

IDENTIFICATION  
OF  
DARIUS THE MEDE

George R. Law

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# IDENTIFICATION OF DARIUS THE MEDE

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This book is the published version of the 2010 dissertation written by George R. Law in order to complete his Ph.D. in O.T. Studies at Piedmont Baptist College and Graduate School.

Cover Illustration / by Elizabeth J. Law (© Elizabeth J. Law). The scene suggests a well-known practice among Mesopotamian kings: here a Medo-Persian king is engaged in physical combat with a mature male lion in order to prove his divinely-ordained status and favor.

Law, George R.

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To  
KAREN  
*my best friend who bore our children:*  
ELIZABETH, REBEKAH, JENNIFER, JESSICA, G. NATHAN, & JUSTIN

*and to*  
H. DAVID & LOIS MARKS  
*who bore her*

*and to*  
GEORGE C. & JUDY LAW  
*who bore me*

*and to*  
our family in CHRIST  
*who bear us in their prayers to*

GOD & HIS SON, JESUS  
*Who has borne all for us all.*

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## ABSTRACT

### IDENTIFICATION OF DARIUS THE MEDE

George R. Law

Dr. Gilbert Braithwaite, Advisory Committee Chairman

Darius the Mede was the king infamous for condemning Daniel to the Lions' Den (Dan 6). But according to secular historians, the king called "Darius the Mede" is unknown to history, and there is no room for his reign between the reigns of Nabonidus and Cyrus the Great. This issue sets modern critical scholars against those holding to the historicity and veracity of the Word of God. If these critical conclusions are accepted, then Daniel and his book are relegated to a work of fiction which consequently undermines the credibility of those, including Jesus Christ, who confirmed Daniel's historicity.

The question arising from this controversy is "Who was this king called 'Darius the Mede'?" The theory of this author is that Darius the Mede is the name which the author of Daniel purposefully used when this king was acting as an agent of God executing God's prophetic judgment on the Chaldeans; and conversely, when this king was acting as an agent of God obeying God's prophetic commands to release the Jews and to rebuild Jerusalem and its Temple, then this king was called by the name which was given to him almost two hundred years earlier in Isaiah's prophecy, the name "Cyrus."

This dissertation provides a method for identifying Darius the Mede. The list of six potential candidates includes the following: 1) Astyages, 2) Cambyses II, 3) Cyaxares (II), 4) Cyrus the Great, 5) Darius the Great, and 6) Gubaru. This investigational research method collects informational data from the following six categories: 1. Gender; 2. Socio-political classification; 3. Age at fall of Babylon; 4. Heritage; 5. Relations; and 6. Titles. Two phases of data collection for six specific questions qualify and distinguish the candidates. Finally, based on the quality of the evidence, a Grade of Identification is computed describing the reliability of a candidate's identification as Darius the Mede. This method has helped to identify the strongest candidate to be identified as Darius the Mede.

The dissertation's final analysis includes discussions concerning the fit of the most likely candidate with some interesting details found in history and in the book of Daniel.