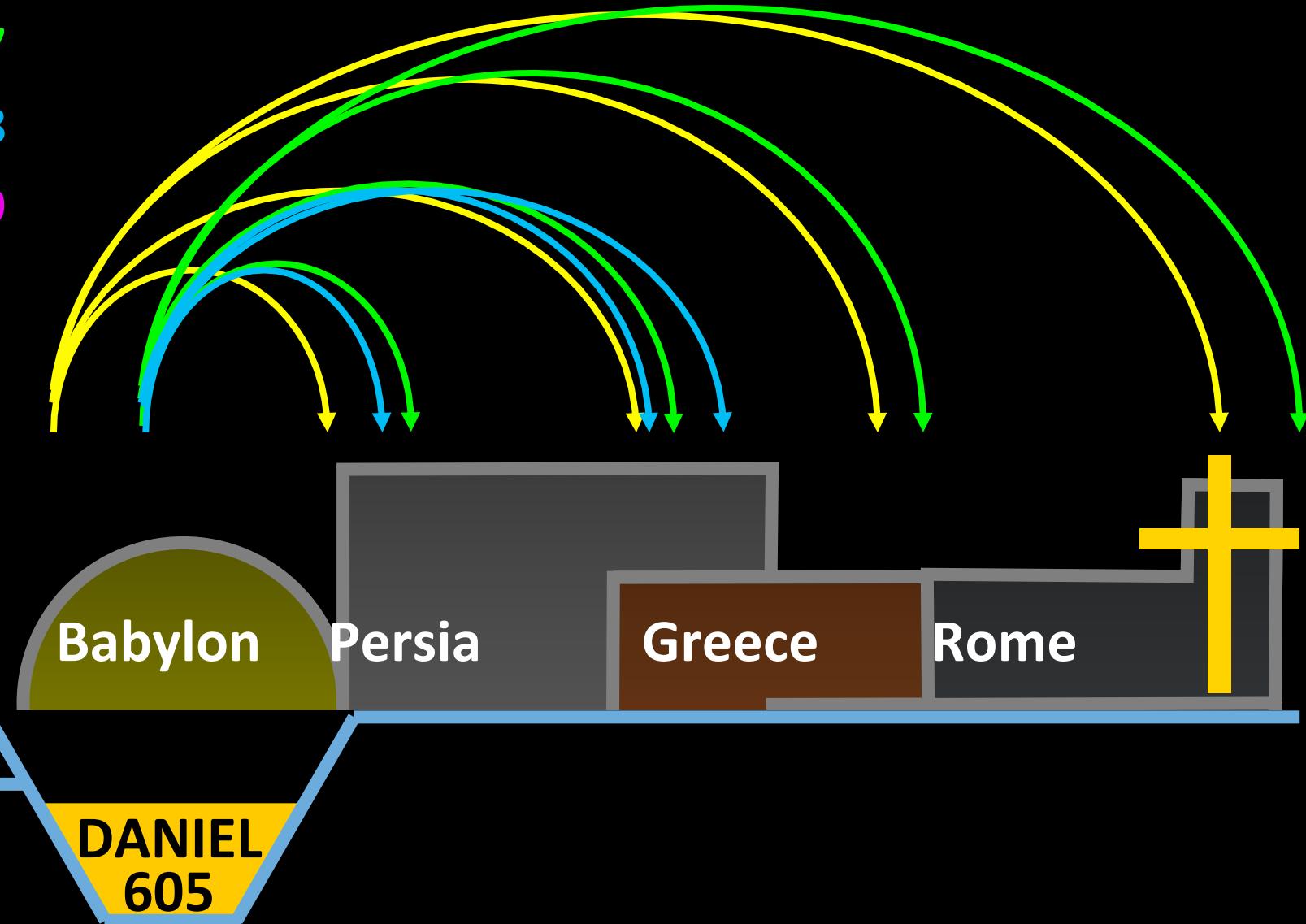


DANIEL 2

DANIEL 7

DANIEL 8

DANIEL 9



“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. “So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. “Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”” (Daniel 9:24–27, NASB95)

DANIEL 2

DANIEL 7

DANIEL 8

DANIEL 9

### From the Text

- Restoration of the temple
- End of transgression and sin, and beginning of atonement and righteousness.
- The Messiah would be cut off.
- The city would be destroyed

Babylon

Persia

Greece

Rome

DANIEL  
605



DANIEL 2

DANIEL 7

DANIEL 8

DANIEL 9

DANIEL 10-12

## Observations:

- Questions about time (70 weeks).
- Arrival and death of the Messiah and the destruction of Jerusalem all occur in a certain order
- The death of the Messiah and the destruction of Jerusalem were not expected events (esp. in Dan. 9).

