

Mt. Pleasant  
Bible Institute  
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*Dr. Joseph Speciale, Instructor*

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

**Lee Swor, Pastor**

# 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- Daniel 6:28



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## BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

### **Dan 6:28**

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

11) Darius the Mede was succeeded to the throne by Cyrus the Great after a short reign

- Daniel served as first president during the entire reign of Darius the Mede through the first year of the reign of Cyrus (Dan 1:21)
- In the third year of the reign of Cyrus (Dan 10:1), Daniel had retired from his government position and was living by the Hiddekel (i.e.- Tigris) river (Dan 10:4) which is about 50 miles east of Babylon

### **Dan 10:1-4**

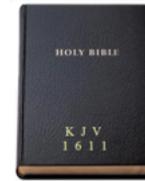
**1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel**, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

**2** In those days **I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.**

**3** I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

**4** And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as **I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel;**

# The Medo-Persian Empire- Daniel 6:28

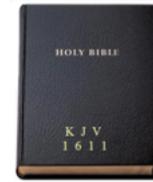


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## BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

- He had been mourning and fasting for three whole weeks (Dan 10:2-3), possibly because of the death of Shadrach, Meshach, or Abed-nego
- It was at this time that he received the revelation of things to come documented as a continuing narrative in Daniel 10:5-12:13
- Since Daniel was alive during the third year of Cyrus, he would have been at 91-92 years old at the time based on the following:
  1. A child is a person who is younger than 20 years old and a man is 20 years or older (Num 14:29-33)
  2. Daniel is called a CHILD in Daniel 1 (Dan 1:4,6,17) when he was taken into captivity during the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim and the first year of Nebuchadnezzar and the 70-year Babylonian captivity (Dan 1:1 note) (i.e.- 606 BC), but a MAN one year later in Daniel 2 during the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 2:1,25) (i.e.- 605 BC)
  3. Based on Numbers 14:29-33, Daniel would have been 19 years old when the Babylonian captivity began in 606 BC
  4. Since he lived throughout the 70 year captivity, he would have been 89 years old when it ended with the fall of Babylon to the Medes and Persians

# The Medo-Persian Empire- Daniel 6:28



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## BIBLE TRUTHS REGARDING DARIUS THE MEDE (cont'd)

5. Since Darius the Mede was king when Babylon fell and he was succeeded by Cyrus, and Daniel was alive in the third year of the reign of Cyrus, then Daniel would have been at least 93 years old in the third year of Cyrus (assuming Darius the Mede reigned just 1 year)
  - It is unlikely that Daniel lived beyond 95 years old, so the reign of Darius the Mede was probably between 1-2 years (i.e.- 537 BC- 536 BC)
  - Darius the Mede was ABOUT 62 years old (i.e.- 61 years old) when Babylon fell in 537 BC (Dan 5:31) so it is conceivable that he died within 1-2 years thereafter

## CONCLUSION

- All 11 of these Bible truths regarding Darius the Mede support the theory that he was the man known in Xenophon's *Cyropaedia* as **Cyaxares II**
- Darius the Mede (i.e.- Cyaxares II) was the son of Ahasuerus (i.e.- Astyages), of the seed of the Medes (Dan 9:1)
- He was born in 598 BC, which was the 8th year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the year of the second deportation to Babylon under Jehoiachin (2 Kin 24:12)
- He became sole ruler of the kingdom of the Medes upon the death of his father Asytages in 550 BC and ruled 14 years (i.e.- 550 BC- 536 BC)



## The Medo-Persian Empire- Daniel 6:28

### CONCLUSION (cont'd)

- He became the first ruler of the new Medo-Persian empire following the fall of Babylon in 537 BC, and is represented by the lower of the two horns on the ram in Daniel 8:3,20
- He only ruled the new empire for 1-2 years (i.e.- 537 BC- 536 BC) before he died around 536 BC at the age of 62-63 years old
- Upon his death, the Medo-Persian empire officially and peaceably passed to Cyrus, the king of the Persians
- Cyrus was the nephew of Darius the Mede (through his mother Mandane) and general over all his armies, but was also made co-regent when he married his daughter- Darius the Mede gave Cyrus the entire kingdom as her dowry
- While most contemporary commentaries offer various viewpoints on the identity of Darius the Mede that do not include the possibility of him being Cyaxares II, a number of past commentators did identify him as Cyaxares II in spite of not having the technology and resources at their disposal as we do today

# The Medo-Persian Empire- Daniel 6:28



## COMMENTATORS WHO IDENTIFIED DARIUS THE MEDE AS CYAXARES II

1) R.A. Torrey- *Treasury Of Scripture Knowledge*, Daniel 5:31 note

**Darius:** This was Cyaxares, son of Astyages, king of Media, and maternal uncle to Cyrus, who allowed him the title of his conquests, as long as he lived. Dan 6:1, Dan 9:1

