

I am very glad when you give me questions. If it's anything I don't make clear, if you can write out the question and give it to me, I appreciate it very much. I don't like to have the only way I know I'm getting the material across be one test in the middle and one examination. So if you give me questions it's great help to me. If there is anything you disagree with that I present, or if you think of a better interpretation I'm very glad to get that in writing too. So I don't feel we should take much time in class for individual questions. Unless after I read them I feel they are important enough to take up time in class.

Here's a question I was given at the end of the last hour that I think is very important. I want to be sure all of you get it so I will turn this on -- off so it will not distract your attention from it.

The question was this: Why do you call the fourth king Xerxes I when v.1 talks about Darius, and then v. 2 says, "Now I will show you the truth, there shall stand yet three kings and the fourth." It seems that the fourth would point to further kings away from Darius, and not the king next, Xerxes I.

This is a very important question because there is a matter that I have mentioned, but not stressed that if you don't have clearly in mind could cause you confusion. I might say there are two elements that enter into that.

The first is that we have noticed chs. 10-12 form a sort of unit. Of those three chs. the first verse in ch. 11 belongs with what precedes rather than with what follows. But the second point is this: this Darius the Mede is a different person from Darius the king of Persia. Darius the Mede seems to have been the man whom Cyrus put in charge of the kingdom of Babylon after he conquered it.

Most interpreters think it was a man named Gobryas who is mentioned in one of Cyrus' inscriptions. One recent writer thinks it is another name for Cyrus himself. But this Darius the Mede is different from the Persian king who is mentioned on the sheet of facts of ancient history that I gave to you. So it is very good to have that clearly in mind and I appreciate greatly having this question.

The answers to the test I gave you two weeks ago, I was not able to discuss with you last week because I was away a good bit of the time between the test and our meeting last week. But now they have been very carefully gone over. Some of them are very good, and some of them are quite disappointing. I believe it would be helpful to take the time to look at these questions; to take a few minutes and look at the different questions together.

I think I'll start with the questions given to people with odd-numbered seats. The first of those was: Briefly state the critical theory regarding the meaning of Daniel's prediction.