

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

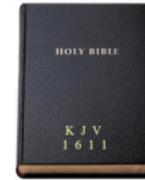
A dreadful and terrible beast
(64 BC- Second Coming of Christ)

The Final Form of Rome

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



The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 11:1



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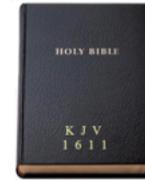
BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- At some point shortly after the fall of Babylon, and possibly after the work of establishing a transitional government was completed, Cyrus' wife Cassandane died
- According to Herodotus, a time of mourning was observed across the new empire (*The Histories* 2.1); and according to the *Chronicle of Nabonidus*, the city of Babylon observed six days of public mourning
- Cyrus, devastated with grief, would have wanted to return to Persia as soon as possible
- According to Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*, Cyrus did leave Babylon once he determined things were stable enough for him to be absent- the time of his departure may have coincided with the death of his wife

“When it seemed to him that affairs in Babylon were sufficiently well organized for him to absent himself from the city, he began to make preparations for his journey to Persia and issued instructions to the others accordingly. And as soon as he had got together in sufficient quantity, as he believed, everything that he thought he should need, he started at once.”- *Cyropaedia*, 8.5.1

- With the hearts of the people and allegiance of the military behind him, the conditions were perfect for Cyrus to return to Media and take the throne from his uncle Cyaxares II (i.e.- Darius the Mede)

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 11:1



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- When Cyrus returned to Ecbatana, he could very well have issued Cyaxares an ultimatum to abdicate the throne but instead, according to the *Cyropaedia*, he brought him some of the spoils and informed him that all the affairs had been settled, and the royal palace in Babylon was prepared for him
- This act of humility and allegiance by Cyrus to Cyaxares is not directly mentioned in the Bible, but it qualifies as the fulfillment of the angel of the Lord confirming and strengthening Darius the Mede (as king) (Dan 11:1)
- Cyaxares accepted and presented his daughter (i.e.- Cyrus' first cousin) in marriage to the widowed Cyrus, along with the entire kingdom of Medes as her dowry since he had no son to succeed him as king

“As they continued their march and came near to Media, Cyrus turned aside to visit Cyaxares. And when they had exchanged greetings, the first thing Cyrus told Cyaxares was that a palace had been selected for him in Babylon, and official headquarters, so that he might occupy a residence of his own whenever he came there; and then he also gave him many splendid presents.

Cyaxares accepted them and then introduced to him his daughter, who brought him a golden crown and bracelets and a necklace and the most beautiful Median robe that could be found.

As the princess placed the crown on Cyrus's head, Cyaxares said, "And the maiden herself, my own daughter, I offer you as well, Cyrus, to be your wife. Your father married my father's daughter, whose son you are. This is she whom you used often to pet when you came to visit us when you were a boy. And whenever anybody asked her whom she was going to marry, she would say 'Cyrus.' And with her I offer you all Media as a dowry, for I have no legitimate male issue.”- *Cyropaedia*, 8.5.17-19

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 11:1



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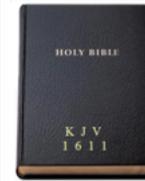
BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- Cyrus accepted and obtained approval from his parents when he went to Persia
- When he returned to Ecbatana, he married the daughter of Cyaxares and became the co-regent and successor to the throne of the entire empire of the Medes and Persians

“Thus he spoke, and Cyrus answered: "Well, Cyaxares, I heartily approve of your family and your daughter and your gifts. And I desire, with the approval of my father and mother, to accept your offer." Thus Cyrus answered; but still he made the young lady presents of everything that he thought would please Cyaxares as well as herself. And when he had done so, he proceeded on his way to Persia.

When, on his way back, he came to Media, Cyrus wedded the daughter of Cyaxares, for he had obtained the consent of his father and mother. And to this day people still tell of her wonderful beauty. (But some historians say that he married his mother's sister. But that maid must certainly have been a very old maid.) And when he was married he at once departed with his bride for Babylon.” - *Cyropaedia*, 8.5.20,28

- If the angel of the Lord had not stood up to confirm and strengthen Darius the Mede (i.e.- Cyaxares II) in the first year of his reign (i.e.- 537 BC) (Dan 11:1), then the “prince of Persia” (Dan 10:13,20) could have hindered Cyrus from getting saved and caused him to seize the throne from Darius after the fall of Babylon
- If Cyrus had seized the throne, Darius the Mede would have abdicated or been executed, and would never have gone to Babylon
- If Darius had never gone to Babylon, he would never have met Daniel and appointed him as first president of the reformed government (Dan 6:1-3)



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