

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## TEACHING SERIES ON THE PROPHET DANIEL

RLJ-1062

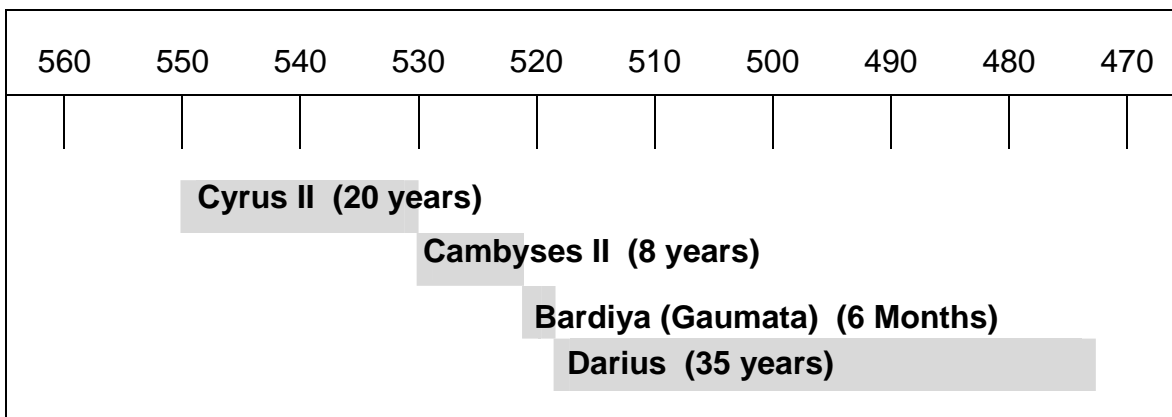
JOHN S. TORELL

DECEMBER 31, 2006

### PART 6: THE TESTING OF DANIEL

#### HISTORICAL FACTS

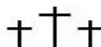
At the beginning of this chapter we are given insight of how the government was set up for this new kingdom which had taken over Babylon. Look at the following chart to get a visual understanding of the timeline:



Cyrus II began reigning 550 B.C., he took Babylon in 539 B.C. and died in 530 B.C. Cambyses II was his son; he reigned from 530 B.C. until to 522 B.C. when he died.

Cyrus II fathered a number of children, among them two sons, Cambyses II and Bardiya. According to historical records, Bardiya was secretly murdered by Cambyses, and replaced by an impostor, Gaumata a Magian. Cambyses wanted to secure the throne and therefore replaced his brother with a man whom he thought would be loyal to him. However, the imposter turned on him, and while Cambyses was fighting in Egypt with his Mede/Persian army, Gaumata staged a coup and declared himself king. Cambyses headed back home to deal with the situation but died along the way.

With Cambyses dead and an usurper on the throne, Darius, who had been part of the bodyguard for Cambyses, rushed back to Media, and with the help of six Persian nobles, attacked the usurper and killed him. Gaumata only reigned for about six months before he was slain. Darius then proclaimed himself to be King of the Medes and the Persians. A number of provincial governors refused to accept Darius as king and in a bloody civil war that followed, Darius and Generals loyal to him fought for three years before all opposition to Darius had been crushed in 518 B.C. Darius was the son of Hystaspes, the Satrap of



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Parthia. He was 62 years old when he seized power. He reigned from 521 B.C. to 486 B.C.

## PROPHETIC EVENTS

- ❑ In 539 B.C., when Babylon was taken by Cyrus II, he issued a decree for the Jews to be set free and go back to Jerusalem. **Ezra 1:1-7**
- ❑ The event described in **Daniel chapter 10** took place in 536 B.C. under the rule of Cyrus II.
- ❑ The event described in **Daniel chapter 9** took place in 521 B.C. under the rule of Darius.
- ❑ Daniel was alive in 539 B.C. and about 72 years old when Cyrus II issued a decree that allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem, but Daniel did not go with them. He served Cyrus II as a statesman and was appointed by Darius to hold the post of Prime Minister. Chapter six of the book of Daniel is the last personal recording of deeds in the life of Daniel and the remaining chapters are the visions and revelations given to him. There have been many Jewish stories written about Daniel and when he died but none of them can be verified. The Bible doesn't give us any further information; there is no record of when Daniel died.

## THE PLOT TO KILL DANIEL

- ❑ Once Darius had consolidated his grip on the Mede/Persian kingdom, he set up a government to control all provinces. **Daniel 6:1-2**
- ❑ Darius knew that since he had taken power through maneuvering and murder, there were others who were also trying to have him overthrown and killed. He knew that Daniel was one man who would not compromise and could not be bought, therefore, he trusted in Daniel's integrity and in the supernatural power displayed through him that came from serving the Most High God. **verse 3**
- ❑ If Darius was going to be overthrown, Daniel, his Prime Minister would be taken out first, since no coup could take place as long as Daniel ruled the kingdom. Therefore, the princes (political leaders) plotted to have Daniel killed. **verse 4**
- ❑ These politicians suddenly became very religious and came up with a plan that was flattering for Darius and appealed to his ego. **verses 5-8**
- ❑ Darius did not see through this scheme and signed the legislation into law. **verse 9**

## THE TESTING OF DANIEL

- ❑ When Daniel found out about the new law, he could have compromised and not prayed for 30 days or just prayed quietly in his closet. However, Daniel made the choice to confront Satan head on. **verse 10**

- ❑ The conspirator's waited for Daniel, and as soon as he began praying, they reported it to Darius. **verses 11-13**
- ❑ Darius was upset when he realized that he had been trapped by these sly politicians. He knew that he would be next once Daniel was out of the way. **verse 14**
- ❑ Darius had no choice carry the sentence out and uphold the new law or face a breakdown of his power. **verses 15-17**
- ❑ This must have been a long night for Darius as he had been forced to destroy his most trusted and loyal servant in the entire kingdom. **verses 18-19**
- ❑ It is important to understand that the Bible tells us that Darius was scared and not haughty when he came to the lion's den. He must have wondered if the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had been able to deliver Daniel from death. **verse 20**

### **FAITH IN GOD!**

The king was relieved and happy and the Bible emphasizes that it was Daniel's faith in God that saved him from being eaten alive. **verse 23; Matthew 17:14-21; Hebrews 11:1-6**

### **DARIUS, THE POLITICIAN**

- ❑ Darius did not hesitate in turning his wrath loose and destroying the conspirator's. **verses 24**
- ❑ Whether Darius was genuinely impressed with the God of Daniel or if he just used the occasion to solidify his grip on the kingdom will not be known until the Great White Throne Judgment. However, we do know that Darius informed all his rulers and citizens that every human being in the kingdom had to fear the God of Daniel. **verses 25-27**

### **THE REWARD**

The Bible records that Daniel, the man of God, prospered in the reign of Cyrus and Darius. **verse 28**

### **WHAT IS THE TEACHING FOR US LIVING TODAY?**

1. Obey God and His commandments! **John 14:15**
2. Do not compromise; seek the Kingdom of God first! **Matthew 6:19-34**
3. Be humble! **James 4:6-10**

**ARE YOU A DANIEL OR AN ESAU? Hebrews 12:15-17**

**DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?**