

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 5:31

- *Darius* is a proper name meaning “rich and kingly” or “he possesses good(ness)” but is also a throne name or title meaning “lord” in Aramaic
- DARIUS appears 25x and refers to: (1) Darius the MEDIAN 8x (Dan 5:31; 6:1,6,9,25,28; 9:1; 11:1); and (2) Darius the PERSIAN (i.e.- Darius I or Darius the Great) 17x (Ezr 4:5,24; 5:5-7; 6:1,12-15; Neh 12:22; Hag 1:1,15; 2:10; Zec 1:1,7; 7:1)

Dan 5:31

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

Dan 9:1-2

1 In the first year of **Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;**

2 **In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by** books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to **Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.**

Dan 11:1

Also I **in the first year of Darius the Mede,** even **I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.**

Neh 12:22

The Levites in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua, were recorded chief of the fathers: also the priests, to the reign of **Darius the Persian.**



The Medo-Persian Empire- Dan 5:31

BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE

- 1) He was a Median (i.e.- Mede) (Dan 5:31; 11:1)
 - He was not the same Darius who reinstated the decree to rebuild the temple (i.e.- Darius I or Darius the Great) because he was Persian (Neh 12:22)
 - He was not Gobryas because Gobryas was also Persian
- 2) He was of the seed of the Medes (Dan 9:1)
 - Since he was of the seed of the Medes, his father was also a Mede
 - He was not Cyrus because, while Cyrus was part Mede through his mother Mandane, his father Cambyses I was Persian
- 3) He was the son of Ahasuerus (Dan 9:1)
 - AHASUERUS (pronounced *Uh-haz-yoo-air-us* or *Uh-haz-your-us*) was a throne name (e.g.- Pharaoh) given to the king of Persia that means, “great warrior” or “lion king”
 - The title was attributed to the kings of Persia descended from the line of Achaemenes but also to the Median kings that ruled over Persia between the time of the affinity between the two kingdoms and the reign of Cyrus
 - Since Darius the Mede ruled when Babylon fell, the father of Darius the Mede ruled before the fall of Babylon
 - If Darius the Mede is the Cyaxares II of the *Cyropaedia*, then the Ahasuerus of Daniel 9:1 would be ASTYAGES, who was the king of the MEDES from 585 BC- 550 BC

The Medo-Persian Empire- Dan 5:31



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- 4) He was about 62 years old when Babylon fell in 537 BC, which means he was born around 600 BC (Dan 5:31)
- Most secular histories place Cyrus' birth in or around 600 BC which, if true, would make him "about 62 years old" when Babylon fell
 - Cyrus was not Darius the Mede, but if he was 62 years old when he conquered Babylon he would have violated ancient Persian custom by performing military service beyond the age of 50 years old- something he would NEVER have done as a descendent of the Persian royal bloodline of Achaemenes
 - The Cyropaedia cites that the custom for mature Persian men was to devote 25 years to military training and service between the ages of 25-50 years old, after which they retired from military service as "elders"

"And when they have completed the five-and-twenty years, they are, as one would expect, somewhat more than fifty years of age; and then they come out and take their places among those who really are, as they are called, the "elders".

Now these elders, in their turn, no longer perform form military service outside their own country, but they remain at home and try all sorts of cases, both public and private".- *Cyropaedia*, 1.2.13-14

- Cyrus was more likely born between 580-585 BC (e.g.- 584 BC), making him between 43-48 years old when Babylon fell and 15-20 years younger than Darius the Mede
- This age difference could reflect that Darius the Mede was Cyrus' uncle Cyaxares II

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 5:31



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- 5) He took the kingdom of Babylon when it fell to Cyrus and his armies in 537 BC (Dan 5:31)
- TOOK= Aramaic *qebal*= appears 3x in the OT and is translated TOOK 1x (Dan 5:31); SHALL TAKE 1x (Dan 7:18); and SHALL RECEIVE 1x (Dan 2:6)
 - The word implies the power and authority to acquire and possess

Dan 2:6

But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye **shall receive** of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

Dan 7:18

But the saints of the most High **shall take** the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

