

Daniel's Timeline "God is my judge."

Year variations occur within different resources thus span and age calculations are an estimate.

Version 5

Year	Span	Daniel's Age	Event	Ref Daniel
620 BC			Daniel's approximate birthday	
Nebuchadnezzar II's Reign				
605 BC	43 yrs		Nebuchadnezzar II's reign begins September 6/7, 605, ends 562	
605		13-16	DEPORTATION: Daniel was in first wave of deportations from Jerusalem. Includes Hananiah, Azariah & Mishael and temple treasures. 1448 KM/approx. 900 miles to travel from Jerusalem to Babylon. (Fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy to Hezekiah approx. 110 years later. Isaiah 39:7-Daniel may have been in the royal line)	1:3
			Daniel & the deportees who will serve the king are most likely made eunuchs somewhere in this timeframe.	
602	3 yrs	16-19	TRAINING: Daniel's training in Babylonian culture & language	1:4
	65 yrs		INSTALLATION: Interviewed by King Nebuchadnezzar, installed in service as an advisor. Remains in service until the first year of King Cyrus' reign, Oct. 12, 539	1:18-19
603		17 ?	KING'S 1ST DREAM: Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue in the 2 nd year of his reign. Issues the order to kill the advisors as none can tell him the dream.	2
			Daniel requests time & enlists his fellow Jews to prayer.	2:16
			God gives the dream & interpretation to Daniel who shares with Nebuchadnezzar. Depicts a panorama of Gentile kingdoms from Nebuchadnezzar's reign to the coming of the Messiah & God's sovereignty covering all aspects.	2:19-45
			Daniel is promoted to ruler over the province of Babylon & Chief Administrator over all the wise men in Babylon. He petitions the king making arrangements for Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego to rule over the affairs of Babylon.	2:48-49
			IMAGE: Nebuchadnezzar makes a 90ft high image of gold requiring all to bow in worship. No indications that Daniel is in this group. Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego are confronted for not bowing, given 1 more chance then thrown in the furnace.	3
			4TH MAN IN THE FIRE: They refuse, pledging allegiance to God & are thrown in the fire, resulting in the immediate death of 3 of the king's soldiers due to the heat. The king sees 1 additional person in the fire & calls them back out.	3:16-27
			Nebuchadnezzar praises their God & promotes them.	3:28-30
No later than 571	34 yrs into his reign	49	KING'S 2ND DREAM: Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree, cut down, stripped & banded with iron.[30+ years after the King's 1 st dream]	4
			Daniel interprets, encourages repentance. 12 months later what was dreamed occurs. This is about 30 years into Daniel's service, he remains an advisor.	4:19-33
			Nebuchadnezzar roams insane for approximately 7 years, lycanthropy. His senses return to him, he recognizes God and the Babylonian kingdom is restored to him.	4:33-36
597	28 years after Daniel's deportation		Ezekiel was included in the deportation of 10,000 taken to Babylon, settling in Tel Abib on the Chebar canal near Nippur.	Ez 1:1
588			Zedekiah, king of Judah rebels against Nebuchadnezzar	
1/15/588			Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem.	
7/18/586			Nebuchadnezzar recaptures Judah, deports 832, siege lasts 2.5 years.	
8/14/586			The temple in Jerusalem is burned, Ezekiel's wife dies the same day.	
562			Nebuchadnezzar dies. The Babylonian empire collapses within 23 years.	

