



1

Level 3
The Multiple Layers of Interpreting The Bible

1. Historical
2. Practical
3. Prophetical

2

Daniel 5:29-31

Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was dressed in purple robes, a gold chain was hung around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

That very night Belshazzar, the Babylonian king was killed.

And Darius the Mede took over the kingdom at the age of sixty-two.

3

Darius v. Cyrus?

- "Darius" might have been a title meaning "holder of the scepter"

- Five Persian Kings will use this down the road

1. Cyrus himself
2. Cambyses, son of Cyrus
3. Darius - appointed
4. Ugbaru - Governor appointed over Babylon by Cyrus



4

Ugbaru's Victory

- **October 12th, 539 BC:** Ugbaru enters Babylon the night of Belshazzar's feast

- **October 29th, 539 BC:** Cyrus' grand entrance into Babylon
 - Ugbaru appointed to rule Babylon

- **November 6th, 539 BC: Ugbaru died** Nabonidus Chronicle
 - "Darius" was 62 when he took over
 - Gubaru is another name for Ugbaru

5

Daniel 6:1-3

It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they would be in charge of the whole kingdom,

And over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), that these satraps might be accountable to them, and that the king might not suffer loss.

Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

6

Daniel 6:9-10

Therefore King Darius signed the document, that, the injunction.

Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

1 Chronicles 6, 1 Kings 8

7

Lex Talianis

"An eye for an eye"

- Persian records show this was how they handled false accusations.

- God does this with Dathan, Abiram and Korah

Numbers 16

- false accusations

Deuteronomy 19

- Aramaic word for slander was "to eat the pieces of a man"

- Could this be a reference back to this event?

8

Matthew 2:1-2

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

9

Matthew 2:3-4

*When Herod the king heard this,
he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*

Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

10

The Roman Empire 68 BC – 476 AD



11

The Mystery Of The Magi

- Latin for *Magoi*, transliterated from the Persian language

רב מג Rab Mag Chief of the Magi in Nebuchanezzar's Court
Jeremiah 39:3,13

- Daniel's Title

Daniel 4:9; 5:11

12

Who Were The Magi REALLY?

- The Eastern tradition says there were 12
 - They celebrate Christmas on January 6th
- The Western tradition says there were 3
- 6th century they were given names - *Belthisar, Melchior, Gasper*
- 8th century they were said to be representatives from the three sons of Noah
 - *Shem, Ham, Japheth*
- 1400s they were to the King of Arabia, King of Persia & King of India

13

More On The Magi

- Most people get their ideas about Christmas from Christmas cards and NOT Scripture!
- Their skill was not astrology, which most people think it is, but instead it was.....wait for it:
- It was made the state religion of Persia by Darius after some magi were considered to experts in the interpretation of dreams.

14

More On The Magi

- Daniel was named "*Rab Maggai*"= Chief of the Magi
- The magi were assigned to the Persian Court and they had two roles:
 - *The Persian Priesthood*
 - *Kingmakers*
- At the time of Jesus' birth they were the most powerful political and religious body on earth
- They would have entered Jerusalem with a MASSIVE entourage!

15
