

THE ABSENTEE KING OF BABYLON



- **Nabonidus** was usually off on a military excursion, and only rarely home to rule on the throne
- **Belshatzar** ruled in his father's stead as a kind of junior king
- **Belshatzar** ruled for 12 or 13 years of his father's 17-year kingship

Kings of Babylon

Ruler	Reigned	Comments
Nabopolassar	626 – 605 BC	First king of Neo-Babylonian Empire
Nebuchadnezzar	605 – 562 BC	Son
Amel-Marduk	562 – 560 BC	Son, murdered
Neriglissar	560 – 556 BC	Brother in law
Labashi-Marduk	556 BC	Son, probably still a child, murdered
Nabonidus	556 – 539 BC	Son is Belshatzar

DANIEL IS SUMMONED

- *Belshatzar* throws a drunken party and foolishly decides to use the Temple goblets for wine to toast his gods
- A hand appears and writes some mysterious objects on the palace wall
- Daniel is called to interpret, but first tells *Belshatzar* that he is nothing compared to *Nebuchadnezzar*
- Whereas God forgave *Nebuchadnezzar*, *Belshatzar* was already judged with no chance of reprieve





- There is a spiritual line drawn by God that disqualifies a person from membership in the Kingdom of God
- Public pronouncements of faith, positions of leadership in Ministry, and use of Christian lingo doesn't negate that line
- Belshatzar had crossed the line and his destiny became Hell

WHY COULDN'T THE CHALDEAN SEERS READ THE WRITING?

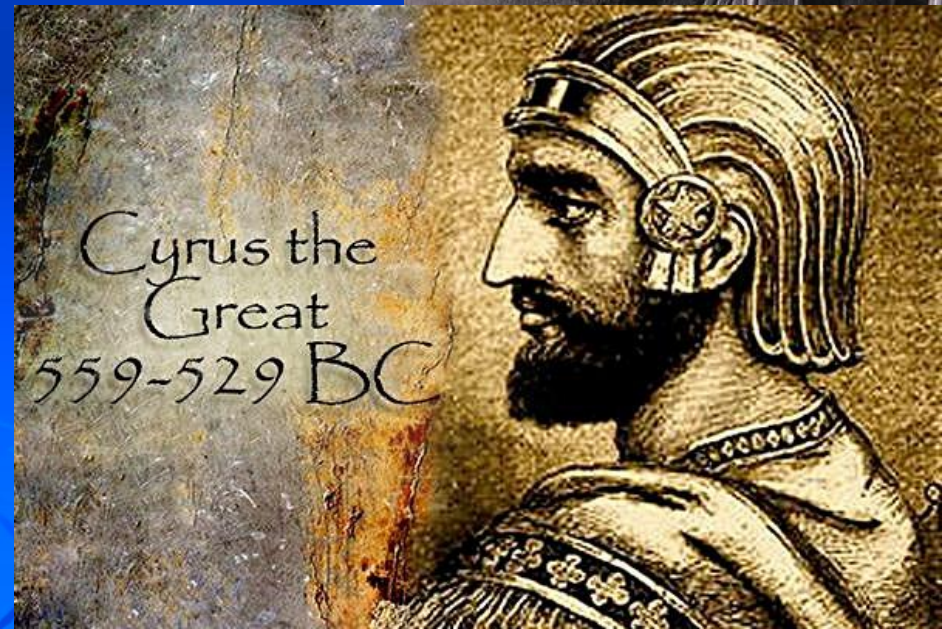
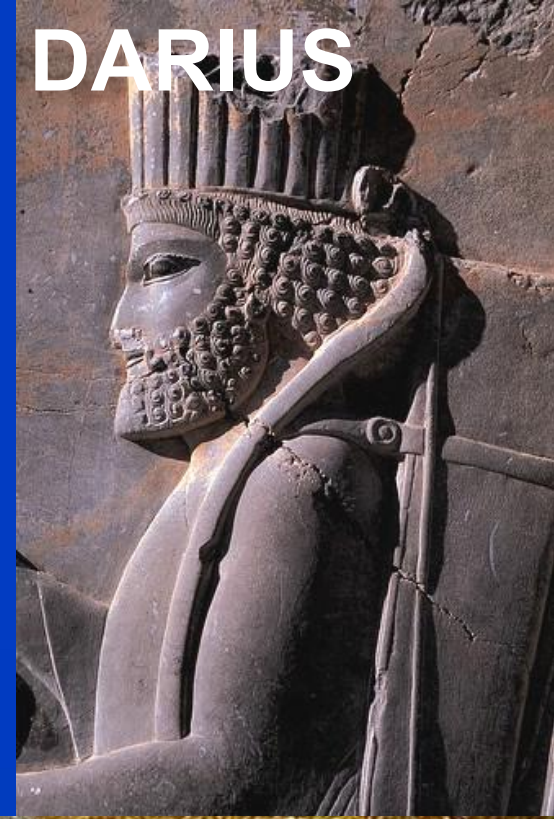