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Evil-Merodach's Reign				
562	7 yr rule	58	Evil-Merodach, Nebuchadnezzar's son succeeds him as ruler of Babylon & in 560 releases Judah's king Jehoichin.	2 Kings 25:27
Nabonidus' Reign				
555	16 yr rule	66	Nabonidus, Nebuchadnezzar's son in law, becomes king, rules for 16 years.	
Belshazzar's Reign				
	23 year period		Period of time Daniel appears to be out of public service: no notes indicate Daniel's activities from the beginning of Nabonidus' reign to this date, Belshazzar did not appear to know him or have him in service.	
			Belshazzar, Nabonidus' son, [Nebuchadnezzar's grandson] is co-regent & crown prince ruling in Nabonidus' absence. Nabonidus spends 10 years in Teima, Arabia, is defeated by the Persians in Sippar 2 days before Belshazzar's feast.	
549		71	Daniel's 1st vision -the four beasts, sees the Ancient of Days & One like the Son of Man. 4 Kings will come.	7
547		73	Daniel's 2nd vision -the ram (Media & Persia) & a goat (Greece), reviewing events 379 years in the future. As he was seeking the meaning, the angel Gabriel appears who explains the dream. First biblical mention of an angel's name. Daniel faints & is sick for days.	8
10/12/539			THE WRITING ON THE WALL: Belshazzar has a feast, desecrates the holy objects, the writing appears on the wall. None of the court wise men can interpret. Daniel is not among this number.	5:1-9
		81	The queen, Nitocris, Belshazzar's mother, remembers a man who served Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel is called.	5:10-12
			Daniel understands the handwriting, gives the interpretation. Belshazzar promotes him to 3 rd ruler in the kingdom.	5:17-29
			Darius the Mede¹², son of Ahasuerus of Persia arrives that night & captures the Babylonian province without a fight. (some record Darius to be a relative of King Cyrus the Persian, serving as a vassal king over the Babylonian province. Darius is 62 at this point.) Note of interest: There is a possibility that Belshazzar's daughter, Vashti is captured, transported to the capital of Persia, Susa, where it may be she who eventually becomes the queen of Ahasuerus. Ahasuerus is the son of Darius I. 539 is attributed to when King Cyrus takes control of Babylon & within a year issues the decree for the temple at Jerusalem to be rebuilt.	5:30
Darius the Mede's Reign				
Unknown			DANIEL AS GOVERNOR: Darius assigns Daniel as 1 of 3 governors over the kingdom providing oversight to 120 satraps. Unclear how long after Darius is ruler this assignment for Daniel is given. Unclear in the timeline if this occurs before or after 538 when Daniel studies Jeremiah's letters to the exiles.	6
			IN THE LION'S DEN: The other governors & satraps plot to trap Daniel having him executed by Darius. They scheme to have an unchangeable law passed requiring that the only prayer allowed for 30 days be to the king.	6:4-9
			Daniel continues as is his habit in prayer 3 X per day & is thrown in the lion's den.	6:10
			Darius is distraught with having been trapped into putting Daniel's life at risk, he encourages Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you." Daniel 6:16b	6:14-16
			Daniel passes the night safely, is removed from the lions den. All his	6:17-22

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			detractors, their wives & children are thrown in the lion's den & killed.	
538		82	70 WEEKS: In the 1 st year of Darius, Daniel is studying Jeremiah's exile letters, gained understanding of the 70 weeks & it's time relation to the completion of the destruction of Jerusalem. Began fasting & praying for direction. Gabriel appears with understanding for Daniel.	9:1-3
			Daniel has a vision of the Glorious Man in the 3 rd year of King Cyrus, is terrified, prays for understanding, an unnamed heavenly being arrives to bring revelation about the End of Times, reports he was delayed by demonic forces. Is told to shut up the words & seal the book until the time of the end.	
		85-90	No clear indication of the date of Daniel's death.	

Notes of interest:

Jeremiah was 21 years into his ministry when Daniel began his.

Jeremiah & Ezekiel were his contemporaries. ⁶

Ezekiel was about 17 when Daniel was deported, making the two men close in age. ⁶

Ezekiel was married and lived as a private citizen among the Jewish exiles by the Kebar River. ⁶

Daniel's writings cover the reign of two kingdoms, Babylon and Medo-Persia, and four kings: Nebuchadnezzar (2:11-4:37); Belshazzar (5:1-31); Darius (6:1-28); and Cyrus (10:1-11:1). ¹

Kings of Neo-Babylonia ^{10*}				
Reign	Name	Relation	Outcome	Reference
625-605	Nabopolassar			
605-562, 43 yrs	Nebuchadnezzar II	Son of Nabopolassar	Natural death	2 Kings 24-25; Daniel
562-560, 2 yrs	Amel-Marduk or Evil-Merodach	Son of Nebuchadnezzar	Assassinated by brother in law, Neriglissar (called Negal-Sharezer in Jer 39:3,13)	2 Kings 25-27-30; Jer 52:31-34
560-556, 4 yrs	Neriglissar	Brother in law of Amel-Marduk	Natural death-had no royal blood connection to previous ruler. ¹¹	Jer 39:3, 13
556, few months	Labashi-Marduk	Son of Neriglissar	Assassinated	
555-539, 16 yrs	Nabonidus or Nabunaid with co-regent son, Belshazzar	Son in law of Nebuchadnezzar	Last of empire, falls to Medo-Persia 10/12/539-had no royal blood connection to previous ruler. ¹¹	

*"Outcome" is a personal addition to this chart.

