

----- Darius the Mede -----

3404c AM, 4114 JP, 600 BC

793. Astyages or Ahasuerus, {#Da 9:1} who had married Aryenis the year before, had a son called Cyaxares or Darius, the Mede. He was sixty-two years old when he succeeded Belshazzar, who was killed in the kingdom of the Chaldeans. {#Da 5:30,31} Astyages, in the lifetime of his father, gave in marriage his daughter Mandane, who was born by his former wife, to Cambyses, son of Achemenes, king of Persia. {*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 1. c. 2. s. 1. 5:9} Cambyses derived his family pedigree from Perseus. From this union, Cyrus was born the next year. Hence, we do not believe Ctesias who, contrary to Herodotus and Xenophon and others, stated that Astyages was not related to Cyrus in any way.

3405d AM, 4115 JP, 599 BC

804. Plutarch said the same thing. {*Plutarch, Artaxerxes, l. 1. c. 1. (1012) 11:129} Likewise, Chur and Churshid, in the Persian poets, agreed. When the work of Cicero is compared with Daniel, it appears that Darius, the Mede, or Cyaxares, the son of Astyages, who was Cyrus' uncle, was born before Cyrus. Therefore, Xenophon mentioned Darius saying: {#Da 5:31} {*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 6. c. 1. s. 6. 6:123}

"seeing I am here present and am older than Cyrus, it is fitting that I speak first."

805. The same author stated that when Cyrus wrote to Cyaxares he used the following words: {*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 4. c. 5. s. 27. 5:377}

"I advise you, though I be the younger of the two."

3444d AM, 4154 JP, 560 BC

902. In the kingdom of Media, when Astyages or Assuerus died, {#/ Apc Tob 14:15} he was succeeded by his son Cyaxares, Cyrus' mother's brother. {*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 1. c. 5. s. 2. 5:77} This was in the beginning of the first year of the 55th Olympiad, thirty-one years before the death of Cyrus. Daniel called Cyaxares Darius the Mede, the son of Assuerus.

3466b AM, 4176 JP, 538 BC

940. Darius the Mede, son of Ahasuerus (or Cyaxares, the son of Hystages), took over the kingdom which Cyrus had conquered and given to him. {#Da 5:31 9:1} Cyrus had set apart for himself the king's house and all his palaces in

Babylon, so that if he should come to Babylon, he would have a palace of his own to stay in. {*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 8. c. 5. s. 17. 6:403} In this first year of Darius' reign, the angel Michael was said to have confirmed and strengthened him in his kingdom. {#Da 10:21,11:1} After this he is said to have reigned for two more years.

943. Daniel, who at this time, it seems, went with Cyrus from Babylon to Media. Cyrus had given control of the kingdom to Cyaxares who then appointed governors to manage the new kingdom. Daniel said of this Cyaxares:

"It seemed good to Darius, to set over the kingdoms, one hundred and twenty governors, that they should be over all the kingdoms." {#Da 6:1}

944. Over all these governors he set three overseers, the principal one being Daniel. As a result, the rest were envious of him and had the king make a decree that:

"for thirty days, no petition should be made to any god or man, but to himself only" {#Da 6:7}

945. Daniel, having broken this decree by praying to God, was cast into the lion's den, from which he was eventually delivered unharmed. Then Darius cast those who had plotted

against Daniel into the same lion's den, publishing through all his dominions that famous decree, that every man should reverence and fear Daniel's God. {#Da 6:1-28}

3467a AM, 4176 JP, 538 BC

946. From the year of the Babylonian captivity of the Jews, which began when Jehoiakim was defeated in the first year of Nebuchadnezzar, until the end of the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede, was almost seventy years.