

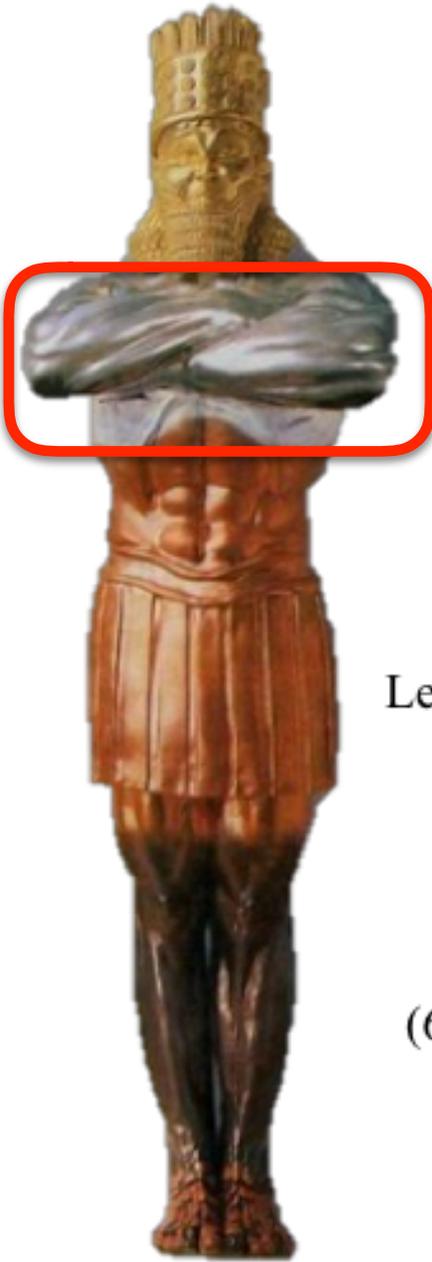
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*Dr. Joseph Speciale, Instructor*

A ministry of the  
***Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church***

**Lee Swor, Pastor**

# 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)



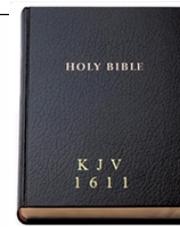
**3. Greece**  
Belly and Thighs of Brass  
Leopard with four heads and four wings  
(334 BC- 64 BC)



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



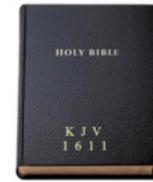
***The Final Form of Rome***  
Feet and Toes part Iron and part Clay  
10 horns on the beast



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# The Four Gentile World Empires

*The Medo-Persian Empire*



# The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 1:13-15

## XERXES I

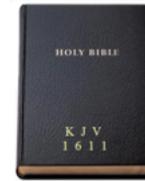
### **Est 1:13-15**

**13 Then the king said to the wise men**, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:

**14** And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;)

**15 What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king** Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?

- Ahasuerus' temperment seemed to indicate he would have immediately executed Vashti or at least considered it; instead, he appears to have maintained his composure and sought consultation from the wise men on what should be done to her "according to law" (Est 1:13-15)
- The implication is that, because of who Vashti was, she COULD NOT be executed like any common person or government official would be for directly disobeying the king
- They had to consult the law of the Persians to confirm what could be done
- If Vashti is the Amestris of secular history, it is possible that she could not be executed because she was of the royal (i.e.- her mother was the sister of Darius Hystaspes) and noble bloodline (i.e.- her father was Otanes, one of the seven noblemen who conspired against Smerdis)



# The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 1:16-20

## XERXES I

### **Est 1:16-20**

**16** And **Memucan answered** before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.

**17** For **this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women**, so that **they shall despise their husbands** in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.

**18** Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.

**19** If it please the king, **let there go a royal commandment** from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, **That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus;** and **let the king give her royal estate unto another** that is better than she.

