

Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

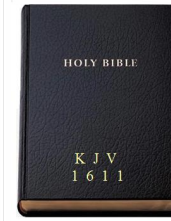
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Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim 2:15)

Dr. Joseph Speciale, Instructor

A ministry of the
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

Lee Swor, Pastor

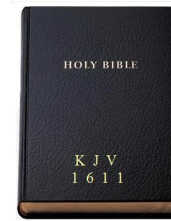


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Bible Prophecy

The Judgment Of Iran

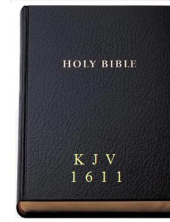
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Introduction

- Since the Islamic revolution in 1979, **Iran** has arguably replaced Egypt and Syria as the archenemy of the nation of Israel
- Iranian Supreme Leaders Ayatollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Khamenei, and former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad have referred to Israel as a “cancer” and vowed to “wipe Israel off the map”
- Iran, under the name *Persia*, is listed as the chief ally of Gog in the invasion of Israel in Ezekiel 38 (Eze 38:5) that takes place in the latter days
- This enmity against Israel is a 180 degree change from the relatively positive Persian-Jewish relations represented in other scripture
- Interestingly, Iran is **not** listed as a participant in the war of Psalm 83 that takes place **before** the invasion of Ezekiel 38, even though the objective of war of Psalm 83 is to, “**cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance**” (Psa 83:4)
- Is there any indication from Bible prophecy why Iran will not participate in the war of Psalm 83?
- What does the Bible say about Iran and what is it’s fate?



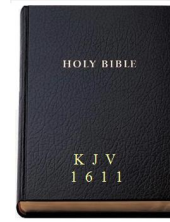
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I. Biblical Names For Iran

1. Elam/Shushan

- 1) Elam appears 30x and refers to Iran 19x (the other 11x refer to various Jews)
 - *Elam* is the first in the list of the sons of Shem and is the patriarchal or ancestral name for Iran (Gen 10:22; 1 Chr 1:17)
 - The king of Elam (i.e.- Chedorlaomer) led a confederacy of nations into battle against Sodom and Gomorrah but was defeated by Abram and an army of his trained servants when they entered the battle to rescue Lot (Gen 14:1-2,13-16)
 - Elamites were among the nations that sent documentation to Artaxerxes the king opposing the Jews and the rebuilding of the temple (Ezr 4:9)
 - Elamites were among the people transplanted by the Assyrians into Samaria following the captivity of the 10 northern tribes of Israel (Ezr 4:9-10)

