***THE 4 WORLD EMPIRES***

***Empire #2:***

***(Medo-Persia)***

***Website:*** [Healthy Christian Living - Living by the Blueprint](https://livingbytheblueprint.com/)

* In a Bible Class, we are to search the scriptures with the aid of our publications CW 112.1
* **Publications = Our Periodicals**

 “The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in **our books** and **periodicals**. **Our publications** are to show that the end of all things is at hand.” {ChS 146.1}

* **Our Periodicals = The Pioneer Writings, including Haskell’s writings** (CW 28.1-.2)
* **See ALSO 🡪** {1MR 55.1 }

 “…**LIKEWISE ASSYRIA, BABYLON, GREECE, AND ROME**; **WHATEVER THE NATION**(Medo-Persia in this case) **AND WHATEVER ITS PLACE IN TIME**, **ITS HISTORY IS NOTED BY THE DIVINE HISTORIAN ONLY DURING THE TIME WHEN IT HAS BEEN AN INSTRUMENT IN GOD'S HAND TO SPREAD HIS TRUTH, OR TO PROTECT HIS PEOPLE.” {1901 SNH, SDP 161.1}**

* Medo-Persia Ruled the World from B.C. 538 – B.C. 331

 **See 🡪** Daniel 5:30-31; Jeremiah 50:9; 51:9,11,28

***The Kings that Existed when they came in connection with the people of God were:***

* **1. Darius the Mede** (Daniel 5:38-39) (AKA Cyaxeres) {1878 UrS, TBI 50.1} Ruled 2 years (**B.C. 538-536**)

This is the Darius mentioned in Daniel 6 who was tricked into signing a decree that put Daniel in the Lion’s

 Den mentioned in Daniel 6:1 and 11:1

* **2. Cyrus the Persian –** Ruled 7 years (**B.C. 536-529**)

 Nephew of Darius the Mede

 Referred to as God’s “shepherd”(Isaiah 44:28) AND “anointed”(Isaiah 45:1)

 Made the 1st decree referred to in Ezra 6:14

 Mentioned in 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-2,7-8; 3:7; 4:3-5; 5:13-14,17; 6:3

 **3.** **Cambyses** – Ruled 7 yrs and 5 months (**till B.C. 522**)

 Son of Cyrus, named after his grandfather, Cyrus’ father

 He was slow in helping the decree of his father Cyrus move forward {See 🡪 RH, December 5, 1907 par. 6}

 Referred to in Daniel 11:2 as the 1st king (meaning the 1st after King Cyrus/”yet” to come)

* **4.** **False Smerdis** (the apostate) {See 🡪PK 572.2} - Ruled for 7 months (**in B.C. 522-521**)

Also referred to as “Artaxerxes” in Ezra 4, but not the Artaxerxes who made the 3rd Decree {See 🡪 PK 572.2}

 Stopped the decree made by Cyrus (Ezra 4:1-24, (especially 17,18, 21,24)

 Referred to in Daniel 11:2 as the 2nd king (meaning the 2nd after King Cyrus) “yet”

* **5. Darius the Persian** (Ezra 4:5) considered the greatest king ever of Persia 🡪 (1919, SBBS 308.3)

 aka Darius Hystaspes 🡪 {PK 598.2} - Ruled x 36 years (**from B.C. 521-486**)

 made the 2nd decree as mentioned in Ezra 6:14

 Mentioned in 🡪Ezra 4:5,24; 5:5-7,11-17; 6:1,12-15; Nehemiah 12:22; Haggai 1:1,15; 2:10;

 Zechariah 1:1,7; 7:1

 King Darius is referred to in Daniel 11:2 as the 3rd king(meaning the 3rd after King Cyrus)

* **6. Xerxes** – Ruled x 21 years **(from B.C. 486/485-465)**

 Son of Darius the Persian

 AKA ‘Xerxes the Great’

 AKA King Ahasuerues/Queen Esther’s husband (See 🡪 PK 598.2 and PK 602.3}

 Referred to in Daniel 11:2 as the 4th king (meaning 4th after King Cyrus) who is “richer than they all”