2) Albert Barnes- *Barnes Notes On The Whole Bible*, Daniel 5:31 note

**And Darius the Median took the kingdom** - The city and kingdom were actually taken by Cyrus, though acting in the name and by the authority of Darius, or Cyaxares, who was his uncle. For a full explanation of the conquests of Cyrus, and of the reason why the city is said to have been taken by Darius, see the notes at Isa 41:2. In regard to the question who Darius the Median was, see the Introduction to Daniel 6, section II. This Darius is supposed to be Cyaxares II. (Introduction to Dan. 6 Section II.), the son and successor of *Astyages*, the uncle and father-in-law of Cyrus, who held the empire of Media between Astyages and Cyrus, 569-536 b.c.

**About** - Margin, “or, now.” The word, both in the text and the margin, is designed to express the supposed sense of his “being the son of sixty years.” The language of the original would, however, be accurately expressed by saying that he was then sixty years old. Though Cyrus was the active agent in taking Babylon, yet it was done in the name and by the authority of Cyaxares or Darius; and as he was the actual sovereign, the name of his general - Cyrus - is not mentioned here, though he was in fact the most important agent in taking the city, and became ultimately much more celebrated than Darius was.

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## COMMENTATORS WHO IDENTIFIED DARIUS THE MEDE AS CYAXARES II

### 3) Adam Clarke- *Clarke's Commentary*, Daniel 5:31 note

**Darius the Median took the kingdom** - This is supposed to be the same as Cyaxares, son of Astyages and maternal uncle of Cyrus, to whom he gave the throne of Babylon, after himself had had the honor of taking the city.

Daniel speaks nothing of the war that raged between the Babylonians and the Medes; but Isaiah speaks particularly of it, chap. 13, 14, 45, Isa 46:1-13, Isa 47:1-15.; and so does Jeremiah, chap. 50, 51. I need not add, that it is largely spoken of by profane authors. The Medes and Persians were confederates in the war; the former under Darius, the latter under Cyrus. Both princes are supposed to have been present at the taking of this city. Mandane, daughter of Astyages, was mother of Cyrus, and sister to Cyaxares.

### 4) Robert Jamieson, Andrew Fausset, and David Brown- *Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary*, Daniel 5:31 note

**Darius the Median** — that is, Cyaxares II, the son and successor of Astyages, 569-536 b.c. Though Koresh, or Cyrus, was leader of the assault, yet all was done in the name of Darius; therefore, he alone is mentioned here; but Dan 6:28 shows Daniel was not ignorant of Cyrus' share in the capture of Babylon. Isa 13:17; Isa 21:2, confirm Daniel in making the Medes the leading nation in destroying Babylon. So also Jer 51:11, Jer 51:28. Herodotus, on the other hand, omits mentioning Darius, as that king, being weak and sensual, gave up all the authority to his energetic nephew, Cyrus [Xenophon, *Cyropaedia*, 1.5; 8.7].

**threescore and two years old** — This agrees with Xenophon [*Cyropaedia*, 8.5, 19], as to Cyaxares II.

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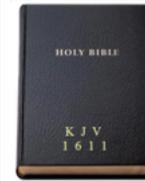
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## COMMENTATORS WHO IDENTIFIED DARIUS THE MEDE AS CYAXARES II

### 5) John Gill- *Gill's Commentary*, Daniel 5:31 note

**And Darius the Median took the kingdom**,.... This was Cyaxares the son of Astyages, and uncle of Cyrus; he is called the Median, to distinguish him from another Darius the Persian, that came after (Ezr 4:5), the same took the kingdom of Babylon from Cyrus who conquered it; he took it with his consent, being the senior prince and his uncle. Darius reigned not long, but two years; and not alone, but Cyrus with him, though he is only mentioned. Xenophon says, that Cyrus, after he took Babylon, set out for Persia, and took Media on his way; and, saluting Cyaxares or Darius, said that there was a choice house and court for him in Babylon, where he might go and live as in his own:

**being about threescore and two years old**; and so was born in the eighth year of Nebuchadnezzar, the year in which Jechoniah was carried captive (2 Kin 24:12), thus God in his counsels and providence took care that a deliverer of his people should be raised up and provided against the appointed time. Darius was older than Cyrus, as appears by several passages in Xenophon... it should be observed that those that make him (Cyrus) to reign thirty years begin his reign from the time of his being appointed commander-in-chief of the Medes and Persians by Cyaxares, which was twenty three years before he reigned alone, which was but seven years; and this account makes but very little difference in their age...



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