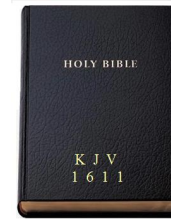
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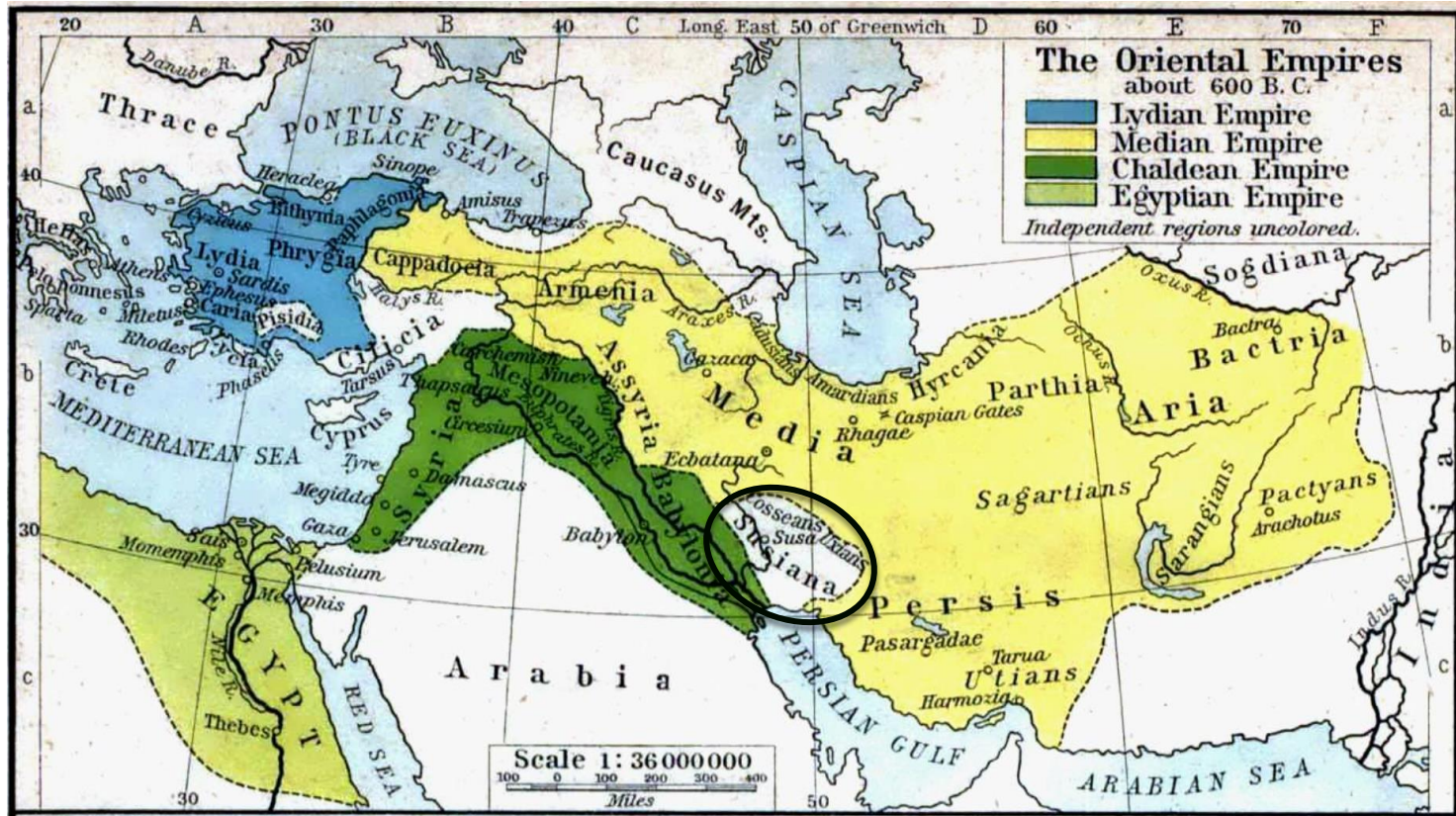
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- Elam was a province in the Babylonian empire (Dan 8:2)
 - There were Jews and Jewish proselytes from Elam at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:9)
 - Historically, Elam was also referred to as *Susiana*, after it's capital *Susa*
 - **Elam** comprised what would be **SW Iran** today (i.e.- on the Persian Gulf)
- 2) Shushan appears 21x (19x in Esther; 1x in Nehemiah; 1x in Daniel)
- Shushan was one of four capital cities in the Persian empire and site to a royal palace (Neh 1:1; Est 1:2,5; 2:3,5,8; 3:15; 8:14; 9:6,11-12)
 - Shushan was where three royal decrees were given: (1) a decree to exterminate all Jews (Est 3:13-15; 4:8); (2) a decree for the Jews to mount a self-defense (Est 8:12-14); and (3) a decree for the Jews to defend themselves an additional day and to hang the 10 sons of Haman (Est 9:14-15)

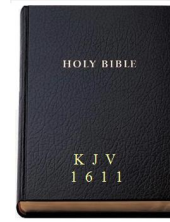
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- A large Jewish population dwelt in Shushan during the days of the Persian empire (Est 4:16; 8:15; 9:13,15,18)
- Historically, Shushan is also called *Susa*
- The modern city of Shush is located on the site of ancient Shushan



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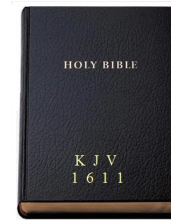
2. Madai/Media

