

# 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

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**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* (יָאֲמֹד, '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* (יָעִיר, '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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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וְעַתָּה	אָמַרְתָּ	אֲנִי יָד	לֵךְ	הִנֵּה	עוֹד	שְׁלֹשָׁה
H6258	thee the truth	And now will I shew	H0	H2009	H5750	yet three
	H571	H5046				H7969
מְלָכֵי יָם	עֹמְדֵי יָם	לְפָנֶיךָ	וְהָרְבִיעִי	יֵעָשׂ יֵר		
kings	Behold there shall stand up	in Persia	and the fourth	richer		
H4428	H5975	H6539	H7243	H6238		
בְּעֶשְׂרֵי	גְּדוֹל	מִכָּל ל	וּכְחֻזְקָתוֹ	בְּעֶשְׂרֵי	יַעֲרִיר	
shall be far	than they all	H3605	and by his strength	shall be far	he shall stir up	
H6239	H1419		H2393	H6239	H5782	
לְכָל	אֵת	מֶלֶךְ וְיָם	יָם:			
H3605	H853	all against the realm	of Grecia			
		H4438	H3120			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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