Babylon

Persia

Greece

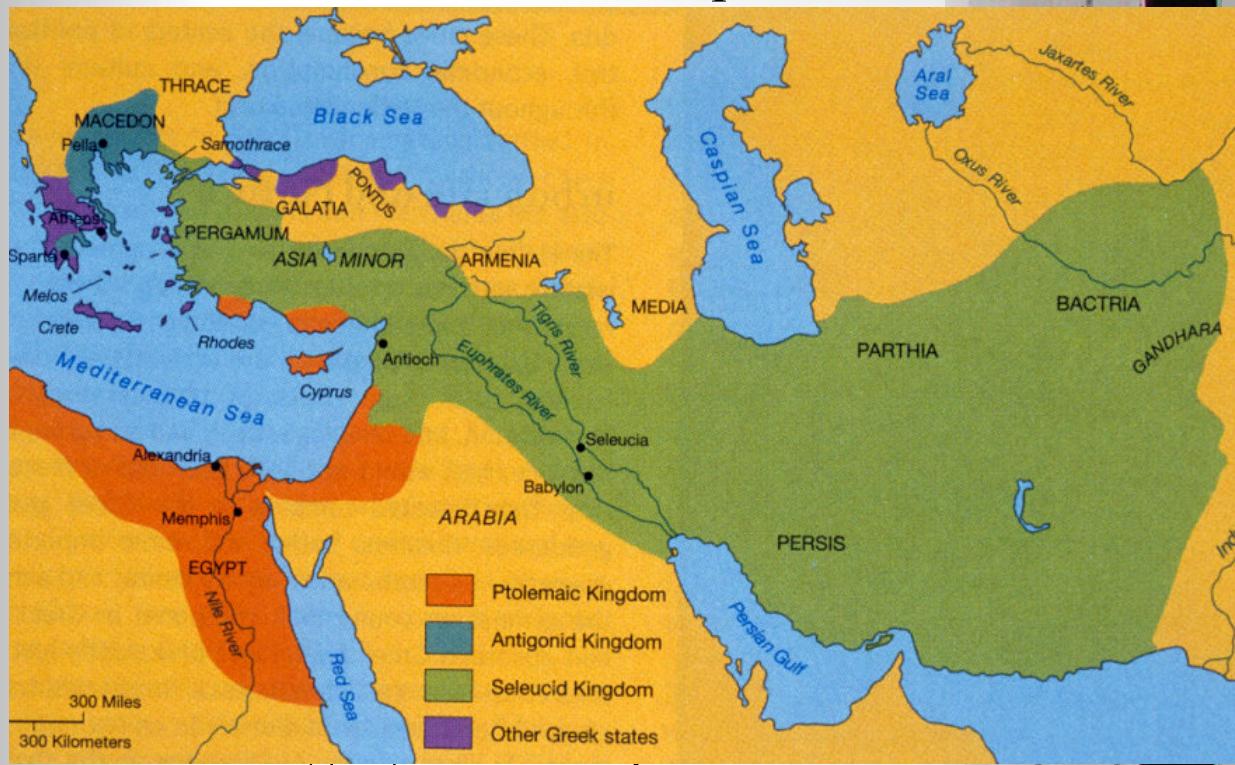
Rome

DANIEL  
605

About 536 BC

Daniel 11

2 “And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire



and given to others besides them.

Xerxes I  
(486 BC)

Alexander the Great (323 BC)

Beginning of the Hellenistic Kingdoms

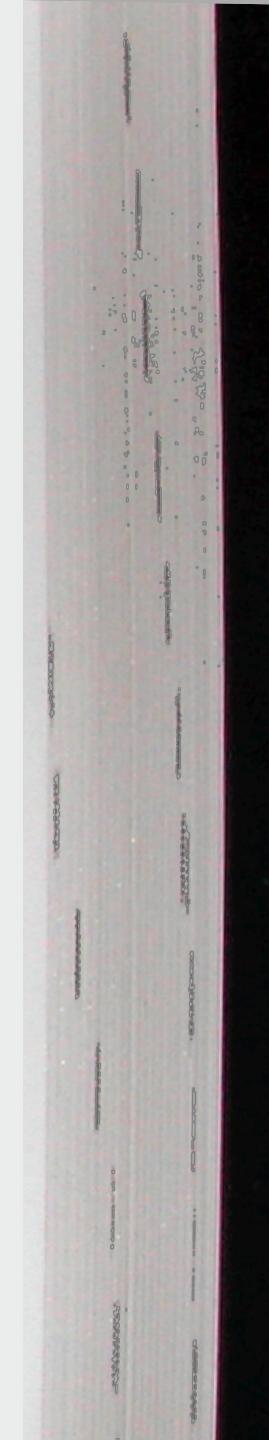
About 536 BC

Daniel 11

5 “Then the king of the South will grow strong, along with one of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; his domain will be a great dominion indeed.

