

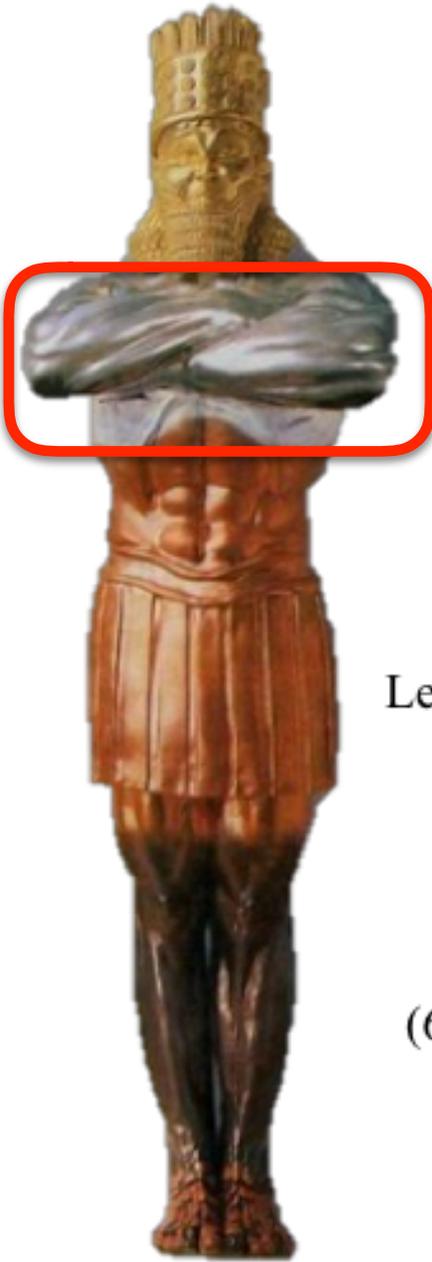
Mt. Pleasant
Bible Institute
www.kjbstudy.com

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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)



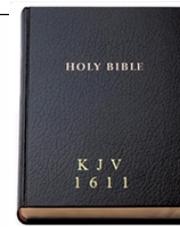
3. Greece
Belly and Thighs of Brass
Leopard with four heads and four wings
(334 BC- 64 BC)



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 2:21

XERXES I

Mordecai sat in the king's gate.

- Mordecai was one of the king's servants that served in the king's gate (3:2)

Two of the king's chamberlains.

- CHAMBERLAINS appears 9x (v.21; 1:10,12,15; 4:4-5; 6:2,14; 7:9) and CHAMBERLAIN appears 6x (v.3,14-15; 2 Kin 23:11; Acts 12:20; Rom 16:23) for a total of 15x
- CHAMBERLAIN= “an officer charged with the direction and management of a chamber or chambers (i.e.- lodging rooms; places of assembly)”
- CHAMBERLAINS= Heb. *cariyc*= appears 42x in the Hebrew OT and is translated EUNUCH(S) 17x; CHAMBERLAIN(S) 13x; and OFFICER(S) 12x. It is derived from a root word meaning “to castrate”

Bigthan and Teresh.

- BIGTHAN= BIGTHANA (6:2)

Of those who kept the door.

- This door was either to the king's gate or to his personal chambers
- If the latter, then Bigthan and Teresh were in a highly trusted position and had extremely close access to the king

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:21



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XERXES I

Were wroth and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

- Bigthan and Teresh were so angry over the actions of Ahasuerus that they plotted to assassinate him
- Their position as keepers of the door to his personal chambers gave them close and private access to the king
- There are a number of actions taken by Ahasuerus (Xerxes) that could have fueled their murderous intentions including: (1) his treatment of Vashti (Amestris); (2) his decision to invade Greece and the Achaemenid empire's humiliating defeat, that could also have resulted in the death of relatives of Bigthan and Teresh serving in Xerxes' forces; or (3) the senseless murder of Masistes and his sons
- The timing of this assassination plot took place around the same time that Herodotus states Xerxes' brother Masistes and his sons attempted to return to Bactria to instigate a revolt against him for allowing Amestris to brutally murder his wife (i.e.- 479 BC- 478 BC)
- When Xerxes learned of the plot he sent armed forces to intercept and execute Masistes and his sons before they could reach Bactria (*The Histories*, 9.113)

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 2:22-23



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XERXES I

Est 2:22-23

22 And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name.

23 And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

- Mordecai overheard Bigthan and Teresh plotting to assassinate the king and informed Esther, who passed the information on to the king, letting him know that Mordecai was the source
- A royal inquisition was conducted that confirmed the accuracy of Mordecai's intelligence regarding the assassination plot
- It is likely that family members, friends, fellow chamberlains, and potential witnesses were bribed or threatened to divulge what they knew
- Bigthan and Teresh were found guilty of conspiracy to assassinate the king and were executed by hanging
- The entire incident was recorded in the Persian book of the kings, which has been lost to history because the contents would likely support the events recorded in Esther
- It is possible that the story of Masistes' betrayal and execution is a historical perversion of the betrayal and execution of Bigthan and Teresh



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 3:1

XERXES I

Est 3:1

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that *were* with him.