Features of Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom:

- Babylon was one of the preeminent cities of history & during Nebuchadnezzar's reign was undoubtedly the most magnificent and probably the largest city on earth at that time.
- Over 200 years after the fall of Babylon, Alexander the Great planned to make the city the headquarters for his vast empire.
- Rectangular shaped city, surrounded by a broad, deep water filled moat, an intricate system of double walls. The inner wall was 21 feet thick, reinforced by defense towers at 60 foot intervals, the outer wall was 11 feet in width with watchtowers. Later Nebuchadnezzar added another defensive double outer wall system 23 feet thick that ran 17 miles and was wide enough at the top for chariots to pass. The height at the Ishtar Gate was 40 feet high. Thought to be virtually impenetrable by enemies.
- 8 gates into the city, the most impressive was the Ishtar Gate on the north side, decorated with dragons of Marduk and bulls of Hadad. 557 of these dragons in bright colors were along a glazed blue background.
- Hosted the citadel to Esagila, the temple of Marduk with an adjacent ziggurat Etemenanki, 7 levels, towering 288 feet high.

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- A bridge 400 feet long spanning the Euphrates River connecting the east and west parts of the city.
- 53 temples within the city.
- 3 palaces within the city. The principle residence located in the southern citadel covering 350X200 yards.
- Boasted the famous 'hanging gardens' considered one of the seven wonders of the world, which Nebuchadnezzar had constructed for his wife, Amytis, replicating the mountains of her Media homeland.
- They were high enough to be seen above the city walls, boasted many different plants & palm trees, hoists had been contrived to raise water to the highest terraces from the Euphrates river.
- Most of the bricks uncovered by archeology bear the name and inscription of Nebuchadnezzar.

Highlights of Babylonian History

The Old Babylonian Period (2000–1600)	The Neo-Babylonian Period (625–539)
<p>Amorite Kings reigning in Babylon</p> <p>Hammurabi 1792–1750</p> <p>Famous for collection of laws</p> <p>After the deaths of Shamshi-Adad of Assyria and Rim-Sin of Larsa, was able to unify and control much of Mesopotamia</p> <p>Hittite sack of Babylon 1595</p>	<p>Nabopolassar 626–605</p> <p>Established Babylonian independence from Assyria</p> <p>Entered alliance with Medes after the fall of Assur 614</p> <p>Alliance brought fall of Nineveh 612</p> <p>Fall of Haran 610</p> <p>Dissolution of the Assyrian state with the fall of Carchemish 605</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Kassite Period (1600–1160)</p> <p>Kassites began to rule in parts of Babylonia within a decade of Hammurabi's death</p> <p>By 1460 Sealand-controlled territory in Babylonia was conquered</p> <p>Period of peaceful alliances and active trade</p> <p>Sack of Babylon by Tukulti-Ninurta I of Assyria 1235</p> <p>Elamites bring end to Kassite rule 1160–1157</p>	<p>Nebuchadnezzar 605–562</p> <p>Extended Babylonian control into the west with defeat of Ashkelon 604</p> <p>Unsuccessful attempt to raid Egypt 601</p> <p>After brief revolt, Jerusalem surrendered, Jehoiachin deported 597</p> <p>Fall of Jerusalem, destruction of Temple 587</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Middle Babylonian Period (1160–730)</p> <p>Nebuchadnezzar I 1126–1105</p> <p>conducted successful campaign against Elam</p>	<p>Nabonidus 555–539</p> <p>Undertook religious reform in devotion to the moon god, Sin</p> <p>Installed son, Belshazzar, as regent and spent 10 years in Teima 550</p> <p>Babylon opens gates to Persian king, Cyrus 539</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Assyrian Domination (730–625)</p> <p>Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria</p> <p>Took control of Babylon in 729</p> <p>Merodach-baladan 722–710, 703</p> <p>Became king of Sealand 729</p> <p>Seized control of Babylon 722</p> <p>Ousted by Sargon, but escaped 710</p> <p>Took throne again when Sennacherib succeeded his father; ousted a few months later 703</p> <p>Sennacherib of Assyria completed successful siege of Babylon and razed the city 689</p> <p>Babylon rebuilt by Sennacherib's son, Esarhaddon 676</p>	

