

The Lion's Den

"The Book of Daniel" (Ch. 6)

Pastor Mike Cooke

1. Persian (Achaemenid) Emperors

- A. Cyrus the Great (559-530)
 - 1) Overthrows Media (550)
 - 2) Conquers Babylon (539) 2 Chron 36:22-23
- B. Cambyses II (530-522)
- C. **Darius** the Great (522-486)
 - 1) Marries Cyrus' daughter Atossa
 - 2) Claims descent from Achaemenes
 - 3) Develops coinage to unify the Persian Empire
 - 4) Makes Aramaic the official language of the Empire
 - 5) Organized the Empire into 36 "satrapies"
 - 6) Renews the building of the temple (520)
(Nehemiah 12:22, Haggai, Zechariah)
- D. Xerxes I (486-465)
 - 1) "Ahasuerus" from the story of Esther
 - 2) Has an affair with his son Darius' wife Artaynte
 - 3) Wife Amestris (d. 424) has her mother mutilated in retaliation
- E. Crown Prince **Darius** (d. 465) Daniel 9:1 "In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom"
 - 1) Married to his cousin Artaynte in Sardis (478)
 - 2) Killed by Artaxerxes on false accusation of murdering Xerxes (465)
 - 3) Later the real conspirators were killed
- F. Artaxerxes I (465-424)
 - 1) 3rd son of Xerxes I
 - 2) Petitioned to stop the building of the temple? (Ezra 4-6)
 - a) Out of chronology, perhaps a flashback
 - 3) Sends Nehemiah to repair the walls (445) Neh 2:1, 5:14
 - 4) Sends Nehemiah again to govern (433) Neh 13:6
- G. **Darius** II (423-405)
 - 1) Elephantine Papyrus mentions him (410)

2. Four Types of Prophecy

- A. Narrative Prophecy—told by means of a story
- B. Historical Prophecy—told on the backdrop of history
- C. Apocalyptic Prophecy—told in visions and riddles
- D. Lyrical Prophecy—told by lyrics and poetry

The Three Canticles

The Song of Daniel (Daniel 2:20-23)

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
wisdom and power are his.

21 He changes times and seasons;
he deposes kings and raises up others.

He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.

22 He reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what lies in darkness,
and light dwells with him.

23 I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors:
You have given me wisdom and power,
you have made known to me what we asked of you,
you have made known to us the dream of the king."

The Song of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:34-35)

His dominion is an eternal dominion;
his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

35 All the peoples of the earth
are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases
with the powers of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand
or say to him: "What have you done?"

The Song of Darius (Daniel 6:26-27)

"For he is the living God
and he endures forever;
his kingdom will not be destroyed,
his dominion will never end.

27 He rescues and he saves;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth.

He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions."