

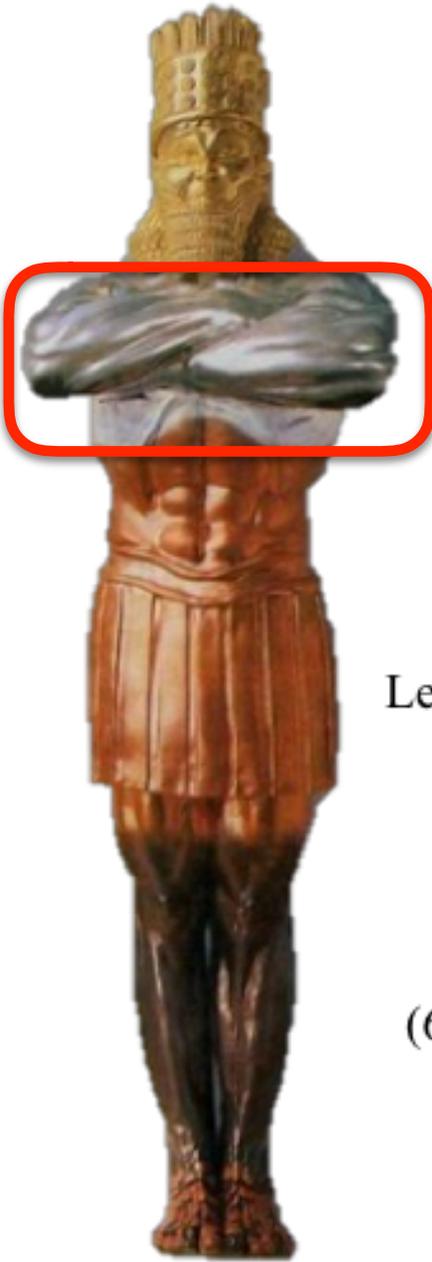
Mt. Pleasant
Bible Institute
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A ministry of the
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

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THE FOUR GENTILE WORLD EMPIRES



1. Babylon
Head of Gold
Lion with Eagles' wings
(606 BC- 537 BC)



2. Medo-Persia
Breast and Arms of Silver
Bear with three ribs in mouth
(537 BC- 334 BC)



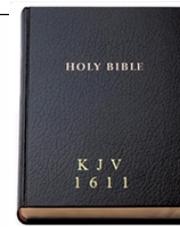
3. Greece
Belly and Thighs of Brass
Leopard with four heads and four wings
(334 BC- 64 BC)



4. Rome
Legs of Iron
A dreadful and terrible beast
(64 BC- Second Coming of Christ)



The Final Form of Rome
Feet and Toes part Iron and part Clay
10 horns on the beast



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The Four Gentile World Empires

The Medo-Persian Empire



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:17,20

- He also married one of the daughters of Gobryas, who would give birth to his first born son Artobazanes, who was not heir to the throne because Darius favored his wife Atossa and her oldest son Xerxes
- Darius had two additional marriages later but both were also to women within the seven houses of the Achaemenid conspirators
- There is no evidence to suggest that Xerxes I had any similar restriction to his marriages
- Esther was more than a woman in the king's harem, she was crowned QUEEN
- When she revealed to the king that she was a Jew he did not get angry, put her away, or kill her but sought to empower her people to defend themselves from genocide (Est 3:13; 7:3-4; 8:3-14)

Est 3:13

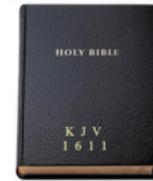
And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, **to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews**, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.

Est 7:3-4

3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, **If I have found favour in thy sight, O king**, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

4 For **we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish**. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:5-7,17



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Est 2:5-7,17

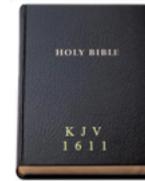
5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;

6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

- Fourth, the Ahasuerus of Esther rules at a time that accounts for the following:
 - Esther was old enough to marry but young enough to be a virgin (Est 2:17), so she was probably in her early 20s
 - Mordecai was her cousin, yet old enough to raise her like a daughter when her father and mother died (Est 2:7); so if Esther was in her early 20s, then Mordecai was at least in his early 40s
 - The events of the book cover a period of time of at least 10 years (Est 1:3; 3:7) culminating with Mordecai being promoted to prime minister (Est 10:2-3); so Mordecai had to be young enough to be offered the position and to serve in it
- The key to identifying the Ahasuerus of Esther is identifying WHO was taken captive with the captivity of Jehoiachin in 598 BC (Est 2:6)- was it Mordecai or Kish, Mordecai's great grandfather?



