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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 6:1

BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

7) Following the fall of Babylon, Darius the Mede reorganized the government and set up 120 princes (i.e.- governors; satraps) over the kingdom (Dan 6:1)

Dan 6:1

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

- The *Cyropaedia* attributes this division to Cyrus but it is possible that Cyrus carried out the orders from Darius the Mede or Darius the Mede made the temporary order that Cyrus set up a permanent one by royal mandate

“When he arrived in Babylon, he decided to send out satraps to govern the nations he had subdued. But the commanders of the garrisons in the citadels and the colonels in command of the guards throughout the country he wished to be responsible to no one but himself. This provision he made with the purpose that if any of the satraps, on the strength of the wealth or the men at their command, should break out into open insolence or attempt to refuse obedience, they might at once find opposition in their province.”-
Cyropaedia 8.6.1

- The phrase IT PLEASSED DARIUS (v.1) implies that someone else (i.e.- Cyrus) had the idea of setting up 120 princes over the provinces of the empire and Darius adopted it

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 6:2-3



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

8) He set up three presidents over the 120 princes (i.e.- one for every 40) and appointed Daniel as the first president because an excellent spirit was in him (Dan 6:2-3)

Dan 6:2-3

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.

- The three presidents that were appointed could have taken up residence in each of the three capitals established in the Medo-Persian empire: (1) Ecbatana; (2) Susa; and (3) Babylon

“Cyrus himself made his home in the centre of his domain, and in the winter season **he spent seven months in Babylon**, for there the climate is warm; in the spring he spent **three months in Susa**, and in the height of summer **two months in Ecbatana**. By so doing, they say, he enjoyed the warmth and coolness of perpetual spring-time.”-
Cyropaedia, 8.6.22

- If so, then Daniel, being the first president, was set in Babylon- at least until his apparent retirement in the first year of Cyrus (Dan 10:1,4)
- Making Daniel the first president implies that Darius the Mede went to Babylon and not only met Daniel but developed a close and trusting relationship with him

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 6:4-5



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

9) He was the king who witnessed “the gospel according to Daniel” (Dan 6:4-24)

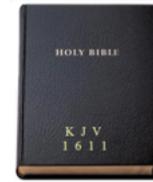
Dan 6:4-5

4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

- Since Daniel was not a Mede or Persian, but a Jew and former official of the Babylonian government, the other two presidents and the 120 princes were incensed and envious over his appointment to first president
- They tried to find any flaw in Daniel that could be used against him to have him killed or at least removed from office, but found nothing (Dan 6:4)
- They decided that the only way they could get rid of him was to use his devotion to the Lord against him (Dan 6:5)
- They conspired on a plan that would force Daniel to choose between being obedient to the word of the king and being obedient to the word of God

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 6:6-9



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

Dan 6:6-9

6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, **King Darius**, live for ever.

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

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

- They knew Daniel would choose the word of God so the plan also included forcing the king into a situation where he had to choose between altering the law of the Medes and Persians or abiding by it
- They knew the king would choose to abide by the law of the Medes and Persians because to do otherwise would result in his removal from the throne or death, and he would not choose Daniel's life over his own
- So the presidents and princes came to Darius the Mede and requested he establish a royal decree that whosoever would make a petition to any God or man except to the king for 30 days, would be cast into the den of lions (Dan 6:6-8)
- For whatever reason, Darius signed the decree and it went into effect (Dan 6:9)

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 6:10-13



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

Dan 6:10-13

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

- In spite of the decree, Daniel continued to pray to the Lord three times a day; and as a result, the presidents and princes caught him deliberately and repeatedly violating the law of the Medes and Persians (Dan 6:10-11)
- Men from among the presidents and princes formally accused Daniel before Darius and demanded that the penalty for violating the law be carried out (Dan 6:12-13)

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 6:14-17



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

Dan 6:14-17

14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

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.

17 And **a stone was** brought, and **laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it** with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

- Darius was displeased that he had allowed himself to be manipulated in this manner and tried all day to find a way to avoid having Daniel cast into the den of lions, but he could not (Dan 6:14-15)
- Darius reluctantly had Daniel arrested, but before having him cast into the den of lions, he confessed and exhorted him that his God would deliver him (Dan 6:16)
- Daniel was then cast into the den of lions and a stone was laid upon the mouth of the den and sealed with the king's signet (Dan 6:17), just like a sealed stone was rolled before the door of the sepulchre of Jesus (Matt 27:66; Mark 15:46)

Mark 15:46

And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and **rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre**.