 Was the one mentioned in Daniel 11:2 that started messing with Grecia

* **7. Artaxerxes** – Ruled from B.C. 465-424

 Son of Xerxes

 Made the 3rd decree referred to in Ezra 6:14 and Ezra 7

 This was in the autumn of 457 B.C., during his 7th year reign (Ezra 7:1,7)

* **8-14. 7 more Kings**

 We are told that these were of no significance to be mentioned in the Bible

 See 🡪 1897 UrS, DAR 57.2

 See 🡪 DAR 248.3

* **15. Darius**(Darius III) (AKA Darius Codomanus) – Reigned from B.C. 335-331

 The last of the Persian kings

 aka the 8th king from Artaxerxes the I, he’s the 9th from King Xerxes the Great

Was highly respected by Alexander the Great. Alexander cried at his death 🡪 (1898 ATJ, GEP 177.2)

 He died in the War titled “The Battle of Arbela” fought between his kingdom and Alexander’s

 This war is shown in 🡪 Daniel 8:5-7

**MEDO-PERSIA, IS REFERRED TO AS:**

* **Breast and Arms of Silver** 🡪 Daniel 2:32,39
* **A Bear raised up on one side With 3 Ribs in its mouth** 🡪 Daniel 7:5

 **These 3 Ribs are:**

1. Babylon
2. Lydia
3. Egypt
* **A Ram which had 2 horns** 🡪 Daniel 8:3

 Coming out of the East 🡪 Daniel 8:4

 Being conquered by “Alexander the Great” in the “Battle of Arbela” in 331 B.C. 🡪 Daniel 8:5-7

**Medo-Persia also mentioned in Daniel 11:1-2**

The 4 Kings mentioned in vs:2 are:

1. Cambyses (son of Cyrus)
2. False Smerdis (AKA Pseudo Smerdis)
3. Darius (the Persian) AKA Darius Hystaspes (made the 2nd decree – Ezra 6:14)

 **See 🡪** SDP 166.2

1. Xerxes the Great (AKA King Ahasuerus, married to Esther) (son of Darius - 1898 ATJ, GEP 81.2 )

 **See 🡪** Daniel 11:1 and 10:1 Cyrus was the king at this time, so “yet” means the next kings after Cyrus

***THE PROPHETS AND OTHER GODLY MEN/WOMEN DURING MEDO-PERSIAN REIGN:***

1. **Daniel** – (until the 1st year of King Cyrus) 🡪 (Daniel 1:21)
2. **Zerubbabel** – (during reign of King Cyrus)(laid the foundation of the temple – Zechariah 4:9)
3. **Haggai** - (2nd year of Darius the Persian king, who made the 2nd Decree) 🡪 (Haggai 1:1)
4. **Zechariah** – (2nd year of Darius the Persian king, who made the 2nd Decree) 🡪 (Zechariah 1:1)
5. **Mordecai** – (during reign of Xerxes the Great, AKA King Ahasuerus) (Esther 2:1,5)
6. **Esther** (during reign of Xerxes the Great, AKA King Ahasuerus) (Esther 2:1,5)(she was his wife)
7. **Ezra** – (during 7th year Reign of Artaxerxes, son of Xerxes) 🡪 (Ezra 7:1,11-12)
8. **Nehemiah** – (built walls in 20th year of Artaxerxes) 🡪 (1901 SNH, SDP 176.3)
9. **Malachi –** Malachi, the last of the Old Testament prophets, who flourished a little season about B.C.397. {1897 UrS, DAR 19.2}

***THE DREAMS/VISIONS GIVEN TO DANIEL DURING THE DAYS OF MEDO-PERSIAN REIGN ARE:***

1. **Daniel** - (The 70 weeks of the 2300 days “determined” upon God’s people)

 1st year of Darius the Mede (this is B.C. 538)(9:1-2,21-22, 24-27)(See 🡪 Daniel 8:27)

1. **Daniel** – The Vision of Daniel 11

 3rd year of Cyrus, King of Persia (B.C. 534)-(Daniel 10:1,8,11-12,14,21, Daniel 11:2)