6 “After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will come to the king of the North to carry out a peaceful arrangement. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will he remain with his power, but she will be given up, along with those who brought her in and the one who sired her as well as he who supported her in those times.

7 “But one of the descendants of



Ptolemy I  
(323-283 BC)

Seleucus I  
(305-281 BC)

Ptolemy II  
(285-246 BC)

Berenice marriage  
treaty (249 BC)

Antiochus II  
(261–246 BC)

Berenice  
assassinated  
(246 BC)

About 536 BC

Daniel 11

7 “But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place, and he will come against their army and enter the fortress of the king of the North, and he will deal with them and display great strength.

8 “Also their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold he will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from attacking the king of the North for some years.

9 “Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his own land.

10 “His sons will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep

Ptolemy III  
(246-222 BC)

Seleucus III  
(246-225 BC)

Third Syrian War  
(246-241 BC)

About 536 BC

Daniel 11

7 “But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place, and he

Ptolemy III  
(246-222 BC)

## Reign [ edit ]

Ptolemy III Euergetes was responsible for the first known example of a series of decrees published as [bilingual](#) inscriptions on massive stone blocks in three [writing systems](#). His stone [stela](#) is the [Canopus Stone](#) of 238 BC. Other well-known examples are the Memphis Stele (Memphis Stone), bearing the [Decree of Memphis](#), about 218 BC, passed by his son, Ptolemy IV, as well as the famous [Rosetta Stone](#) erected by Ptolemy Epiphanes, his grandson, in 196 BC.



Bronze coin issued by Ptolemy III depicting Zeus-Amun (obverse) and traditional Ptolemaic eagle (reverse). Ptolemy III did not issue coins with his own image.

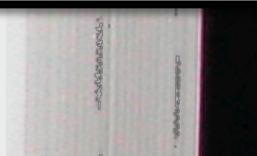
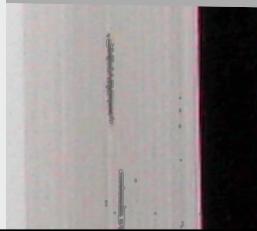
Ptolemy III's stone contains decrees about priestly orders, and is a memorial for his daughter Berenice. But two of its 26 lines of [hieroglyphs](#) decree the use of a [leap day](#) added to the [Egyptian calendar](#) of 365 days, and the associated changes in festivals.

He is also credited with the foundation of the [Serapeum](#), as well as the temple of Horus at Edfu, which he commissioned in about 237 BC, although the main temple would not be finished until the reign of his son, Ptolemy IV, in 231 BC, and it would not be officially opened until 142 BC, during the reign of Ptolemy VIII. Also, the reliefs on the great pylon were only completed in the reign of Ptolemy XII. He, like many Pharaohs before him, also added to the Temple of Karnak.

Due to a falling out at the Seleucid court, Ptolemy's eldest sister Berenice [Phernophorus](#) was murdered along with her infant son. In response Ptolemy III invaded Syria.<sup>[5]</sup> During this war, the [Third Syrian War](#), he occupied [Antioch](#) and even reached [Babylon](#).<sup>[6]</sup> In exchange for a peace in

241 BC, Ptolemy was awarded new territories on the northern coast of Syria, including [Seleucia Pieria](#), the port of Antioch. From this capture he received fifteen hundred talents of silver, roughly a tenth of his annual income. During his involvement in the [Third Syrian War](#), he managed to regain many Egyptian works of art that he was away fighting, he left his wife, Berenice II, in charge of the country. The Ptolemaic kingdom reached the height of its power during this reign.

The Third Syrian War is cryptically alluded to in Daniel 11:7-9.<sup>[7]</sup>



assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep

Both conservative and liberal scholars agree that the prophecies and secular history are remarkably parallel.

About 536 BC

Daniel 11

Jerusalem is in the middle of all the conflict between the north and the south.



Daniel 11:21-35

assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep

God rules in the kingdoms of men

Antiochus IV  
(175-164 BC)



DAN

DAN

DAN

DAN

DAN

Believer's Reaction:  
Wow!

Skeptic's Reaction:  
Daniel couldn't write this.  
It must have been written  
later!