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 6:18-19



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

Matt 27:66

So they went, and **made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone**, and setting a watch.

Dan 6:18-19

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose **very early in the morning**, and went in haste **unto the den of lions**.

- Darius could not sleep all night and came VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING to the den of lions (6:18-19) just like the women came to the sepulchre of Jesus VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING (Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1)

Mark 16:2

And **very early in the morning** the first day of the week, they came **unto the sepulchre** at the rising of the sun.

Luke 24:1

Now upon the first day of the week, **very early in the morning**, they came **unto the sepulchre**, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 6:20-23



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

Dan 6:20-23

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of **the living God**, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and **hath shut the lions' mouths**, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So **Daniel was taken up out of the den**, and **no manner of hurt was found upon him**, because he believed in his God.

- Darius cried out to Daniel to see if the Lord delivered him from the lions and Daniel responded that he had shut the lions' mouths (Dan 6:20-22) cf. (Psa 22:13)
- Darius ordered that Daniel be raised up out of the den and when he came up, there was no manner of hurt upon him (Dan 6:23), just as it was with his three companions when they came out of the fiery furnace (Dan 3:25,27)

Dan 3:25,27

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and **they have no hurt**; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 6:24



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

Dan 6:24

And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast *them* into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

- Darius then ordered that the men who formally accused Daniel, along with their wives and children, be cast into the den of lions (Dan 6:24)
- Darius the Mede had indeed witnessed “the gospel according to Daniel”
- Daniel, a type of Christ was unjustly accused, condemned, and cast into a pit of judgment, only to be raised in victory
- Darius the Mede, like Nebuchadnezzar before him (Dan 3:25,28-29), witnessed the angel of the Lord delivering his own from certain death (Dan 6:22)

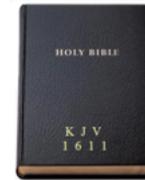
Dan 3:25,28-29

25 He answered and said, Lo, **I see four men loose**, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and **the form of the fourth is like the Son of God**.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, **Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word**, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

29 Therefore **I make a decree**, That **every people, nation, and language**, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because **there is no other God that can deliver after this sort**.

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 6:25-27



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

10) He got saved as a result of the “gospel” witness he received from Daniel

Dan 6:25-27

25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

- The decree of Darius the Mede (6:25-27) was his response to the “gospel” witness he received from Daniel
- In it, he declares that the God of Daniel is THE LIVING GOD
- This concise statement from a man that is supposed to be a pagan and idolatrous king is extremely powerful
- By calling the Lord THE LIVING GOD he was confessing that the Lord is the ONLY God and ALL other “gods” are dead
- This decree was sent to his entire empire, to millions of people of various religions who worshipped multitudes of gods and idols, including his own Median countrymen

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 6:25-27



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- Darius the Mede could only make this confession if he had repented and turned to the Lord in faith
- This decree of Darius the Mede, like the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar before him (Dan 4:34-37), is fruit of his salvation

Dan 4:34-37

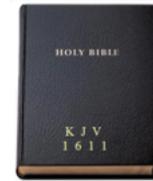
34 And at the end of the days **I Nebuchadnezzar** lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I **blessed the most High**, and **I praised and honoured him** that liveth for ever, **whose dominion is an everlasting dominion**, and **his kingdom is from generation to generation**:

35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

37 Now **I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven**, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

The Revised Roman Empire- Daniel 11:1



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BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

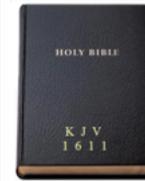
- If the angel of the Lord had not stood up to confirm and strengthen Darius the Mede (i.e.- Cyaxares II) in the first year of his reign (i.e.- 537 BC) then Cyrus would have seized the throne
- If Cyrus had seized the throne, then Darius would never have gone to Babylon
- If Darius had never gone to Babylon, then he would never have met Daniel
- If he never had met Daniel, then he would not have witnessed “the gospel according to Daniel” and been saved
- The testimonies of Darius the Mede, Cyrus the Great, and Nebuchadnezzar would not exist unless a child named Daniel was taken into captivity to Babylon and remained faithful to the Lord throughout his life in spite of all the trials and tribulations
- What a beautiful example of Romans 8:28 and 2 Peter 3:9, and the lengths our Lord will go to for the salvation of just one soul

Rom 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2 Pet 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.



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