

Mt. Pleasant  
Bible Institute  
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A ministry of the  
***Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church***

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# THE FOUR GENTILE WORLD EMPIRES



## 1. Babylon

Head of Gold  
Lion with Eagles' wings  
(606 BC- 537 BC)



## 2. Medo-Persia

Breast and Arms of Silver  
Bear with three ribs in mouth  
(537 BC- 334 BC)



## 3. Greece

Belly and Thighs of Brass  
Leopard with four heads and four wings  
(334 BC- 64 BC)



## 4. Rome

Legs of Iron  
A dreadful and terrible beast  
(64 BC- Second Coming of Christ)



### *The Final Form of Rome*

Feet and Toes part Iron and part Clay  
10 horns on the beast

# The Medo-Persian Empire- Dan 2:39



## THE BIBLE DETAILS OF THE FALL OF BABYLON TO THE MEDES AND PERSIANS

33) Darius THE MEDIAN took the kingdom (Dan 5:31) because he was KING of the Medes and Persians not Cyrus

- According to most secular history sources, Darius the Mede never existed

“**Darius the Mede** is mentioned in the Book of Daniel as king of Babylon between Belshazzar and Cyrus the Great, but **he is not known to history**, and no additional king can be placed between the known figures of Belshazzar and Cyrus. **Most scholars view him as a literary fiction**, but some have tried to harmonise the Book of Daniel with history by **identifying him with various known figures, notably Cyrus or Ugbaru**, the general who was first to enter Babylon when it fell to the Persians in 539 BCE... **The Book of Daniel is not regarded by scholars as a reliable guide to history. The broad consensus is that Daniel never existed**, and that the author appears to have taken the name from a legendary hero of the distant past mentioned in the Book of Ezekiel. The book that bears his name is an apocalypse, not a book of prophecy, and its contents form a cryptic allusion to the persecution of the Jews by the Syrian king Antiochus IV Epiphanes (reigned 175–164 BCE). **There is broad agreement that the stories making up chapters 1–6 are legendary** in character, and that the visions of chapters 7–12 were added during the persecution of Antiochus, the book itself being completed soon after 164 BCE. **Daniel 5 and Daniel 6 belong to the folktales making up the first half of the book.**- *Wikipedia*

- Since the Bible is the only infallible source of history, there is no question regarding the existence of Darius the Mede, the only question is regarding his identity
- The majority of historians who acknowledge the existence of Darius of Mede believe the Bible has confused him with another historical personage

# The Medo-Persian Empire- Dan 5:31



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“**Darius the Mede**, in the Bible, a king of the Medes who succeeded to the throne of Babylonia after Belshazzar. Otherwise **unknown outside biblical tradition, it is likely that this Darius has been confused with Cyrus the Persian**, who succeeded Belshazzar and decreed (539 BC) the return of exiled Jews. He is also mentioned by Herodotus and Josephus”- **Encyclopedia.com**, *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, 6th edition, The Columbia University Press.

## THEORIES REGARDING THE IDENTITY OF DARIUS THE MEDE

- 1) **Gobryas**- a Persian nobleman and governor of the province of Gutium who betrayed the Babylonians and defected to Cyrus; he provided Cyrus with intelligence and was given a general’s command, helping lead his armies through Babylon to capture the royal palace
  - An example of this theory is in the footnote for Daniel 5:31 of the *Scofield Study Bible*:

“...(3) Darius the Mede (Dan. 5:31; 6:1-27; 9:1). Concerning this Darius secular history awaits further discoveries, as formerly in the case of Belshazzar. He has been conjectured to be identical with Gobryas, a Persian general. This Darius was “the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans” (Dan. 9:1). “Ahasuerus”, more a title than a name, the equivalent of the modern “Majesty”, is used in Scripture of at least four personages, and is Persian rather than Median. That Darius the Mede was the “son” (or grandson) of an Ahasuerus proves no more that that he was, probably, through the seed of his mother, of the seed royal not only of Media, but also of Persia. There is but one Darius in Daniel. (See Dan. 9:1).”
  - Darius the Mede could not be Gobryas because Gobryas was PERSIAN not Median; and as a general under Cyrus’ command, would not have been given authority like that described in Daniel 6:1

# The Medo-Persian Empire- Dan 5:31



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## THEORIES REGARDING THE IDENTITY OF DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

### 2) **Cyrus the Great**

- Most secular history sources attest that Cyrus was born in 600 BC and that Babylon fell in 539 BC; if so, then Cyrus would have been **“about threescore and two years old”** (Dan 5:31) when Babylon fell just as the Bible says of Darius the Mede
- Cyrus was part Mede through his mother MANDANE, who was the daughter of Astyages, the king of Media
- An example of this theory is in the apocryphal book, *Bel And The Dragon*, which states that Cyrus was the king that had Daniel cast into the lions' den, whereas the Bible says it was Darius the Mede (Dan 5:31; 6:1-3,9,16)

“And **king Astyages was gathered to his fathers**, and **Cyrus of Persia received his kingdom**. Then said Daniel unto **the king**, I will worship the Lord my God: for he is the living God. But give me leave, O king, and I shall slay this dragon without sword or staff. The king said, I give thee leave. Then Daniel took pitch, and fat, and hair, and did seethe them together, and made lumps thereof: this he put in the dragon's mouth, and so the dragon burst in sunder : and Daniel said, Lo, these are the gods ye worship. When they of Babylon heard that, they took great indignation, and conspired against the king, saying, The king is become a Jew, and he hath destroyed Bel, he hath slain the dragon, and put the priests to death. So they came to the king, and said, Deliver us Daniel, or else we will destroy thee and thine house. Now when **the king** saw that they pressed him sore, being constrained, he **delivered Daniel unto them: Who cast him into the lions' den**: where he was six days.”- *Bel And The Dragon* (1.1,25-31).



# The Medo-Persian Empire- Dan 5:31

## THEORIES REGARDING THE IDENTITY OF DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

### **Dan 5:31**

And **Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.**

### **Dan 6:1-3,9,16**

**1** It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

**2** And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

**3** Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

**9** Wherefore **king Darius signed the writing and the decree.**

**16** Then **the king commanded,** and they brought Daniel, **and cast him into the den of lions.** Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

- Darius the Mede could not be Cyrus because the Bible makes a clear distinction between DARIUS (the Median) and CYRUS THE PERSIAN (Dan 6:28)

### **Dan 6:28**

So this Daniel prospered in **the reign of Darius,** and in **the reign of Cyrus the Persian.**

# The Medo-Persian Empire- Dan 5:31



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## THEORIES REGARDING THE IDENTITY OF DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- 3) **Cyaxares II**- the son of **ASTYAGES** king of Media and uncle of Cyrus the Great as attested by Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*
- An example of this theory is in the *Antiquities* of the Jewish historian Josephus, who first made a distinction between Cyrus the king of Persia and Darius the king of Media, just as the scripture does

“...When Evil-Merodach was dead, after a reign of eighteen years, Niglissar his son took the government, and retained it forty years, and then ended his life; and after him the succession in the kingdom came to his son Labosordacus, who continued in it in all but nine months; and when he was dead, it came to Baltasar, who by the Babylonians was called Naboandelus; against him did **Cyrus, the king of Persia**, and **Darius, the king of Media**, make war...”- *Antiquities*, 10.11.2

- He then stated, again in agreement with scripture, that Cyrus took the city of Babylon but Darius (i.e.- the Mede) took Babylon (i.e.- the kingdom) when he was 62 years old
- He also stated, in agreement with Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*, that this Darius was a kinsman of Cyrus and THE son of Astyages (i.e.- he was Cyrus' uncle), and that he had another name among the Greeks

# The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 2:39

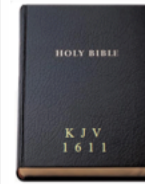


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“When Daniel had told the king that the writing upon the wall signified these events, Baltasar was in great sorrow and affliction, as was to be expected, when the interpretation was so heavy upon him. However, he did not refuse what he had promised Daniel, although he were become a foreteller of misfortunes to him, but bestowed it all upon him; as reasoning thus, that what he was to reward was peculiar to himself, and to fate, and did not belong to the prophet, but that it was the part of a good and a just man to give what he had promised, although the events were of a melancholy nature. Accordingly, the king determined so to do. Now, after a little while, both himself and the city were taken by Cyrus, the king of Persia, who fought against him; for it was Baltasar, under whom Babylon was taken, when he had reigned seventeen years. And this is the end of the posterity of king Nebuchadnezzar, as history informs us; but when Babylon was taken by Darius, and when he, with his kinsman Cyrus, had put an end to the dominion of the Babylonians, he was sixty-two years old. He was the son of Astyages, and had another name among the Greeks. Moreover, he took Daniel the prophet, and carried him with him into Media, and honored him very greatly, and kept him with him; for he was one of the three presidents whom he set over his three hundred and sixty provinces, for into so many did Darius part them.”- *Antiquities*, 10.11.4

- This other name could be Cyaxares II just as is stated in Xenophon’s *Cyropaedia*
- Of the three theories presented, the only plausible one appears to be Cyaxares II
- Does this theory line up with the rest of what we know about Darius the Mede from scripture?
- If so, then why has his name been removed from the pages of history?





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