

Daniel 11:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.

Analysis

Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all—Gabriel's prophecy identifies specific Persian rulers following Cyrus: Cambyses II (530-522 BC), the false Smerdis (522 BC), and Darius I (522-486 BC). The fourth king is Xerxes I (486-465 BC), whose immense wealth is documented by Herodotus. The Hebrew *ya'amod* (יָאָמֹד, 'shall stand up') indicates sovereign establishment, not mere succession.

By his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia—Xerxes assembled history's largest invasion force (Herodotus claims over 2 million, likely inflated but massive nonetheless) to attack Greece in 480 BC. The Hebrew *ya'ir* (יָאָר, 'stir up') means to rouse or incite. This campaign's failure at Salamis and Plataea shifted power westward, setting the stage for Alexander's conquests (vv. 3-4). God reveals future history to demonstrate His sovereign orchestration of empires.

Historical Context

Written circa 536 BC during Cyrus's reign, this prophecy predates the events by decades. The Medo-Persian Empire (539-331 BC) succeeded Babylon and allowed Jewish return under Cyrus's decree (Ezra 1). Xerxes's Greek campaign is the pivot

between Persian dominance and Greek ascendancy, making this prophecy remarkably specific. Daniel's detailed foreknowledge of empire succession demonstrates God's sovereignty over gentile kingdoms during Israel's dispersion.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's detailed revelation of future empires demonstrate His sovereign control over history?
2. What does Xerxes's massive wealth yet ultimate defeat teach about the limitations of human power and resources?

Interlinear Text

שֶׁלּוּשׁ הַעֲדָה לְנֵה הַנְּהָה אֶת יָד אֶת תְּהִלָּת הַעֲתָה

H6258 thee the truth H571 And now will I shew H5046 H0 H2009 H5750 yet three H7969

מֶלֶךְ יָמִם עַתְּקָדִים לְפָנָס וְרַבְּיָעִים יְמִשְׁאָר יְרֵא וְרַבְּיָעִים

kings H4428 Behold there shall stand up H5975 in Persia H6539 and the fourth H7243 richer H6238

בְּעֵשֶׂר וְנֵדֶל מִכְּחִזְקַת וְבְּעֵשֶׂר וְנֵדֶל יְשִׁיר יְרֵא בְּעֵשֶׂר וְנֵדֶל יְשִׁיר יְרֵא בְּעֵשֶׂר וְנֵדֶל יְשִׁיר יְרֵא

shall be far H6239 than they all H1419 and by his strength H3605 shall be far H6239 he shall stir up H5782

מֶלֶךְ וְתִּרְבְּצָה אֶת הַכְּלָל

all against the realm H853 of Grecia H4438 H3605 H3120

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 21:5 (Truth): And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Daniel 8:26 (Truth): And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.

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