- The writing on the wall amounted to *Belshatzar's* epitaph
- Possibly were idea grams
- *Mene* = numbered
- *Tekel* = weighed
- *U* = and
- *Pharsin* = Persian
- *Belshatzar* believed Daniel and gave him the purple robe and gold necklace

DANIEL CHAPTER 6: WHO IS DARIUS?

DARIUS

- Some scholars say Darius is fictional
- Others say Darius is another name for Cyrus the Great
- Babylonian and Persian records don't agree about Darius, Cyrus or the conquest of Babylon



68 YEARS OF EXILE HAVE PASSED



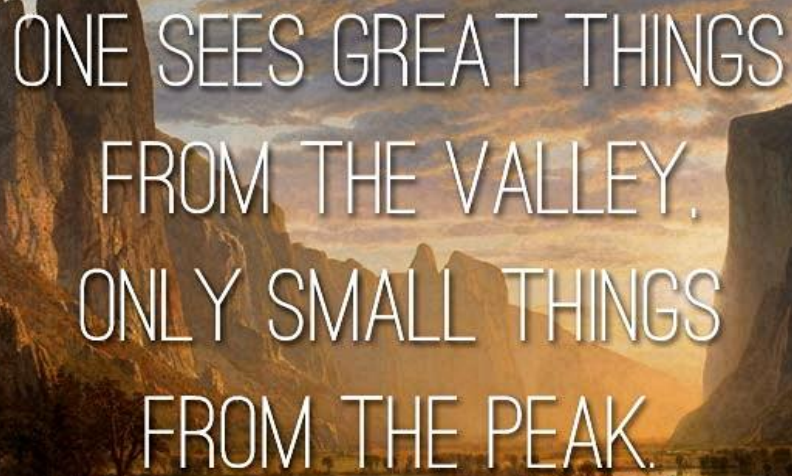
- Chapters 6 – 12 in 24 months
- Chapter 6 ends the “Historical” portion of Daniel
- Chapters 7 – 12 are about prophecy
- God will work in co-operation even with a foreign power
- Babylonian Exile meant, first, to subjugate, and then later to liberate
- Pattern repeats in End Times



Knowing God

An open book with a bookmark is resting on a wooden surface. The background shows a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with mountains in the distance. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow.

- Knowing God only occurs via a Christ-purified heart
- Those who haven't been purified see Daniel as naturalistic and mythical because they have no means to comprehend the deep spiritual insights
- Faith shall always be the prerequisite to knowing God, admission to Heaven, & seeing God face to face



ONE SEES GREAT THINGS
FROM THE VALLEY,
ONLY SMALL THINGS
FROM THE PEAK.