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman.

- AFTER THESE THINGS= it is uncertain how much time transpired between Esther's coronation as queen and Haman's promotion to prime minister, but it could have been years
- Secular history sources do not provide many details regarding the reign of Xerxes after his seventh year, especially the years covered in Esther 3-10, which are sometime after his seventh year to his fourteenth year (i.e.- about 477 BC to 472 BC)
- Since Haman rose to power, unsuccessfully attempted to commit genocide against the Jews, and is executed all within this time period, it is not surprising that there is no known secular history information regarding him

Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite.

- First appearance of HAMAN; appears 53x and all in Esther
- HAMAN= 5 letters (5= # of DEATH)



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 3:1

XERXES I

- First appearance of HAMMEDATHA; appears 5x (# of DEATH) (v.1,10; 8:5; 9:10,24)
- HAMMEDATHA= Pers. *Medatha* meaning “double”
- First appearance of AGAGITE; appears 5x (# of DEATH) (v.1,10; 8:3,5; 9:24)
- Haman was an Agagite, which means he was a descendant of AGAG, a king given by name about 350 years before he was born (Num 24:7)

Num 24:7

He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than **Agag**, and his kingdom shall be exalted.

- Agag was king of the Amalekites, who were the first nation to fight against Israel when they came out of Egypt (Num 24:20)- they laid in wait and attacked the rear of the camp where the most feeble were, when they came to Rephidim (Exo 17:8; Deu 25:17-18)
- Amalek, like his grandfather Esau, is a type of THE FLESH, and the Lord vowed to WAR with Amalek from generation to generation (Exo 17:16) cf. (Gal 5:17)
- Because of what the Amalekites did to Israel, the Lord promised that he would exterminate them one day and use Israel as his instrument of extermination (Exo 17:14; Num 24:20; Deu 25:19)

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 3:1



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XERXES I

Exo 17:8,14,16

8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for **I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek** from under heaven.

16 For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that **the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.**

Num 24:7,20

7 He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than **Agag**, and his kingdom shall be exalted.

20 And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, **Amalek was the first of the nations;** but **his latter end shall be that he perish for ever.**

Deu 25:17-19

17 Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, **when ye were come forth out of Egypt;**

18 How he met thee by the way, and **smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble** behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.

19 Therefore it shall be, **when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest** from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that **thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek** from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.

- The Lord intended to fulfill this promise when he sent Samuel to give king Saul the command to smite and utterly destroy the Amalekites and everything they had

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 3:1



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XERXES I

- Saul wasn't to spare anyone or anything among the Amalekites, but kill every man, woman, child, infant, and all their livestock- a total genocide (1 Sam 15:1-3)
- But he and the people disobeyed the Lord and spared Agag and the best of the livestock (1 Sam 15:8-9)
- Although Samuel executed Agag soon thereafter (1 Sam 15:32-33), it is clear that Agag's seed survived the extermination, either through a son or a pregnant wife, because Haman was a descendant of Agag
- Ironically, Haman would seek to exterminate the very ones who once sought to exterminate his ancestors

1 Sam 15:1-3,8-9

1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, **I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.**

3 Now **go and smite Amalek**, and **utterly destroy all that they have**, and **spare them not**; but **slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.**

8 And **he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive**, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 **But Saul and the people spared Agag**, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

33 And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And **Samuel hewed Agag in pieces** before the LORD in Gilgal.

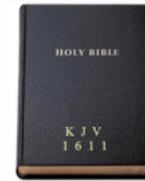


The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 3:1

XERXES I

Set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

- The implication is that Haman was already a prince but Ahasuerus (Xerxes) promoted him to “chief prince” cf. (Eze 38:2-3; 39:1; Dan 10:13), a position similar or identical to what Daniel had under Darius the Mede (Cyxares II) (Dan 6:2-3) that essentially equates to PRIME MINISTER
- In the aftermath of quenching numerous rebellions, most notably in Egypt and Babylon, and undertaking the largest scale invasion the world had ever known to that time only to suffer humiliating defeat, Xerxes clearly wanted a break from the administrative affairs of the empire
- He promoted Haman to run the empire so he could pursue repairing his regal legacy through construction ambitions while enjoying the company of queen Esther and his concubines
- Just as Xerxes had no problem choosing Esther, a woman whom he knew was not Persian, to be his queen, so he had no problem promoting Haman to prime minister even though he wasn't Persian either



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