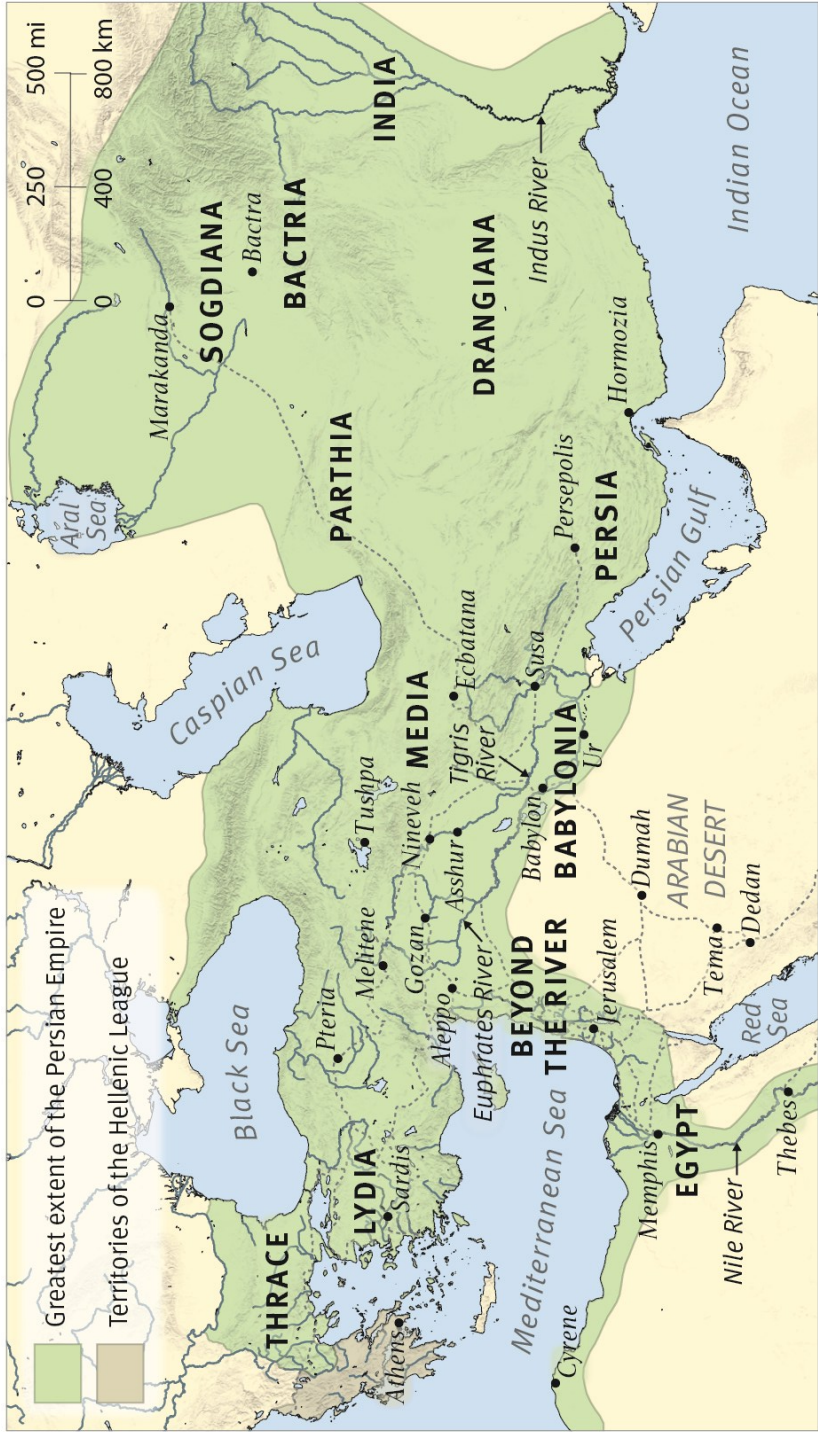


The Empires of Daniel's Visions: The Persians

c. 538–331 B.C.

After Cyrus the Great united the Median and Persian empires, he overthrew the Babylonians and established the greatest power the world had ever known. Under later rulers the Persian Empire eventually extended from Egypt and Thrace to the borders of India, and Cyrus himself declared, “the Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth” (2 Chron. 36:23; Ezra 1:2). Consistent with his regular policies to promote loyalty among his subjugated peoples, Cyrus immediately released the exiled Jews from their captivity in Babylon and even sponsored the rebuilding of the temple.



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SERMON NOTES

Rulers During the Time of Daniel

Babylon	Nebuchadnezzar	605–562 B.C.
	Nabonidus	556–539
	Co-regent Belshazzar	550–539
Persia	Cyrus	539–530
	Darius I	522–486

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WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

GOD

This is God's world. He made it and is in charge of it. God has declared his Son, Jesus, to be in charge of his world. We know this because God brought Jesus back to life again after he was dead. Jesus has the right to run our lives. He is our rightful ruler.

US

Everyone is rebellious to the fact that Jesus should run their lives. They may express this in open hostility, or by passive indifference. In either case, the rebellion is real.

GOD

God calls on us to stop rebelling and to turn back and submit to Jesus as our rightful Ruler.

WHAT IF I DON'T?

If a person will not submit to Jesus, but continues to rebel, in the end they will be overthrown because Jesus really is Ruler in God's world, and the rightful Ruler in each person's life.

WHAT IF I DO?

If a person does stop rebelling and turns back to submit to Jesus as their Ruler, they are treated as if they had never rebelled. They are forgiven because of the death of Jesus on their behalf.



***“Who’s the king
round here?”***

Daniel 5

**26 July
AD 2026**