

Kings and Kingdoms: Distinguished, Despised, Devoted, Delivered

World Governments - When do we Comply, and when do we Defy?

- Some take up the posture of unquestioning compliance
 - They bow, they obey, they never step out of line
- Some take up the posture of ever-readiness to defy
 - They revolt, they rise up, they always suspect conspiracy
- While Daniel shows us a much more courageous third option

The Kingdom of the Medes and the Persians



2nd Chronicles 36:23 “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth

Is Darius the Mede the same as Cyrus the Great?

There are two schools of thought on this, and both provide a logical explanation:

1. Darius is a royal title for Cyrus as an adopted Babylonian throne name
 - a. The word “Darius” translates in Aramaic to “High Scepter”
2. Darius is the name of Cyrus’ viceroy or regent locally over Babylon
 - a. History documents this individual who captured Babylon, whose name was Gubaru in the Nabonius Chronicle, and that Cyrus had granted him authority to make royal appointments, assemble an army, levy taxes, and possess palaces.

Daniel is Distinguished in his Work

Proverbs 22:29 Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

Proverbs 18:9 Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.



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Daniel has been Reading his Letter from Jeremiah

Jeremiah 29:1, 10 – 14

1 These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

10 “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Ezra 1:1 – 2

1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing:

2 “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Why did Daniel intentionally open his window toward Jerusalem?

2nd Chronicles 6:36 – 39

36 “If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to a land far or near,

37 yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,’

38 if they repent with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity to which they were carried captive, and pray toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,

39 then hear from heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their pleas, and maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you.

He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you but to
do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