- Cyrus led the armies that conquered Babylon but he was not the king of the Medes and Persians at the time, Darius the Mede was
- The only person in any secular history corresponding to this is Cyaxares II in Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 11:1



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- 6) He was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans (Dan 9:1)
 - The Lord made him king over the lands of the Babylonian empire by using the Medes (Isa 13:17; Jer 51:11,28) and Cyrus (Isa 41:2; 45:1; 46:11; Jer 51:27) the Persian general as his instrument of judgment against Babylon
- 7) The angel of the Lord stood to confirm and strengthen him (Dan 11:1)
 - CONFIRM= “to make firm, or more firm; to fix more firmly; to settle or establish; to make certain; to ratify”
 - Why would the angel of the Lord need to CONFIRM Darius the Mede (as king) in the first year of his reign, and why did the angel of the Lord tell Daniel this in the third year of Cyrus’ reign (Dan 10:1)?

Dan 10:1,18-21

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

18 Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,

19 And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

20 Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.

21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 11:1



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

Dan 11:1

Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.

- As a descendent of Achaemenes and son of Cambyses I, the king of Anshan, Cyrus became the co-regent of Persia on his 25th birthday in 559 BC, but, through his mother Mandane (the daughter of Astyages), he was also in the line of succession to the throne of Media
- The Lord himself raised up Cyrus, went before him, and held him by his right hand to subdue nations before him like dust to his sword (Isa 41:2; 45:1-2)
- By the time Cyrus and his armies had marched on Babylon he had already won their hearts and allegiance
- There was also a spiritual principality over Persia that fought against the Lord in heavenly places (Dan 10:13,20) cf. (Eph 6:12) that sought to corrupt Cyrus with unrestrained power and wealth

Dan 10:13

But **the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me** one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with **the kings of Persia.**

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 11:1

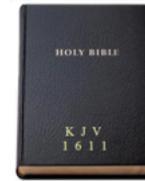


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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- After he conquered Babylon in 537 BC, he took up temporary residence in the royal palace and his men endeared him as a conquering king, giving him a procession down the main thoroughfare of Babylon befitting of a king (rather than just a general)
- Since Cyrus was a lost man at the time of the fall of Babylon, he could have easily allowed his God-given successes to “go to his head” and given in to all the temptations and evil influences around him
- He could proclaimed himself king of the new empire and forced Darius the Mede to abdicate the throne to him and no one would have resisted him
- It is apparent that the Lord continued to hold Cyrus by his right hand and prevented him from taking the kingdom
- It is also during this time that someone, probably Daniel, showed him the detailed prophecies of Isaiah regarding him (Isa 41:2-3,25; 44:28; 45:1-5,13; 46:11), including being named over 125 years before he was born- all so that Cyrus would know that the Lord is God and there is none else (Isa 45:3,5) and CALL UPON HIS NAME (Isa 41:25) and be saved (Rom 10:13) cf. (Ezr 1:1-4 note)
- How could such a meeting between Daniel and Cyrus come about?

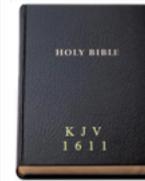
The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 11:1



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- It is very likely that Cyrus, as the highest ranking official onsite at Babylon, looked to form a transitional government to establish order
- It is important for a transitional government to retain officials from the prior government to ease the people's fears and make the transition as seamless as possible
- Cyrus would have vetted Babylonian diplomats and officials to determine who he could trust to serve in the transitional government and he would likely have started with the highest ranking officials left in the city, and that was DANIEL
- Nabonidus, the king of Babylon, was either killed in Borsippa or exiled to Carmania, and his son and vice-regent Belshazzar was killed during the fall of Babylon (Dan 5:30)
- But before he was killed by the Medes and Persians, Belshazzar officially appointed Daniel to be "the third ruler in the kingdom" (Dan 5:29)
- So a meeting or series of meetings certainly took place between Cyrus and Daniel that secured Daniel a prominent place in the transitional government, but also secured Cyrus a place in heaven as Daniel gave him the word of God and he called upon the name of the Lord and was saved



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