

Persian Rulers

- **Cyrus - 539-530 B.C. (Isa. 44:28-45:4; 2Ch 36:22; Ezra 1:1; Dan 1:21; 6:28; 10:1)**
Cyrus “the Great.” 550-530 B.C., Web. Biograph. Dict, Whitcomb’s chart, see ftnt.; Free, A&BH, p. 236. 559-530 B.C., Eerdman’s Handbook, p. 306.
 - “Called ‘the Great’ or ‘the Elder.’ 600?-529 B.C.
 - King of Persia (550-529 B.C.).
 - Son of Cambyses (I) and father of Cambyses (II)...successful in conquest of Babylon (540-539) and seized its king, Nabonidus...” WBD.
 - Reign: 538-530, Theile, *Myster. Numbers of Heb. Kings*, p. 227. 539....., Free, *Bib. Archaeology*, p. 236. “The date of 538 B.C. for the fall of Babylon, formerly assigned by standard handbooks..., is now known to be too late. Cyrus entered Babylon on October 29, 539 B.C.” *Ibid*.
 - “With Cyrus capture of Babylon began the great Persian Empire, which lasted for some two hundred years (c. 539-331 B.C.)” (Free, p. 236)
 - His name and proclamation foretold by Isaiah over 150 years before: **Isa 44:28; 45:1,4-5; ch 41-45.**
 - Daniel lived until at least the third year of his reign, **Dan 10:1**. By this time he was a old man, having been taken captive as a boy in 606 B.C.
- **Darius the Mede - 539-525 B.C. (Dan 5:31; 6:1...28; 9:1; 11:1)**
Co-regent with Cyrus. Made ruler over the realm of Babylon.
- **Cambyses II - 530-522 B.C. (kam BYE seez)**
530-522 B.C. *Web. Bio. Dict.*; Whitcomb; Free, p. 241.
- **Gaumata (gou MA ta) / False Smerdis - 522-521 B.C.**
WBD; Wikipedia.; Whitcomb; Keil on Ezra, p. 71.

Known as “False Smerdis.” Smerdis was the brother of Cambyses II and younger son of Cyrus the Great. Cambyses II secretly murdered him for suspected disloyalty. “False-Smerdis,” or “Gaumata,” pretended to be Smerdis, usurped the throne in 522 B.C., and ruled Babylon from March to September, 522 B.C. Darius I captured and killed him in 521 B.C.

- **Darius I (Hystaspis) - 521-486 B.C. (Ezra 4:5,24; Hag 1:1; Zech. 1:1)**
Surnamed “Hystaspis” (his TAS pis), i.e. son of Hystaspis.
Called “Darius the Great.” Web.; Whitcomb; *Eerdman’s Handbook*; Free, p. 246.

558?-486 B.C. King (521-486 B.C.)...Married Atossa, daughter of Cyrus the Great; defeated the usurper Gaumata (see Smerdis)...Succeeded by his son Xerxes I.” WBD.

Bible references: **Ezra 4:5,24; 5:5-7; 6:1,12-15; Neh 12:22; Haggai 1:1,15; 2:10; Zech 1:1,7; 7:1.**

NOT the same as Darius the Mede in Daniel - **Dan 5:31; 6:1,6,9,25,28; 9:1; 11:1**

Keil & Delitzsch, *Minor Prophets*, Vol II, p. 174; Hailey, *Minor Prophets*, p300; *Treasury of Scrip. Know.*, p322

- **Xerxes - 486-464 B.C. (Ahasuerus of Esther. Esther 1:1)**

Called "the Great." Son of Darius Hystaspis.

His son Artaxerses I (Artaxerxes Longimanus)

- **Artaxerxes - 464-423 B.C. (Ezra 4:7-8; 7:1; Neh 2:1)**

Called Longimanus (lon JIM a nus).

Son of Xerxes I; father of Xerxes II, Sogdianus, Darius II. Free, p. 246; Whitcomb; Keil, p. 73,155.

Bible references: **Ezra 6:14; 7:1, 7ff; Neh. 2:1ff**

Reigned 41 yrs over Persia, beginning in 464 B.C. to 424 B.C. *Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*, p. 323; *Webster's Biographical Dict.*, p.68