- 1) Madai appears 2x, both referring to one of the sons of Japheth (Gen 10:5; 1 Chr 1:5)
 - Madai is the patriarchal or ancestral name for Media (i.e.- the Medes)
 - The Medes are technically a Caucasian people
- 2) Mede(s) and Media(n) appear 21x
 - The first appearance is associated with the Assyrian captivity of the 10 northern tribes of Israel (2 Kin 17:6)
 - The Medes were conquered and became part of the Assyrian empire
 - Shalmaneser took some of the captives of the 10 northern tribes of Israel and placed them in the cities of the Medes (2 Kin 17:6; 18:11)

2 Kin 17:6

In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor *by* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of **the Medes**.

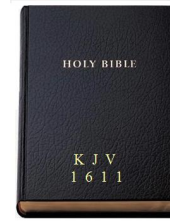
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- The Medes allied themselves with the Babylonians and Scythians to attack and destroy Nineveh in 612 BC, leading to the fall of the Assyrian empire
- The Babylonians never conquered or attacked the Medes during the time of the Babylonian empire due to the political marriage between Nebuchadnezzar and Amytis, the daughter of Cyaxares the king of Media
- Tradition holds that Nebuchadnezzar built the “Hanging Gardens” of Babylon (one of the 7 ancient wonders of the world) to appease Amytis’ longing for the beauty of her Median homeland
- The Medes established their kingdom beyond the territory of their original homeland (i.e.- north central and north west Iran), extending from northeastern Iran to the Halys river in Anatolia
- The Lord raised up the Medes and Persians as an instrument of judgment against Babylon (Isa 13:17-19; Jer 51:11,28-29; Dan 5:28)
- The Medes stopped the water flow by the gate of Babylon long enough to cross the dry trough, go under the gate, and enter the city undetected (Isa 45:1; Jer 50:38) cf. (Nah 2:6)