1. **Daniel** (Daniel 12, including the “Time of the End”, the “1290” and the “1335”)

3rd year of Cyrus, King of Persia

 **“…MEDO PERSIA COVERED ALL THE CIVILIZED PORTION OF ASIA…” (DAR 572.2)**

**“…MEDO-PERSIA WAS THE INSTRUMENT IN THE LORD'S HANDS TO PUNISH BABYLON…” {1901 SNH, SDP 76.2}**

 “**THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE WAS BORN WHEN THE TIME WAS RIPE FOR ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF BABYLON. THE FIRST KING OF THE UNITED EMPIRE WAS DARIUS THE MEDE. HE WAS A MAN WELL ADVANCED IN LIFE WHEN HE CAME TO THE THRONE; THREESCORE AND TWO YEARS OLD, THE RECORD STATES. BUT THROUGHOUT HIS REIGN, GABRIEL STOOD BY HIM "TO CONFIRM AND TO STRENGTHEN HIM." TO DARIUS WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO LIBERATE THE JEWS. THE SPIRIT OF GOD PLEADED WITH HIM, AND IT BROUGHT DANIEL INTO HIS FAVOR, SO THAT HE PLACED THE PROPHET IN THE THIRD POSITION IN THE KINGDOM. DARIUS KNEW OF GOD AND HIS POWER, FOR IT WAS HE WHO SPENT THE SLEEPLESS NIGHT IN PRAYER WHILE DANIEL WAS IN THE LIONS' DEN. DARIUS, HOWEVER, DID NO GREAT WORK FOR THE LORD. HE REIGNED BUT TWO YEARS, WHEN CYRUS TOOK THE KINGDOM.” {1901 SNH, SDP 161.3}**

 “**THE MEDO-PERSIAN KINGDOM WAS BLOODTHIRSTY AND CRUEL IN ITS NATURE, AND IS REPRESENTED BY A BEAR. DARIUS WAS A MEDE; AND CYRUS, THE LEADING GENERAL, A PERSIAN. DARIUS THE MEDE TOOK THE BABYLONIAN KINGDOM, AND RULED FOR A SHORT TIME. CYRUS THE PERSIAN WAS THE LEADING SPIRIT IN THE GOVERNMENT AFTER DARIUS HAD PASSED AWAY. THE BEAR, AS WELL AS THE OTHER BEASTS WHICH FOLLOWED THE LION, REPRESENTED KINGDOMS YET IN THE FUTURE AT THE TIME DANIEL SAW THE VISION. THE BEAR OF DANIEL SEVEN SYMBOLIZES THE SAME POWER AS THE RAM OF CHAPTER EIGHT, WHICH THE ANGEL THERE TELLS THE PROPHET REPRESENTS THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE. THE HISTORY OF THIS EMPIRE GIVEN IN THE ELEVENTH CHAPTER OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL, AND THE STUDY OF THAT CHAPTER TOGETHER WITH THE THIRTEENTH AND TWENTY-FIRST CHAPTERS OF ISAIAH, WILL REVEAL THE BEAR-LIKE CHARACTER OF THE NATION WHICH AROSE AND DEVOURED MUCH FLESH. THE HISTORY OF THE SECOND GREAT KINGDOM COVERS THE YEARS FROM 538 TO 331 B. C.”** **{1901 SNH, SDP 91.2}**

***TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MEDO-PERSIA, READ THE FOLLOWING:***

* SDP 35.1-.3; 93.1; 162.1; 179.1; 180.1-.2; 184.1; 201.2; 216.2;
* SSP 226
* DAR 56.2-57.3; 127.4-128; 170.2; 572.2;

**BOOK ABBREVIATIONS:**

* SDP = Story of Daniel the Prophet by: Stephen N. Haskell (See 🡪9T 73.1-.2)
* SSP = Story of the Seer of Patmos by: Stephen N. Haskell (See🡪9T 73.1-.2)
* DAR = Daniel and the Revelation by: Uriah Smith (See 🡪1MR 60.6-61,2; 62.3-63.1/.4)
* 9T = Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9
* 1MR = Manuscript Releases, Volume 1