

Daniel 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;

Analysis

Chapter 9 opens with chronological and political markers: 'In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans.' This dates to 539 BC, immediately after Babylon's fall to Medo-Persian forces. The detail 'made king' indicates Darius was appointed by higher authority (possibly Cyrus). This historical precision grounds the coming prophetic revelation in real time and space. Daniel's life now spans Babylonian and Persian empires, demonstrating God's faithfulness through political upheaval.

Historical Context

Historical identification of Darius the Mede remains debated—possibly Cyrus himself, a governor under Cyrus, or Gubaru mentioned in extra-biblical sources. Regardless of precise identification, the text establishes Persian control over Babylon. Daniel, now 80+, had served through multiple regime changes. The Medo-Persian conquest fulfilled earlier prophecy (Daniel 2:39; 5:28). Archaeological evidence including the Nabonidus Chronicle and Cyrus Cylinder documents the conquest, though they don't mention Darius by this name.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness through political transitions encourage believers facing uncertainty in changing times?
2. What does Daniel's survival and continued service through multiple empires teach about engaging culture without compromising faith?

Interlinear Text

מִדְיָן	בְּשָׁנָה	אַם	וְשָׁנָה	לְדָרִי	וְשָׁנָה	בְּשָׁנָה	מִצְרָיִם	אַמְשִׁיר	וְשָׁנָה	מִצְרָיִם	בְּעֵת
year	In the first	of Darius	the son	of Ahasuerus	of the seed	of the Medes					
H8141	H259	H1867	H1121	H325	H2233	H4074					
רָאשָׁה	בְּמַלְכָה	לְמַלְכָה	עַל	מֶלֶךְ	וְתִּתְּנִהְנֵה	כָּלִידִים					
H834	which was made king	H4427	H5921	H4438	H3778						

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 11:1 (Parallel theme): Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.