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Chronology of the Persian Period¹⁰

PERSIAN KING	DATES	BIBLICAL CORRELATION	GREEK CORRELATION
CYRUS	539-530	Return of Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Ezra 1-3)	
CAMBYSES	530-522	Rebuilding at Jerusalem stopped (Ezra 4)	
DARIUS I	522-486	Haggai and Zechariah prophesy (520) Temple completed (516) (Ezra 5-6)	Greeks defeat Persians at Marathon (490)
XERXES	486-464	Story of Esther (Esther 1-9)	Greeks defeat Persians at Thermopolae (480 and Salamis (479) Herodotus 485-425
ARTAXERXES I	464-423	Return of Ezra (458) (Ezra 7-10) Return of Nehemiah (445) (Nehemiah 1-2) Prophecy of Malachi (433)	Golden Age (461-431) Pericles (460-429) Athens rules
DARIUS II	423-404	Biblical Silence	Peloponnesian Wars (431-404) Athens falls (404) Sparta rules
ARTAXERXES II	404-359		Socrates (470-399) Plato (428-348) Aristotle (384-322)
ARTAXERXES III	359-338		Philip II of Macedon defeats Greeks at Chaeronea in 338
ARSES	338-335		
DARIUS III	335-331		Alexander the Great overthrows Persian Empire
ALEXANDER	336-323		Establishment of Greek Empire ¹

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Views Concerning Daniel's Four Empires¹⁰

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM STATUE (Dan. 2)	DANIEL'S VISION OF BEASTS (Dan. 7)	POSITION #1	POSITION #2	POSITION #3
HEAD GOLD	Lion with eagle wings	BABYLON	BABYLON	Nebuchadnezzar (2:38)
CHEST SILVER	Bear	MEDIA	MEDO-PERSIA	MEDIA Contemporaneous to Nebuchadnezzar's successors
	3 Ribs in mouth	Darius the Mede—considered historically inaccurate	3 Ribs = Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt	3 Ribs = Urartu, Scythia, and Mannaeans (cf. Jer. 51:27–29)
TORSO BRONZE	Leopard with	PERSIA	GREEK	PERSIA
	4 wings and 4 heads	First 4 Persian kings or 4 directions	4 generals who divide up Alexander's Empire	First 4 kings of Persia (Dan. 11:2)
LEGS IRON, FEET IRON and POTTERY	Unnamed beast	GREECE	ROMAN	GREECE
	10 horns	10 horns = Seleucid kings Little horn = Antichus IV Epiphanes	3 options: Past fulfillment Future fulfillment in extended empire Future fulfillment in reconstituted empire	10 Horns = Ten sovereign states that had grown out of Alexander's empire by the 2nd c. B.C.

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Views Concerning Daniel's 70 Weeks¹⁰

ISSUES	MACCABEAN		ROMAN		ESCHATOLOGICAL
Beginning point (Decree, v. 25)	605/586 Beginning of Captivity	Variously one of 3 Persian Decrees 538, 458, 445	I-SYMBOLIC		II-INTERVAL
			Decree of Cyrus	Jeremiah's prophetic word 594	One of the decrees of Artaxerxes 458 or 445
Messiah the Prince v. 25	Cyrus	Jesus	Jesus	Cyrus	Jesus
62 Weeks	538–170 Cyrus- Antiochus IV Epiphanes	Added to 7 weeks to span from decree to point in life of Christ	Church Age	Indefinite period from Cyrus until end	Added to 7 weeks and by using "prophetic years" ends at triumphal entry
Messiah v. 26	Onias III High Priest murdered 171 B.C.	Jesus	Jesus at Tribulation	Antichrist	Jesus at Crucifixion
Covenant-Maker v. 27	Antiochus IV Epiphanes with renegade Jews	Jesus	Antichrist	Antichrist	Antichrist
70th Week	Persecution of Antiochus IV Epiphanes 171– 164	Roman destruction of Jerusalem by Titus, 70 A.D.	Tribulation	Tribulation	Tribulation ²