When was the book  
of Daniel written?

ece

Rome

DANIEL  
605

Real author



## *Dead Sea Scrolls*

- Found in 1947.
- 8 Scrolls contained portions of Daniel (1956).
- Oldest scrolls from Daniel date 150-100 BC



DANIEL 2

DANIEL 7

DANIEL 8

DANIEL 9

DANIEL 10-12

Do you see the problem?

Babylon

Persia

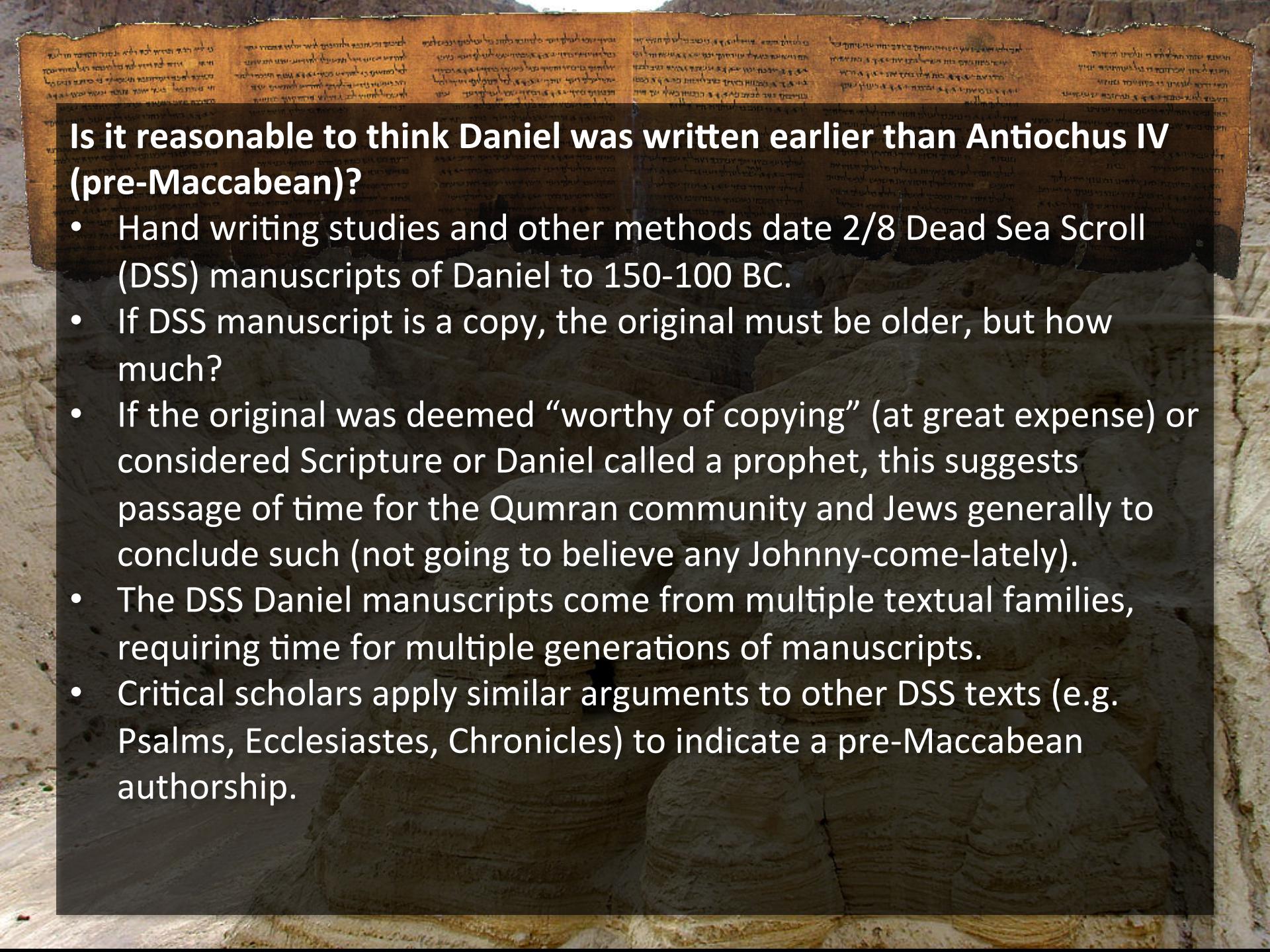
Greece

Rome

DANIEL  
605

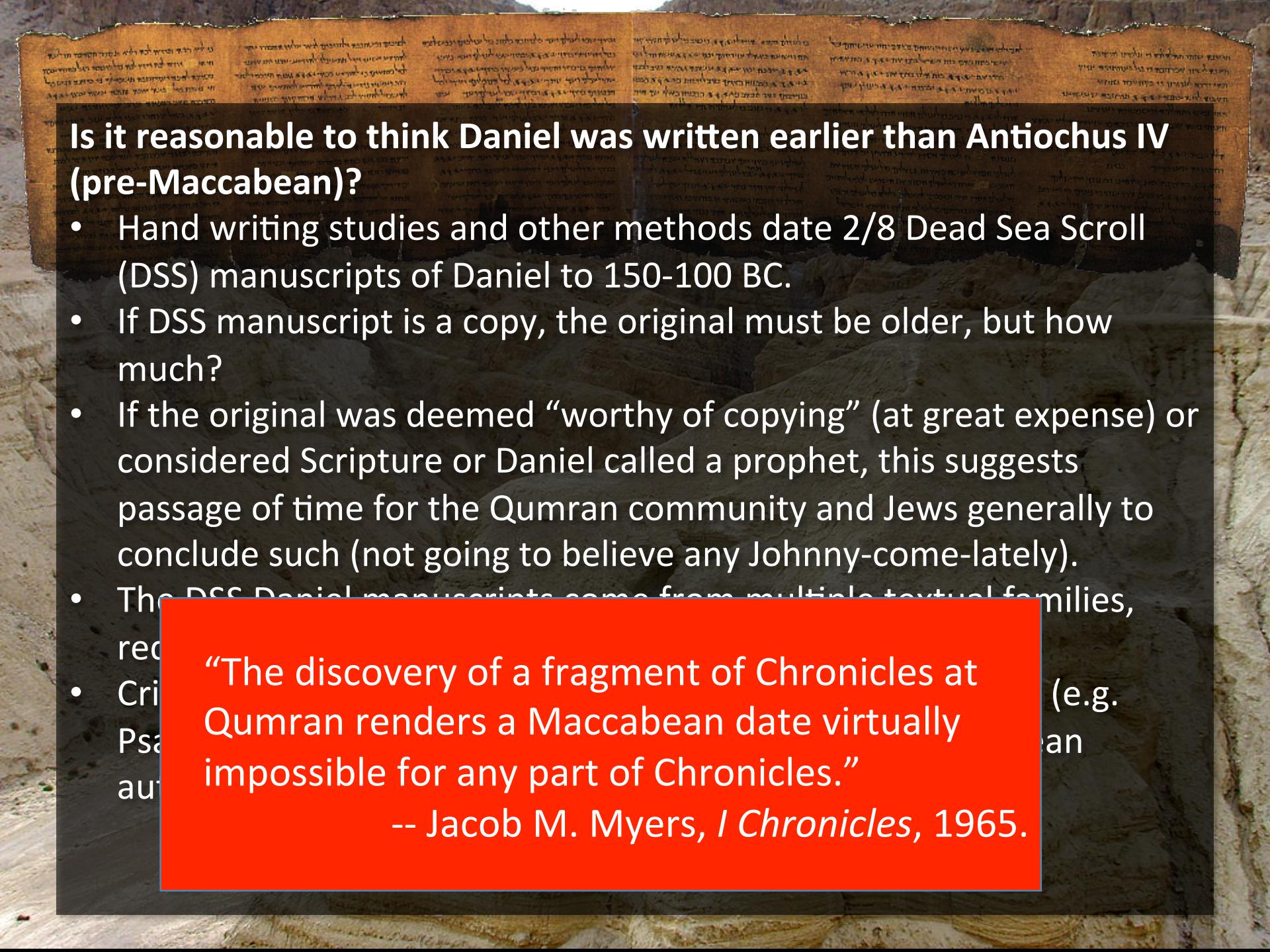
Antiochus IV  
(175-164 BC)

