

6—The Writing on the Wall

Daniel 5

1. From the standpoint of the Jews, what painfully insulting thing did king Belshazzar do (Daniel 5:1-2)? Where had he gotten these vessels (5:2; cp. 1:1-2)?

King	Date of Reign	Notes
Nabopolassar	625-605 B.C.	Shared w/ Nebuchadnezzar from 606-605 B.C.
Nebuchadnezzar	605-562 B.C.	Officially becomes king in 605 B.C.
Evil-Merodach	562-560 B.C.	Reigned in the days of his father's madness, killed.
Neriglissar	560-556 B.C.	Assassinated Evil-Merodach, usurped throne
Labashi-Marduk	556 B.C.	Usurped throne
Nabonidus	556-539 B.C.	Shared kingdom w/ Belshazzar

2. What happened during Belshazzar's drunken salute to idolatry (5:5)? How did the king react (5:6)?

3. How did Daniel come to be involved in this story (5:7-12)? What does this tell us about the reputation of Daniel? How can this recommendation of Daniel be a lesson to us?

4. One of the promises of the king to the one who interpreted the writing was he would make the interpreter the "third ruler in the kingdom" (5:7). What does this mean?

5. What was it Belshazzar “knew” (5:22)? Did he learn from history? Are there times people need history recounted to them so they might avoid repeating mistakes? Why is it we study Bible history (see Hebrews 2:1-4; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11)?

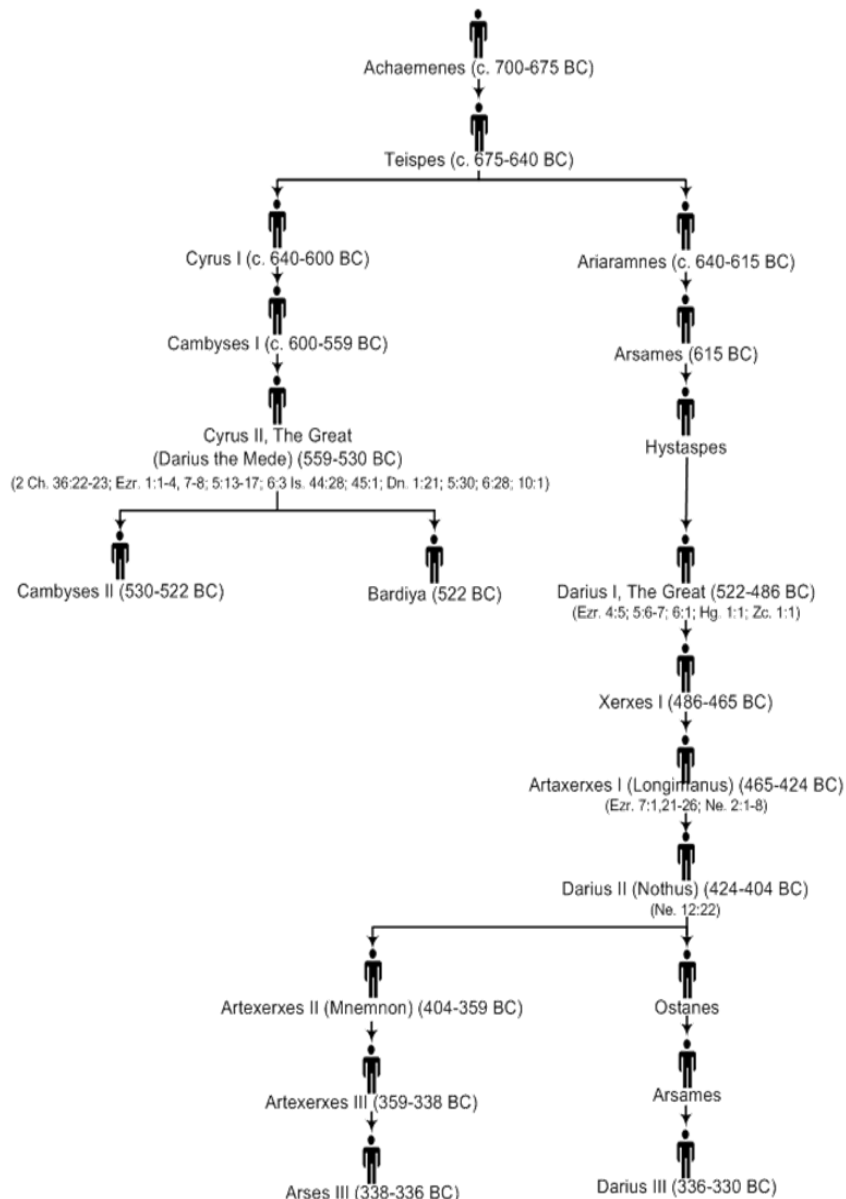
The Kings of Medio-Persia

6. What was meant by the following handwritten words on the wall (Daniel 5:26-28)?

MENE:

TEKEL:

PERES:



7. What nation came to power after the defeat of the Babylonian Empire (Daniel 5:28)? What leader is specifically mentioned in Daniel 5:31?