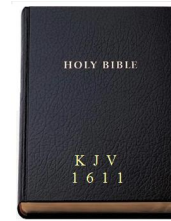
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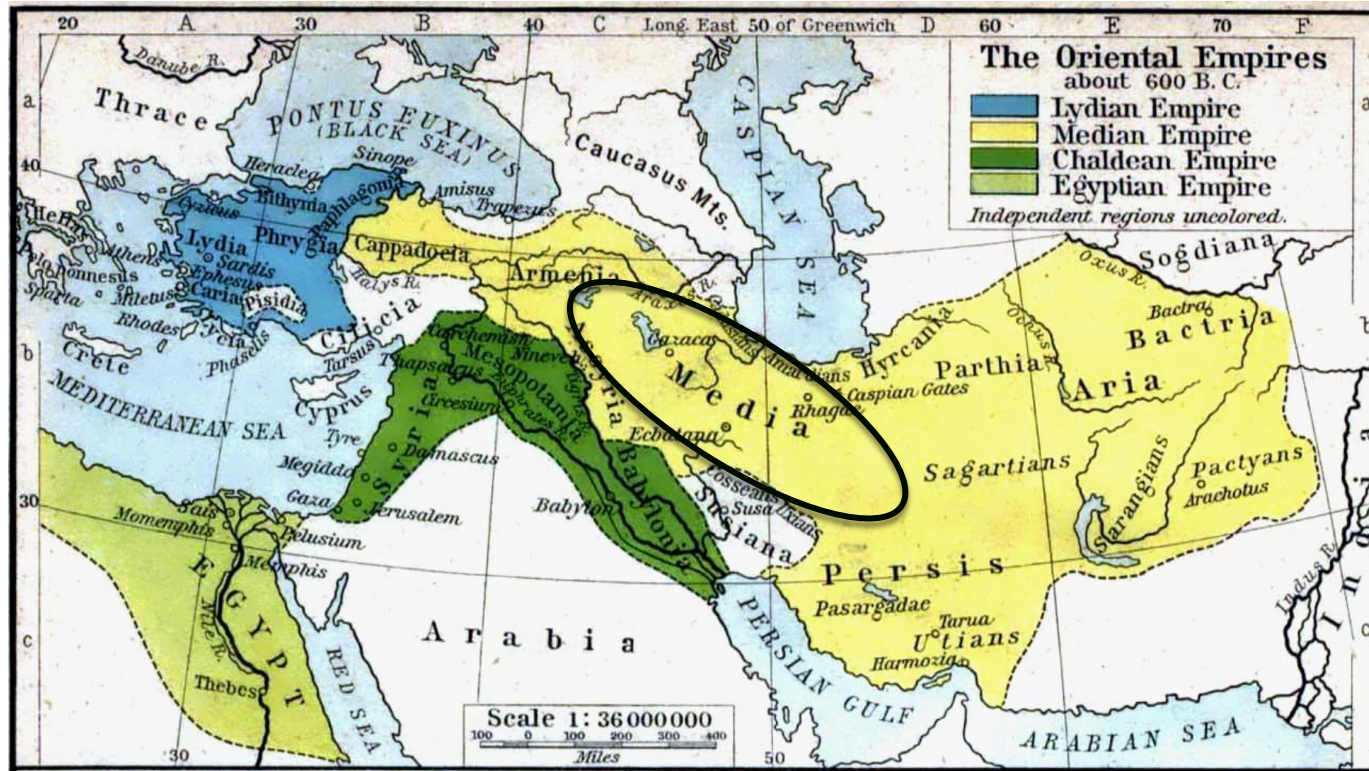
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- The general Darius the Mede conquered the city of Babylon and the Medo/Persian empire officially succeeded the Babylonian empire (Dan 5:31; 2:32,39; 7:5)
- The dual empire of the Medes and Persians is expressed by three phrases: (1) **“Medes and Persians”** appears 4x (Dan 5:28; 6:8,12,15); (2) **“Media and Persia”** appears 2x (Est 10:2; Dan 8:20); and (3) **“Persia and Media”** appears 3x (Est 1:3,14,18)
- It appears this same Darius later became king (Dan 6:1; 9:1) and promoted Daniel to the position of “prime minister” (Dan 6:2-3)
- The other leaders were so envious of Daniel that they tricked Darius into issuing a non-retractable decree that prohibited any one from praying or asking petition of any God or man for 30 days under penalty of death in a den of lions (Dan 6:7-9)
- Darius obviously respected and cared for Daniel (Dan 6:14-16,18,28)
- Based on the content of the decree issued after Daniel was delivered from the den of lions, Darius was a saved man (Dan 6:25-27)

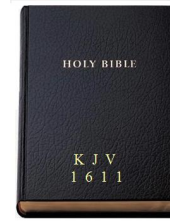
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- The law of the Medes and Persians was binding and could not be altered or retracted (Est 1:19; Dan 6:8,12,15)
- There were Jews and Jewish proselytes from Media at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:9)
- **Media** comprised what would be **NW Iran** today



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3. Persia

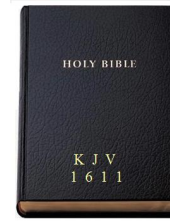
1) Persia appears a total of 36x (6 x 6) in it's various forms

- *Persia* appears 29x (only in *2 Chronicles*; *Ezra*; *Esther*; *Ezekiel*; and *Daniel*)
- *Persian(s)* appears 7x (only in *Nehemiah*, *Esther*, and *Daniel*)
- Persia is the racial or ethnic name for Iran
- **Persia** comprised what would be **SC/SE Iran** today