Oldest copy  
150-100 BC



## Is it reasonable to think Daniel was written earlier than Antiochus IV (pre-Maccabean)?

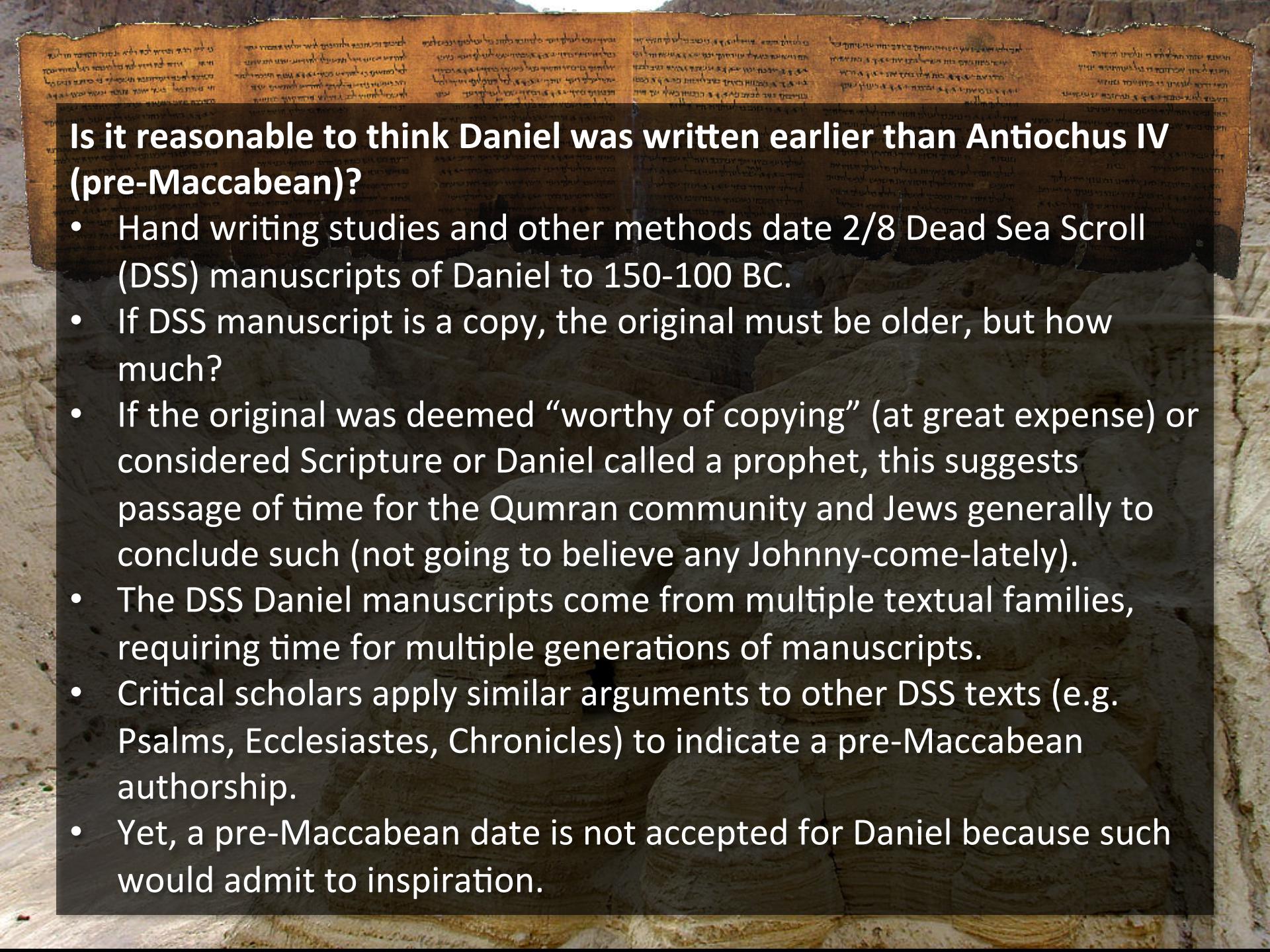
- Hand writing studies and other methods date 2/8 Dead Sea Scroll (DSS) manuscripts of Daniel to 150-100 BC.
- If DSS manuscript is a copy, the original must be older, but how much?
- If the original was deemed “worthy of copying” (at great expense) or considered Scripture or Daniel called a prophet, this suggests passage of time for the Qumran community and Jews generally to conclude such (not going to believe any Johnny-come-lately).
- The DSS Daniel manuscripts come from multiple textual families, requiring time for multiple generations of manuscripts.
- Critical scholars apply similar arguments to other DSS texts (e.g. Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Chronicles) to indicate a pre-Maccabean authorship.



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- The DSS Daniel manuscripts come from multiple textual families, reflecting different traditions.
- Critical scholars like Jacob M. Myers argue that the discovery of a fragment of Chronicles at Qumran renders a Maccabean date virtually impossible for any part of Chronicles.”

-- Jacob M. Myers, *I Chronicles*, 1965.