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:5-7,17

- Almost all scholars and commentators believe that the WHO of Esther 2:6 refers to KISH and this is reflected by the fact that all the new bibles change the the punctuation of Esther 2:5 and/or the wording of Esther 2:6 to accommodate this

Est 2:5-6 NKJV	Est 2:5-6 NASB	Est 2:5-6 NIV	Est 2:5-6 ESV	Est 2:5-6 HCSB
<p>5 In Shushan the citadel there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite.</p> <p>6 <i>Kish</i> had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been captured with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.</p>	<p>5 Now there was at the citadel in Susa a Jew whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite,</p> <p>6 who had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had been exiled with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had exiled.</p>	<p>5 Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish,</p> <p>6 who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah.</p>	<p>5 Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite,</p> <p>6 who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away.</p>	<p>5 In the fortress of Susa, there was a Jewish man named Mordecai son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite.</p> <p>6 He had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the other captives when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took King Jeconiah of Judah into exile.</p>



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:5-7,17

- 1) If the Ahasuerus of Esther is Darius I, then the book of Esther begins in 519 BC and ends about 10 years later in 509 BC
 - If the WHO in Esther 2:6 refers to MORDECAI going into captivity with Jehoiachin in 598 BC, then Mordecai was 89-99 years old in Esther, assuming he was 10 years old when he was taken into captivity (i.e.- 608 BC- 519 BC= 89 years old; 608 BC- 509 BC= 99 years old)
 - Since Esther was a virgin and probably no older than her early 20's at the beginning of the book, this would mean Mordecai, her older COUSIN, was 60+ years older than she was- this is possible but very highly unlikely
 - It would also mean that a 99 year old man was made prime minister of an entire empire- possible but very highly unlikely
 - If the WHO in Esther 2:6 refers to KISH, Mordecai's great grandfather, going into captivity with Jehoiachin in 598 BC, and assuming Kish begat Shimei 5 years after the captivity (i.e.- 593 BC), Shimei begat Jair 25 years after that (i.e.- 568 BC), and Jair begat Mordecai 25 years after that (i.e.- 543 BC), then Mordecai was 24-34 years old in Esther
 - A 34 year old man could certainly be made prime minister of an entire empire, but it is not possible for a 4-year old boy to adopt his younger cousin and raise her as his own daughter



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:5-7,17

- 2) If the Ahasuerus of Esther is Xerxes I, then the book of Esther begins in 483 BC and ends about 10 years later in 473 BC
- If the WHO in Esther 2:6 refers to MORDECAI going into captivity with Jehoiachin in 598 BC, then Mordecai was 125-135 years old in Esther, assuming he was 10 years old when he was taken into captivity (i.e.- 608 BC- 483 BC= 125 years old; 608 BC- 473 BC= 135 years old)
 - Since Esther was a virgin and probably no older than her early 20's at the beginning of the book, this would mean Mordecai, her older COUSIN, was 100+ years older than she was- not possible
 - It would also mean that a 135 year old man was made prime minister- not possible; a man even living to be 135 years old is very highly unlikely
 - If the WHO in Esther 2:6 refers to KISH, Mordecai's great grandfather, going into captivity with Jehoiachin in 598 BC, and assuming Kish begat Shimei 5 years after the captivity (i.e.- 593 BC), Shimei begat Jair 25 years after that (i.e.- 568 BC), and Jair begat Mordecai 25 years after that (i.e.- 543 BC), then Mordecai was 60-70 years old in Esther
 - This would mean that Mordecai was about 40 years older than Esther, which is possible; and he was made prime minister at the age of 70, which is also possible



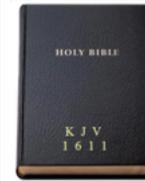
The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:5-7,17

- If all the assumptions are reasonable and sound, and dates regarding the reigns of Darius I and Xerxes I are correct, then it appears that the most plausible theories include that KISH is the WHO of Esther 2:6 and the Ahasuerus of Esther is XERXES I
- Almost all “scholars” and commentators believe this Ahasuerus was XERXES I, and, unfortunately, this is reflected in the new bibles that are dynamic equivalent translations like the NIV and CEV, which change the word AHASUERUS to XERXES

Est 1:1 (NIV)

This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush:

- This theory is also supported by the Greek historian Herodotus who stated that Xerxes sought comfort from his harem following his defeat at Salamis in the tenth month of his seventh year as king, which compares favorably to Esther 2:16



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