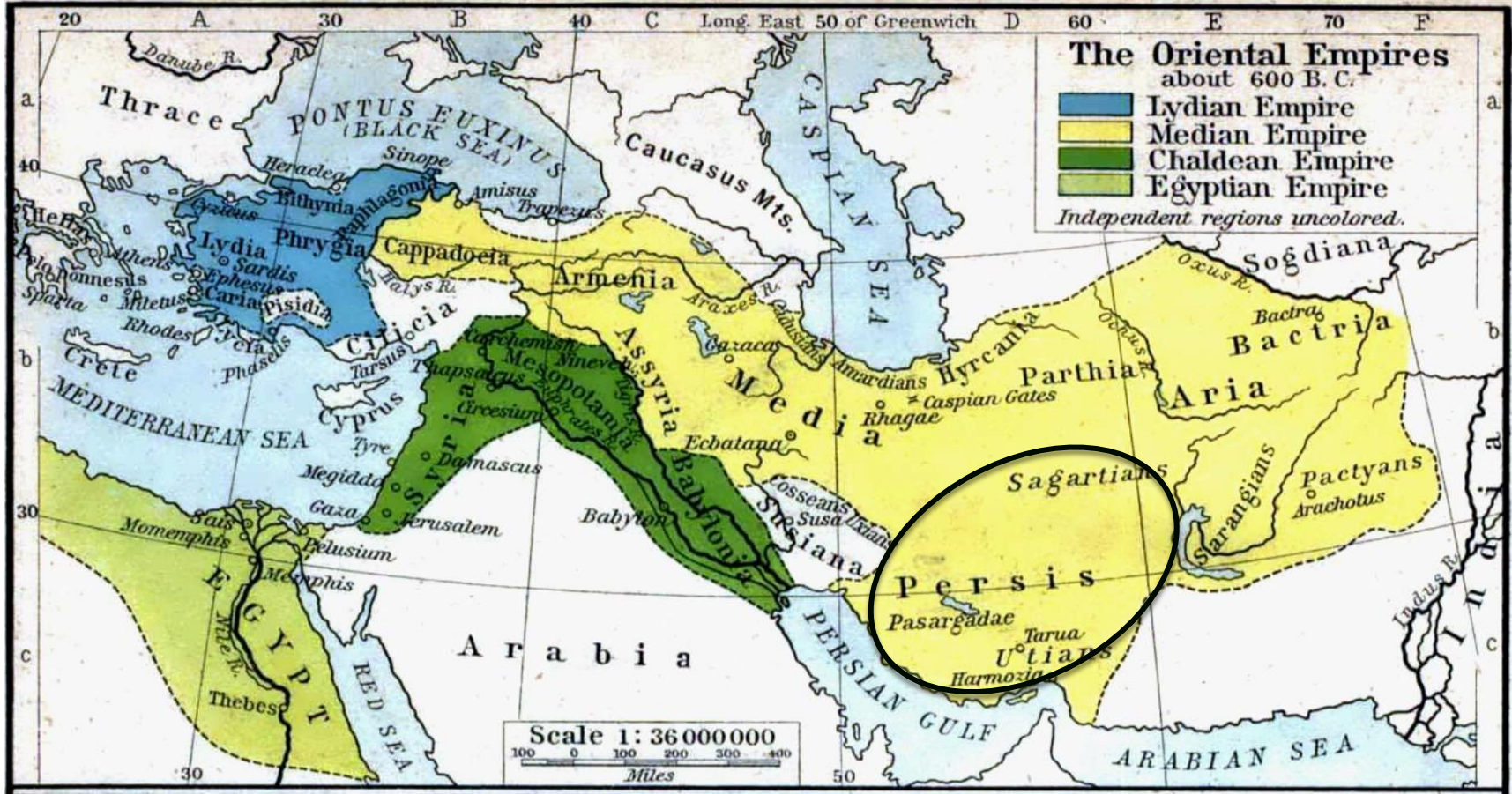
2) Persia is the name attributed to Iran from the time of Cyrus the Great until 1935

- Derived from *Parsua* (Gr. *Persis*)
- The people referred to themselves as *Pars* after the Aryan tribal name *Parsa*
- In 1935, the Shah insisted the international community henceforth recognize and refer to the nation as *Iran* (“land of the Aryans”)