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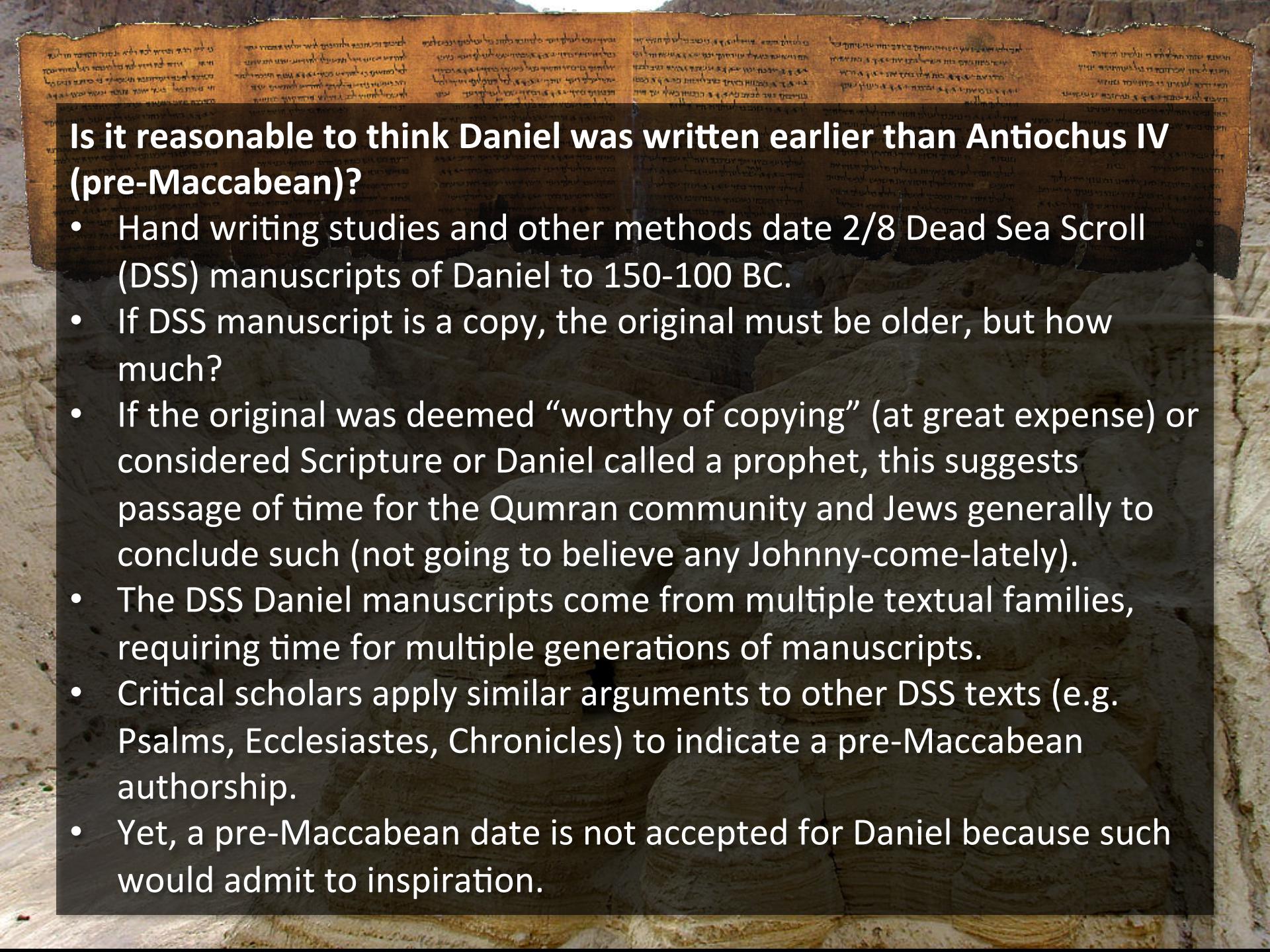
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- Yet, a pre-Maccabean date is not accepted for Daniel because such would admit to inspiration.

## Is it reasonable to think Daniel was written earlier than Antiochus IV (pre-Maccabean)?

- Has the book been dated (DSS, etc.)?
- If Daniel's vision must be dated after 164 B.C., does that mean he must have known about the Maccabean Revolt?
- If the author of Daniel could not have known about the Revolt, then how did he know about it?
- Could the author of Daniel have known about the Revolt?
- The author of Daniel could not have known about the Revolt because he lived before the Revolt.
- Critical scholars date Daniel to the late second century B.C. (e.g., Pseudepigrapha, Psalms of Solomon, etc.).
- Yet the author of Daniel knew about the Revolt.

"We need to assume that the vision [of Daniel 8] as a whole is a prophecy after the fact. Why? Because human beings are unable accurately to predict future events centuries in advance and to say that Daniel could do so...is to fly in the face of the certainties of human nature. So what we have here is in fact not a road map of the future laid down in the sixth century B.C. but an interpretation of the events of the author's own time, 167-164 B.C...."

