

6—The Writing on the Wall

“The Book of Daniel” (Ch. 5)

Pastor Mike Cooke

1. Neo-Babylonian (Chaldean) Emperors

- A. Nabopolassar (626-605)
 - 1) King of Babylon (626)
 - 2) Conquers Ninevah (Assyria) (612) see Nahum
 - 3) Defeats Pharaoh Necho at Carchemish (605) see Ezek 30, Jer 46
- B. Nebuchadnezzar II the Great (605-562)
 - 1) Sieges Jerusalem (605) Daniel captured
 - 2) Captures Jerusalem (598) 2 Kings 24:1-6
 - 3) Destroys Jerusalem (586) 2 Kings 25
- C. Amel-Marduk (562-560)
- D. Neriglissar (560-556)
- E. Nabonidus (556-539)
 - 1) Belshazzar was “Crown Prince” (552-543)
 - 2) Presumed killed in the invasion of Cyrus (539)
 - 3) Nabonidus Chronicle: *“The ninth year Nabonidus the king was in Tayma, while the prince (Belshazzar), the officers, and the army were in Akkad. The king, in the month Nisanu, to Babylon did not come. Nabu did not come to Babylon. Bel did not come out. The Akitu festival did not take place.”*

2. Persian (Achaemenid) Emperors

- A. Cyrus the Great (559-530)
 - 1) Overthrows Media in (550)
 - a) Bel and the Dragon 1
When King Astyages (last Median King) was laid with his fathers, Cyrus the Persian received his kingdom. (RSV)
 - 2) Conquers Babylon in (539) 2 Chron 36:22-23
- B. Cambyses II (530-522)
- C. Darius the Great (522-486) See Haggai, Zechariah, Nehemiah
 - 1) Jerusalem Temple complete in 515
 - 2) Developed coinage to unify the Persian Empire
 - 3) Organized the Empire into 20 “satrapies”
 - 4) Died at age 64
- D. Xerxes I (486-465)
 - 1) Darius (Crown Prince)
 - 2) Put to death by Artaxerxes on suspicion of murdering Xerxes
- E. Artaxerxes I (465-424) see Ezra, Nehemiah

3. Possible Identities for “Darius the Mede”

In the first year of Darius son of [Ahasuerus] (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom (Dan 9:1)

- A. Son of Astyges last King of the Medes (Josephus, Jerome)
- B. Cyaxares II son of Astyges (Xenophon)
- C. Darius and Cyrus are the same person (Dan 5:30)
- D. Cambyses II (not a Mede)
- E. Gubaru, general who took Babylon (not a king)
- F. Darius the Great projected into the prophetic story: (pref)
 - 1) Jeremiah 51:11
*The Lord has stirred up the kings of the **Medes**, because his purpose is to destroy Babylon.*
 - 2) Isaiah 13:17
*See, I will stir up against them the **Medes**.*

4. The Aramaic Inscription

- A. Mene—are numbered
- B. Teqel—to balance, to weigh
- C. V’Parsiyn—and Persians

5. The Handwriting on the Wall

- A. God’ hand is sovereign over human history
- B. The balance of power on earth is about to change
- C. The Kingdom being given back to Israel