DARIUS THE MEDE דָּרְיֹוּס הַמֶּדֶי (דָּרְיֹוּס הַמֶּדֶי). Medo-Pers. governor ("king") of Babylonia under Cyrus the Great mentioned esp. in the sixth ch. of Daniel. Immediately following the death of "Belshazzar the Chaldean king" in Oct. 539 B.C., Darius the Mede is said to have "received the kingdom" ([Dan 5:31](#)), prob. having been made "king over the realm of the Chaldeans" ([9:1](#)) by Cyrus the Great ([1:21](#); [6:28](#)). He is best remembered for the unalterable decree which his officers tricked him into signing, which resulted in Daniel being cast into a den of lions ([6:7-18](#)). In contrast to Nebuchadnezzar, this ruler was helpless to reverse his own decree, vividly illustrating the inferiority of the silver kingdom of Medo-Persia to the golden kingdom of Babylon in the matter of royal sovereignty. Compare [Daniel 3:29](#); [Esther 1:19](#); [8:8](#), and the testimony of Diodorus Siculus (xvii, 30), that Darius III (335-331) wanted to free a man he had condemned, but realized that "it was not possible to undo what was done by royal authority."

Darius the Mede is not to be confused with the later Pers. monarch, Darius I Hystaspes (521-486 B.C.), for he was of Median extraction ("of the seed of the Medes," [Dan 9:1](#) KJV), and his father's name was Ahasuerus (the Heb. equivalent

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of "Xerxes," the name of the son of Darius I. See [Esth 1:1](#)). Darius the Mede was born in the year 601/600 B.C., for at the fall of Babylon in 539 B.C. he was sixty-two ([Dan 5:31](#)).

A major assumption of negative higher criticism has been that the Book of Daniel was authored by an unknown writer of the Maccabean age (c. 164 B.C.) who mistakenly thought that an independent Median kingdom ruled by Darius the Mede followed the fall of Babylon and preceded the rise of Persia under Cyrus. Darius the Mede, however, is not depicted in the book as a universal monarch. His subordinate position (under Cyrus) is clearly implied in the statement that he "was made king (Heb. passive, *homlak*) over the realm of the Chaldeans" ([9:1](#) KJV). Also, the fact that Belshazzar's kingdom was "given to the Medes and Persians" ([5:28](#)) and that Darius found himself incapable of altering the "law of the Medes and Persians" ([6:15](#)) renders the critical view untenable.

The early 20th cent. publication of additional cuneiform texts from this period has enabled one to understand much better the circumstances surrounding the fall of Babylon in 539 B.C. It seems quite probable that Darius the Mede was another name for GUBARU, the governor under Cyrus who appointed sub-governors in Babylonia immediately after its conquest ("Nabonidus Chronicle," ANET, 306; cf. [Dan 6:1](#)). This same Gubaru (not to be confused with UGBARU, governor of Gutium, the general under Cyrus who conquered Babylon and died three weeks later, according to the Nabonidus Chronicle) is frequently mentioned in cuneiform documents during the following fourteen years as "Governor of Babylon and the Region Beyond the River" (i.e., the entire Fertile Crescent). Gubaru thus ruled over the vast and populous territories of Babylonia, Syria, Phoenicia, and Pal., and his name was a final warning to criminals throughout this area (cf. J. C. Whitcomb, *Darius the Mede* [1963], pp. 10-24). The fact that he is called "king" in the sixth ch. of Daniel is not an inaccuracy, even though he was a subordinate of Cyrus. Similarly, Belshazzar was called "king," even though he was second ruler of the kingdom under Nabonidus ([5:29](#)).

The Book of Daniel gives more information concerning the personal background of Darius the Mede than of Belshazzar or even of Nebuchadnezzar; for he is the only monarch in the book whose age, parentage, and nationality are recorded. Although he was a subordinate ruler like Belshazzar, it is evident that he ruled Babylonia with far greater zeal and efficiency than did his profligate predecessor; and even more important, he honored the God of Daniel ([6:25-27](#)). See [Book of Daniel](#).¹²

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