-- Daniel Towner, *Interpreter's Bible*, 1984.



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- Cri
- Psal
- au
- Yet
- wor
- 1. It is reasonable to think Daniel was written earlier than Antiochus IV. (e.g.
- 2. Daniel’s prophecies were given by God.
- 3. The believer’s “wow” reaction is entirely appropriate.

DAN  
DAN  
DAN

Believer's Reaction:  
Wow!

DANIEL 9

DANIEL 10-12

Babylon

Persia

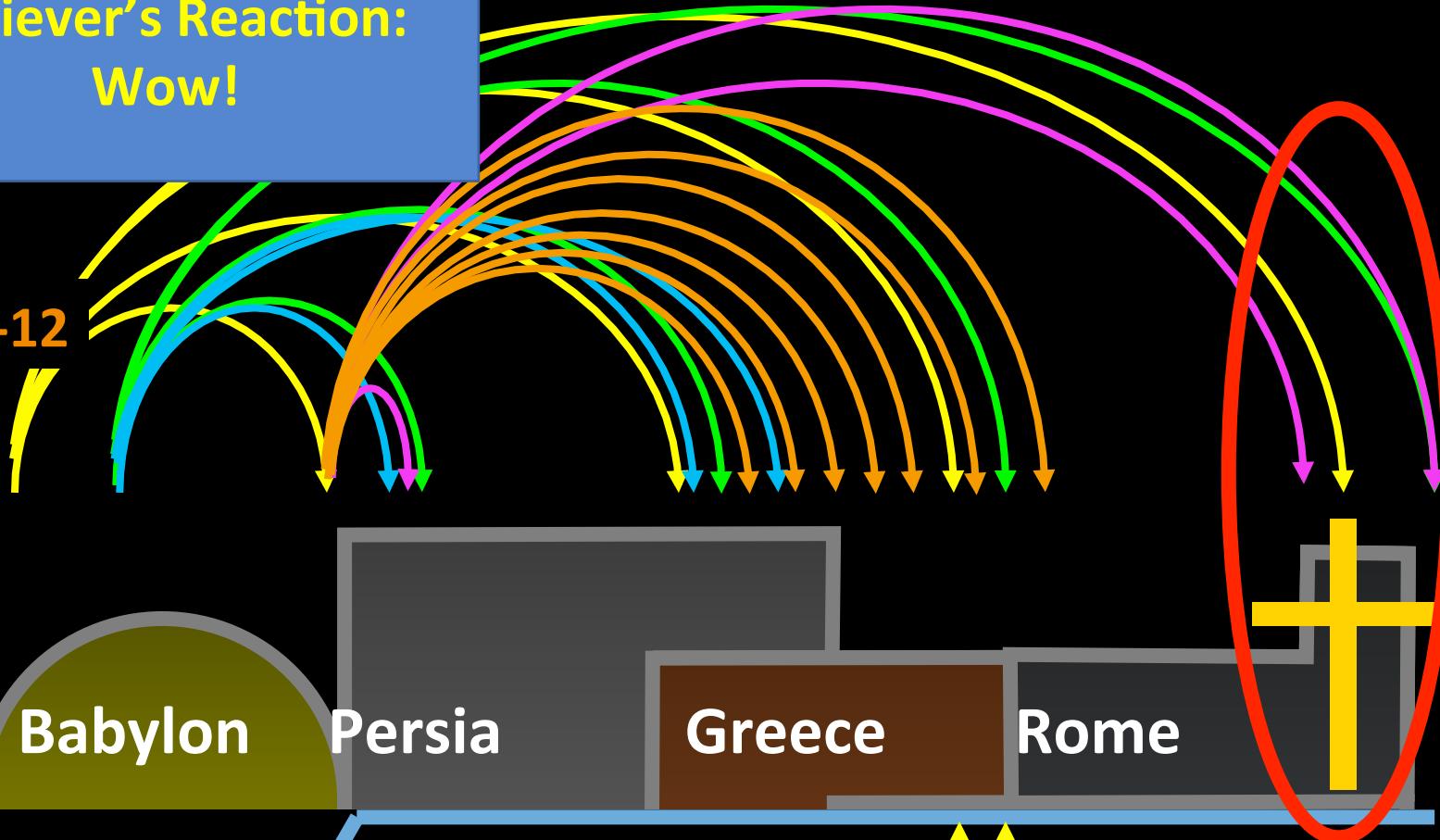
Greece

Rome

DANIEL  
605

Antiochus IV  
(175-164 BC)

Oldest copy  
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The Most High reigns in the kingdoms of men.