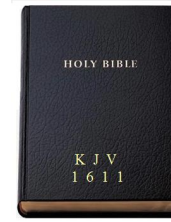
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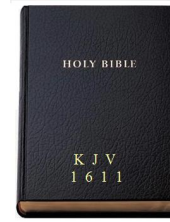
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- 3) The Medo/Persian (Achaemenid) empire was the biggest the world had seen at the time
- Achaemenid is named after *Achaemenes*, who ruled Persis between 705-675 BC
 - Between 700-600 BC, Persians settled in the southwestern Iranian plateau bordered on the west by the Tigris River and the south by the Persian Gulf
 - Cyrus the Great defeated and assimilated the Medes and Lydians and then conquered the Babylonians in 537 BC to form the Achaemenid empire
 - Subsequent conquests including Egypt, expanded the empire to cover three continents, from India to Ethiopia (Est 1:1)
 - The Medo/Persian empire included the lands currently known as Iran, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Turkey, Thrace, Macedonia, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Black Sea coastal region, much of Central Asia, Afghanistan, northern Saudi Arabia, and parts of Oman and the United Arab Emirates

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4) The Medo/Persian empire had relatively positive relations with the Jews

Ezr 9:6-9

And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over *our* head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

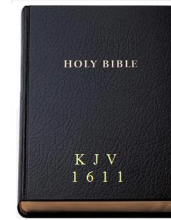
Since the days of our fathers *have we been* in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, *and* our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as *it is* this day.

And now for a little space grace hath been *shewed* from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

For we *were* bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but **hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia**, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

- The first appearance of PERSIA is associated with liberation from the king of Babylon (2 Chr 36:20)

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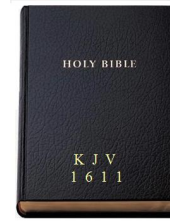
Cyrus

- Cyrus, the first king of Persia, issued the decree for the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple (2 Chr 36:22-23; Ezr 1:1-4)
- He also authorized that monetary and material assistance be provided for the Jews making the pilgrimage back to their land (Ezr 1:4; 3:7)
- He also collected the vessels of the temple that the Babylonians had plundered and sent them back to Jerusalem to be placed in the rebuilt temple (Ezr 1:7-11)

Darius

- The rebuilding effort began but was hindered for the duration of Cyrus' reign (Ezr 4:4-5), and was ordered to cease under Artaxerxes' reign due to a letter sent to the king from a company of people opposing the Jews (Ezr 4:6-24)

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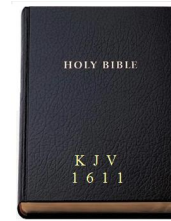
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- When Darius became king, he restored the original decree issued by Cyrus and issued an additional decree that any one who attempted to alter the decree again would be executed and his house made a dunghill (Ezr 6:1-12)
- The law of the Medes and Persians was binding and could not be altered or retracted (Ezr 6:11; Est 1:19; Dan 6:8,12,15)
- The temple was rebuilt about 3 ½ to 4 four years later (Ezr 4:24; 6:15)
- This is the same Darius that promoted Daniel and got saved

Artaxerxes

- Artaxerxes issued a decree comparable to Cyrus', authorizing safety to any Jews willing to return to Jerusalem and giving Ezra the priest a "blank check" to meet any material needs for the temple (Ezr 7:11-23)
- He also decreed that the priests and ministers of the temple be tax-exempt and that swift judgment be executed against those who break the law of God and the law of the king (Ezr 7:24-26)
- Based on the content of his decree (Ezr 7:11-26), Artaxerxes may have been saved also; at the very least, he had a profound respect for the Lord

