


Daniel 29 – Darius' Folly and Daniel's Wisdom

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Daniel 6:1-9



Prologue: God Reminds Satan, and his Surrogates, of Coming Judgment

- God's will is deterministic because He cannot be thwarted, sovereignty, or salvation could not be guaranteed by Christ ps 115:12
 - Satan, being a spirit being, must use a physical surrogate to achieve his goals: relieving his sentence of Lake of Fire and be as god to man ps 14:13-14
 - Belshazzar is the Babylon metaphor for coming Antichrist who will head the final government of iron and clay of Nebuchadnezzar's image
- God warns Satan that he and his surrogates, Antichrist, have been doubly counted, weighed and their kingdoms divided; this creation is temporary ps 115:11, 2ps 24:12, 2ps 20:12
 - At Christ's return the Lost go into Hell to await White Throne judgment
 - Saved go into Millennial Kingdom; yet much of their posterity will rebel against Christ, under Satan's tutelage; Again divided; Lost stand at Christ's White Throne



Ancient History: Who was Darius?

Differentiate between Darius and Cyrus to understand remainder of Daniel's book

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE
Cyrus the Great (559-530 BC)

- LYDIA conquered by Cyrus 547 BC
- Media conquered by Cyrus in 550 BC
- Babylonian Empire conquered by Cyrus in 539 BC
- Pasargadae PERSIA (559 BC)

**Rise of Persia
Fall of Media**


- Cyrus king of Anshan lesser ally of Media (Persia) [559 BC]
- Defeated Astyages (Media) to become greater ally (550 BC)
- Built ceremonial city at site of victory: Pasargadae
- Babylon defeated by Gubaru, general of one part of the army
- Gubaru made Suzerain (king) of Babylon; Darius-throne title

Cyrus gives Media Honor of Babylonian Kingship

- Cyrus' success as conquer comes from his willingness to share with his allies in return for their loyalty rather than rely on brute power as Babylonia
 - This united the kingdom into a loyal unity of diversity as each ethnic province would retain its own religio-politico-social order (government) loyal to Cyrus
 - As the major ally; Media given the honor of defeating Babylon, after Cyrus had defeated Nabonidus and most of its provinces, and ruling over the city
 - Darius, Gubaru, was 62 when he began his Suzerainty but died after 14 months of rule, as did his wife
 - Cyrus' title up to this time was: King of Lands, meaning Media, Lydia and all other provinces conquered; at death of Gubaru he assumed title: King of Babylon
 - Remainder of Daniel's book interleaves the reigns of Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus in a conceptual arrangement common to Oriental mind but confusing to the Western mind; Daniel careful to give the reader precise chronology for clarity


Scriptural History: The Past Returns!

Under a different sovereign, Daniel's old enemies seek to finally remove him from authority; permanently



Wise Men; Not so Wise Retained Jealousy of Daniel

- Darius (Lard) organizes his new reign of Babylon by retaining many of the elite from the Babylonian kingdom as they know its inner workings and will be loyal to him for keeping them in power; stable social order
 - Unfortunately, this also means that under a new authority old scores can be settled such as removing a foreigner placed over you because of competency
- Remember, Wise Men could not divine Nebuchadnezzar's dream and were to die; spared at Daniel's request when he revealed, interpreted, the King's dream (2:12)
- Nearly 70 years later Wise Men again publicly failed to interpret Belshazzar's wall inscription when Daniel did so and he was made again placed over them (2:13)
- Darius retains worthy people in their positions; Daniel made third in kingdom and Darius continues him as such; however, he is seriously considering making Daniel head authority over all provincial and governing authorities; uncorruptible



The Conspiracy: Kill Daniel {Belteshazzar}

- Several generations of Wise Men hatch a conspiracy to remove Daniel since he was incorruptible and they probably were corruptible; which is why Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to prove the accuracy of their interpretation by telling him the dream first
 - After 70 years of administration, both in and out of court, no charge could be lodged against Daniel; not even during the chaos of military defeat and foreign administration
 - Since Daniel was not an idolatry, his God was foreign to everyone including Darius; a plan was hatched to exploit his difference to remove him permanently
 - These people knew Persian law; that edicts that were signed and sealed by the King were binding on everyone including the King and could not be annulled
 - The Plan: Play to the King's strengths and weaknesses – Make him an unwilling co-conspirator in their trap



Darius: Good Military General Poor Palace Politician

- Darius was undoubtedly a competent military general or Cyrus would not have given him command over the forces to capture Babylon; however, military politics are unlike palace politics
 - Military politician can simply order the death of a rival even to making it look like fortunes of battle; David ordered Uriah's death (2:14)
 - However, Kings can bring about their own death when making enemies of people necessary to stability of government as Nebuchadnezzar when placing Daniel, and his three companions, over the same Wise Men he had threatened with death (2:14-21)
- Even Nebuchadnezzar trapped himself because of his pride, Head of Gold; Darius also trapped by pride
 - Let the people pray only to you for one moon revolution (Lunar Month)

Penalty: Death in the Lion's Den

- No graduated offenses or penalties
- Pray to anything or anyone else:
Die in the Lion's Den
- Conspirators all agreed and implied that all governors agreed
- King took their advice, without much thought as to motives
- Display of political inexperience
- Signed and sealed the edict
- Daniel informed of the edict



Satan Disregarded God's Message: Counted, Counted, Weighed, Divided

- Satan, and these Wise Men, ignored God's warning contained in His message to Belshazzar as publicly interpreted by Daniel
 - Satan has marshaled powerful sinners to plot Daniel's death for living according to God's Moral Law which displayed their sinfulness in contrast (24:20-22)
 - Those who use Satan's methods are children of him; meaning, all sinners use lies to accomplish the death of the saved (18:6-8)
 - Conspirators have planned a trap for Daniel as they covered his position (7:13-14)
 - Conspirators have demonstrated their rejection of God and the testimonies given them by Nebuchadnezzar and the message writ without hands (5:2, 5)
 - Paul summarized the hardness of all sinners from the Old Testament (20:27-28)
 - Unless God saves, all go down to Hell (Sheol) (3:17, 21:23)

Christians: World has not Changed - Satan Still Hates God's People

- Christians believe that aligning themselves with the moral Lost will usher in God's blessing: This is the failed Post Millennial philosophy
 - David used unrighteous men in his government then ordered Solomon to kill them when their usefulness was ended, like Joab; this is not of God (24:23-32, 24:34)
 - Daniel, like Paul, knew how to be elevated and abused without losing his faith or integrity in the Lord; faithful to God (7:4-11, 12)
 - Time is coming when the world will test our faithfulness seeking to prove us false to God and so we shall be if we do not rest in His Strength (24:11-23:30, 17:4-13-17)
 - Christians are to find guidance in the Bible under the tutelage of the Spirit to learn maturity in Christ even when the World (Satan-Flesh) betrays you (27:2-14, 17, 18, 21-14)
 - I fear many will turn away revealing themselves as unfaithful, deserting brethren and Christ for patty scraps of the World (24:47-48, 18:4-6, 29:22-23)