

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

שְׁלַשׁ הַיּוֹם אֶת-הַמְּתָתִים אֶת-יְדֵךְ לְגַנְבָּה הַנְּגָנָה אֶת-יְדֵךְ אֶת-תְּהִלָּתְךָ הַיּוֹם הַיּוֹם הַיּוֹם
H6258 thee the truth And now will I shew H0 H2009 H5750 yet three H7969
H571 H5046

יעיר בעשר ו גודל וכחזקתו ו מכך ל בעשר ו יעיר יר בעשר ו than they all and by his strength shall be far he shall stir up
shall be far than they all H3605 and by his strength shall be far he shall stir up
H6239 H1419 H2393 H6239 H5782

ל הַמֶּלֶךְ וְתַּחֲנֵן אֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ H3605 H853 all against the realm H4138 of Grecia 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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