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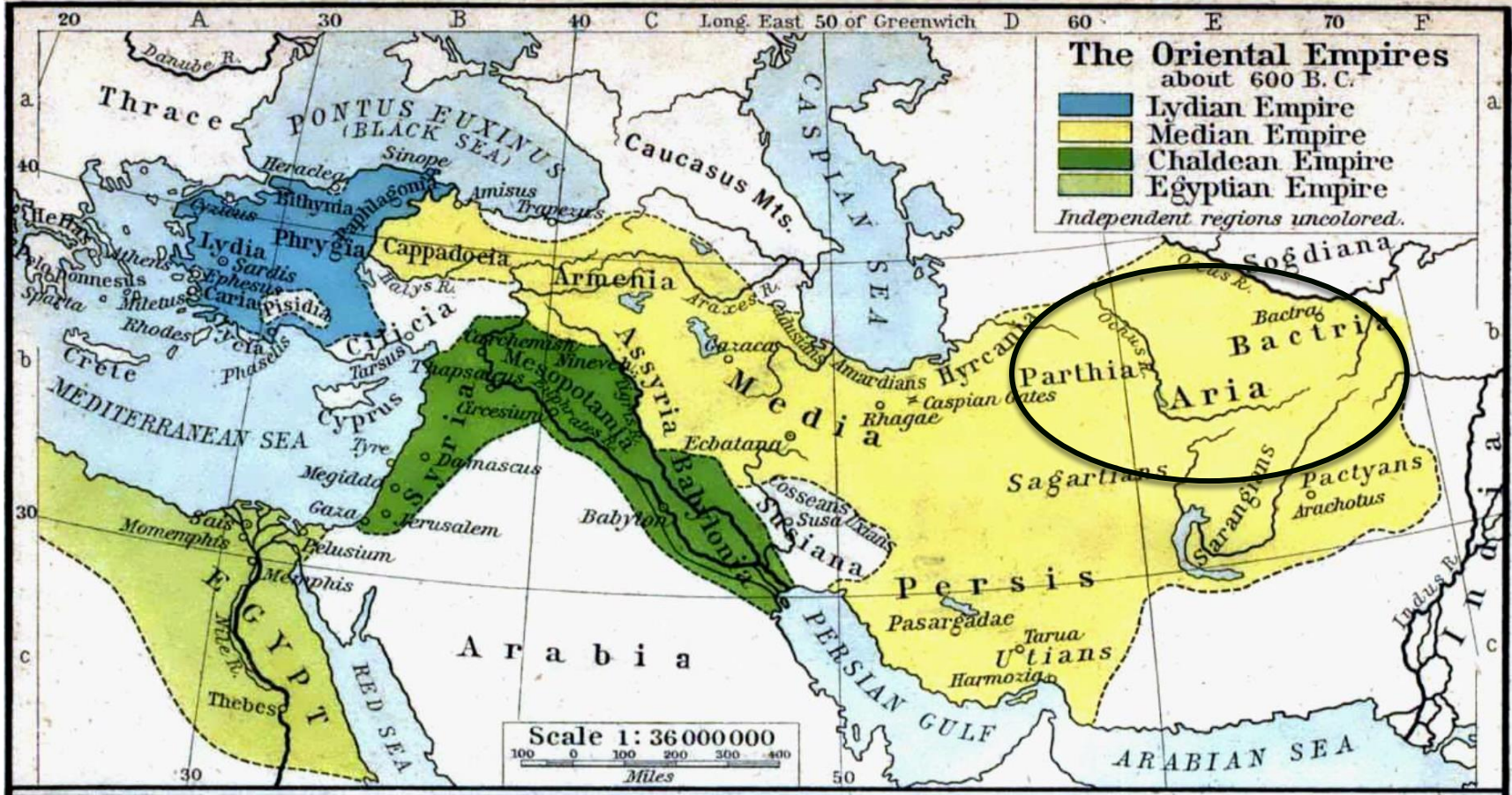
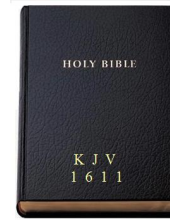
Ahasuerus

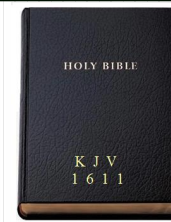
- Ahasuerus promoted Mordecai (Est 7:10; 8:1-2; 10:1-3)
 - He issued a decree for the Jews to defend themselves against the genocidal decree Haman tricked him into issuing (Est 8:10-14)
 - He issued another decree for the Jews to defend themselves an additional day, and to hang Haman's 10 sons (Est 9:13-14)
- 5) Persians were part of the army of Tyre (Eze 27:12)
- 6) There was/is a spiritual principality over Persia (Dan 10:13,20)

4. Parthia

- *Parthia(ns)* only appears 1x and it refers to Jews and Jewish proselytes from Parthia who came to Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:9)
- **Parthia** comprised what would be **NE Iran** today

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