- Life's journey will go from victorious peak to valleys of sorrow and despair, then back again
- It takes life experience to learn to relax in the Lord
- ***Daniel, Shadrakh, Meshakh*** and ***Aved-N'go*** show us the way
- Our trials and difficulties here on earth are NOT abnormal !!
- They are needed and to be expected

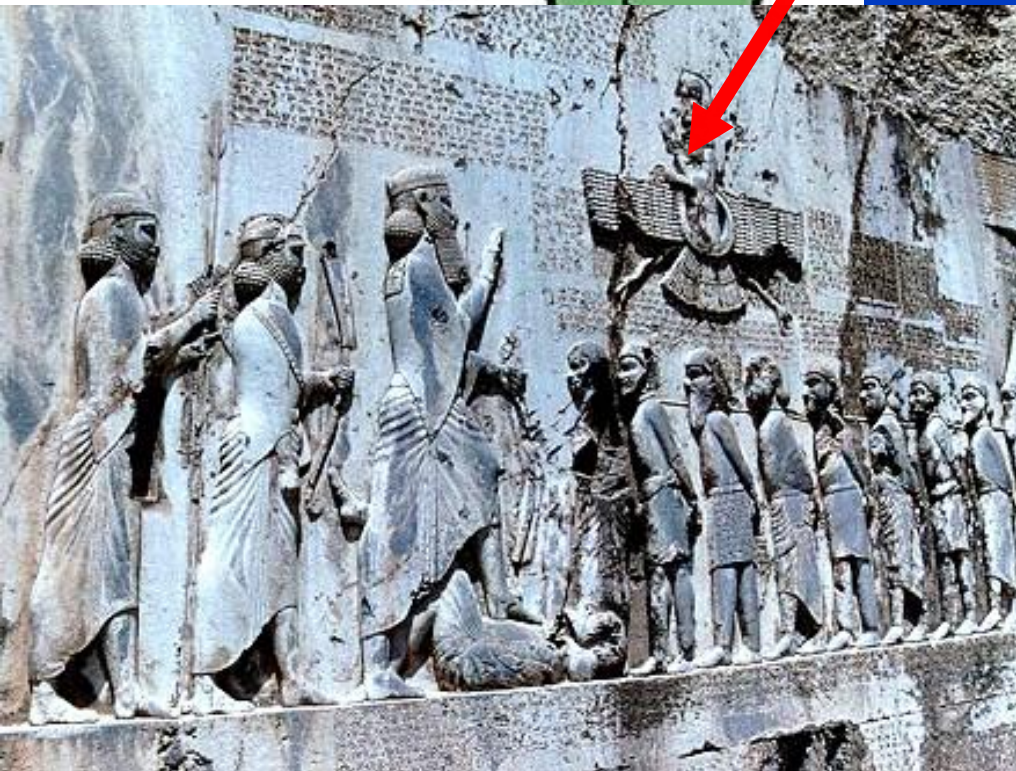


THE PUZZLE OF DARIUS THE MEDE

- Darius becomes King of Babylon at age 62
- “*The Kingdom PASSED to Darius*”
- Dan. 9:1 “*Darius...Mede...was MADE king over the Chaldeans..*”
- Somebody gave Darius the throne
- King *Koresh* (Cyrus) follows Darius
- Greek Historians Herodotus and Xenophon don't agree about kingly succession of Medes and Persians



MOUNT BEHISTUN



- Bas Relief, 50 x 70 ft.
- *“Thus speaks Darius the king.....father of Ariyamna was Cispis...”*
- Cyrus Cylinder
- *“ I am Cyrus, king of the world....king of Babylon....great-grandson of Cispis....”*
- Both Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian connect to Cispis

THE SILVER ARMS AND CHEST DEFEAT THE GOLD HEAD

- Cyrus claims to be the King of Babylon
- Josephus, Herodotus, Xenophon and others agree Cyrus conquered Babylon
- For some reason Cyrus appointed Darius to rule Babylon
- Later Cyrus removed Darius and took over the throne of Babylon



A PLOT AGAINST DANIEL



- Darius = *Daryavesh*
- 120 governors reported to 3 chiefs, including Daniel
- Daniel outshone all the others and Darius decided to put him over all the others
- Daniel's abilities were because of "an excellent spirit"
- Daniel had received the "Spiritual gift" of administration
- The chiefs decided to entrap him with his religion
- John 8:1 - 6