

Studies In The Book Of Daniel:
A Discussion of the Historical Questions by Robert Dick Wilson
<http://home.earthlink.net/~ironmen/wilson/title.htm>

CHAPTER VII

DARIUS THE MEDE

When one asserts that the author of Daniel has “confused” events or persons, it is not enough for him to affirm that the author was thus confused. This confusion is a matter of evidence. With all due deference to the *opinion* of other scholars, I am firmly convinced that no man today has sufficient evidence to prove that the author of Daniel was confused. There are no records to substantiate the assertions of confusion. Neither is it clear to the critics nor can they make it clear to others, that the author of Daniel either did not understand the facts with regard to Darius the Mede, nor clearly express himself about them.

In this and the following chapters, it is my intention, then, to review the objections to the book of Daniel on the ground of what it says with regard to Darius the Mede and with regard to what it is asserted to say, or imply, with respect to the kingdom and people of the Medes. In this present chapter, the attempt will be made to show that the book of Daniel does not assert that Darius the Mede ever reigned over Babylon as an independent sovereign, and that Darius the Mede was probably the same as Gobryas the sub-king of Babylon, appointed by his overlord Cyrus. In connection with these questions will be considered the methods of dating documents used among the ancients in and about Babylon, and the lack of all extra-biblical records referring to his reign, his office, age, name, race, and official acts.

NIV Study Bible note: *Darius the Mede.* Perhaps another name for Gubaru, referred to in Babylonian inscriptions as the governor that Cyrus put in charge of the newly conquered Babylonian territories. Or “Darius the Mede” may have been Cyrus’ throne name in Babylon.

Nelson Study Bible note: *Darius the Mede* is mentioned by name only in the Book of Daniel (see 6:1, 6, 9; 9:1). He is not the famous Darius Hystaspes because Darius I was not a Mede and he lived too late (522–486 B.C.) to be a contemporary of Daniel. Two possible identities: (1) He was Cyrus King of Persia. (2) He was Gubaru, the governor appointed by Cyrus to administer over Babylon. Both Daniel and ancient literary sources indicate that a certain official (“Darius the Mede” in Daniel, and “Gubaru” in Persian texts) took over immediately in Babylon until Cyrus appointed his own son Cambyses as coruler around 538 B.C. This figure/ individual is most likely identified with Darius. Why he is called Darius is uncertain, though ancient rulers often took other names for themselves.