**20** And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.

- Memucan, one of the seven princes in attendance (v.14), responded that when the rest of the women of Persia and Media hear what Vashti did they will despise and dishonor their husbands as well, so the king should issue a royal commandment that Vashti no longer come before the king and that she be removed from being queen (Est 1:16-20)
- In other words, she was not given a DEATH sentence or even a DIVORCE, but a DEMOTION from being queen and having direct access to the king

# The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 1:21-22



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## XERXES I

### Est 1:21-22

21 And **the saying pleased the king** and the princes; and **the king did according to the word of Memucan**:

22 For **he sent letters into all the king's provinces**, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, **that every man should bear rule in his own house**, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.

- The proposal pleased the king and the princes and was conformable to the law of the Persians, so he issued the decree that every man should bear rule in his own house if their wives tried to emulate Vashti, and Vashti was removed from being queen in or about late March 483 BC
- Vashti was probably relegated to living in special quarters separated from the king, but not necessarily among the concubines (i.e.- the royal harem) (Est 2:14)
- Given her royal/noble pedigree and strong personality, demotion and separation from power must have shamed and angered Vashti (Amestris)
- While Vashti's name appears 3x in Esther 2 (Est 2:1,4,17), she does not personally appear any more in the book so her separation lasted for at least as long as Esther was queen
- If Vashti was Amestris, then she still played a role in the events that followed

# The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:1-4



## XERXES I

### Est 2:1-4

1 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

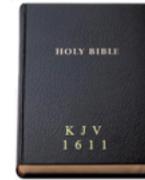
2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:

3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them:

4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

- AFTER THESE THINGS= a period of time elapsed before it was clear Ahasuerus had calmed down over the Vashti humiliation; he probably started talking to servants that he should start thinking about getting a new queen- it is possible Esther 2:2-4 probably took place at Susa between October 483 BC and March 482 BC
- There was no rush to name a new queen since the king still had concubines to meet his physical needs (Est 2:14) while he preoccupied himself with preparations for a massive invasion of Greece
- One of the king's servants suggested that a sort of "beauty pageant" be conducted between choice virgins from all the provinces of the kingdom, and the winner selected by the king would be the new queen, to which Ahasuerus agreed

# The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:8,12,15-16



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## XERXES I

Est 2:8,12,15-16

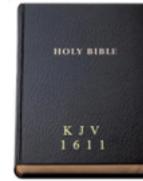
8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

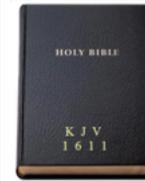
- The king's decree went forth and virgins were gathered from all the provinces of his kingdom
- It is possible that the selection and gathering process took two years or more to put into place before young women were brought to Susa
- This based on the fact that Esther dwelt in Susa and would have been among the first to be selected and brought to the king's house (Est 2:8)
- When the virgins were brought to the king's house into the custody of Hegai, the keeper of the women, they were subjected to a 12-month purification process before they could come before the king (Est 2:12-14)



## The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:15-16

### XERXES I

- Esther's turn to come before the king was in the tenth month of Tebeth in the seventh year of the reign of Ahasuerus, which corresponds to December 480 BC or January 479 BC (Est 2:16)
- That means her 12-month purification process started in December 481 BC or January 480 BC
- Since she dwelt in Susa and would have been among the first selected, that means the selection and gathering process started in or slightly before December 481 BC or January 480 BC, which is between 21-27 months after the decree is issued (Est 2:4)
- While the selection and gathering process for the virgins was being determined, a final revolt took place in Babylon at the start of the fifth year of the reign of Xerxes in 482 BC
- Incensed with having to deal with a third revolt there in four years, he laid siege to the city and crushed the rebellion once and for all, as he did to Egypt five years earlier
- From that time forward, Xerxes and all his successors refused to bear the title of "King of Babylon"
- With the perpetual revolts in Egypt and in Babylon ended, Xerxes gave his full attention to the second invasion of Greece



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