

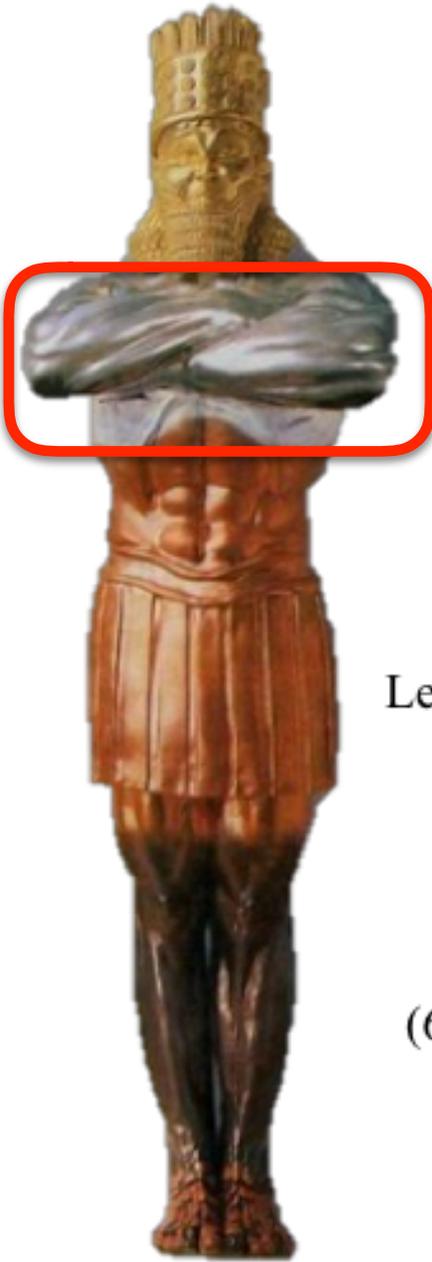
Mt. Pleasant
Bible Institute
www.kjbstudy.com

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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)



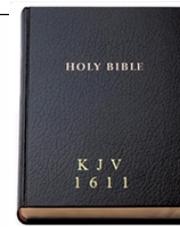
4. Rome

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 3:10-11

XERXES I

Est 3:10-11

10 And the king **took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman** the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, **the Jews' enemy**.

11 And the king said unto Haman, **The silver is given to thee, the people also**, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.

Took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman.

- Having the royal signet ring in his possession meant that Haman could act with the full force of the throne and all the resources at its disposal- a royal power of attorney

The Jews' enemy.

- The ENEMY is identified as THE DEVIL (Matt 13:39), so HAMAN is a type of SATAN, who seeks to destroy the WOMAN (Israel) (Rev 12:13,17)

The silver is given to thee, the people also.

- The implication is that the king agreed to the genocide without knowing the specific nation or race of the people



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 3:10-11

XERXES I

- There are three possibilities: (1) the king fronted Haman the money and still expected him to reimburse the royal treasury; (2) he decided to fully fund the holocaust in spite of Haman's generous offer; or (3) he decided to add to the decree authorization for the assailants to seize the Jews' assets (v.13), which Haman could use to subsidize his financial commitment instead of his personal finances
- If the assailants had to pay taxes on these seized assets, the king would get far more than 10,000 talents of silver in the royal treasury



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 3:12-15

XERXES I

Est 3:12-15

12 Then were **the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month**, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that *were* over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province **according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language**; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

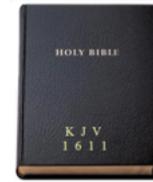
13 And **the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews**, both young and old, little children and women, **in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a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

14 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.

15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And **the king and Haman sat down to drink**; but **the city Shushan was perplexed.**

The king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month.

- The first month of the Hebrew calendar is NISAN (Abib), but this was a full year after Haman and his cronies starting casting lots each day (v.7) so the year was the 13th year of Ahasuerus
- The 13th day of the first Jewish month in the 13th year of Ahasuerus corresponds to March 28th, 473 BC



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 3:12-15

XERXES I

According to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language.

- The genocidal decree was put in writing and translated into every language of the empire
- No one questions whether these “translations” were the true word of the king because they all had the royal seal

The letters were sent by posts into all the king’s provinces.

- Copies of the decree were sent to all 127 provinces (1:1 note) and given the fact the king commanded the postmen to hasten the delivery (v.15), and the task was completed in no more than 11 months, the postmen employed in this task were most likely the famed *Angarium*
- The Angarium were royal mounted couriers positioned at various stations, a day’s ride distance apart, along the Royal Road
- They were exclusively at the service of “the Great King” and the network enabled messages to be transported from Susa to Sardis in 9 days, a journey that took 90 days on foot

To destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews.

- This was a genocidal decree and a forerunner to Hitler’s “Final Solution”

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 3:12-15



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XERXES I

Upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.

- The genocidal date determined by the daily casting of lots for an entire year (v.7) was the 13th day of the twelfth month
- The twelfth month of the Hebrew calendar is ADAR and corresponds to February-March on the Gregorian calendar
- The 13th day of the twelfth Jewish month in the 14th year of Ahasuerus corresponds to February 28th, 472 BC

And to take the spoil of them for a prey.

- Those willing to execute the Jews were given royal permission to seize all their assets

The king and Haman sat down to drink.

- Their attitude towards the impending extermination of an entire race of people was, “I’ll drink to that”

The city Shushan was perplexed.

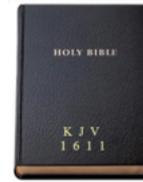
- The people could not understand why such a horrific decree was being issued
- The implication is that Persian and non-Persian citizens of Susa had no problem with their Jewish fellow citizens- different as they were



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 4

XERXES I

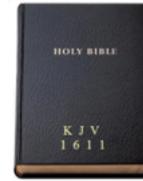
- When Mordecai heard about the genocidal decree, he rent his clothes and put on sackcloth as an indication of a state of anguish and mourning, and walked through the city crying until he came before the king's gate (Est 4:1-2)
- Esther's maids and chamberlains informed her that Mordecai had rent his clothes and was in a state of mourning, so she sent him clothes to replace the sackclothes, but he refused them (Est 4:4)
- Esther was not aware of the genocidal decree even though it was spreading throughout the empire, so she had no idea why Mordecai was in sackclothes
- She dispatched her personal chamberlain Hatach to go to Mordecai and find out why he was doing this (Est 4:5)
- Mordecai told Hatach everything and gave him a copy of the decree, and charged him to tell Esther that she had to make an appeal to the king on behalf of all her people (Est 4:7-8)
- Hatach passed the information on to Esther who responded that the king had not requested her presence for 30 days and that she could not go into his presence without being called for, under penalty of death; unless he held out the golden scepter to her (Est 4:9-11)



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 4

XERXES I

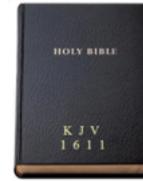
- Although Esther might die if she went in to the king without prior permission, Mordecai responded that if she did nothing she would certainly die, that her position as queen would not exempt her from the genocidal mandate (Est 4:13)
- He told her that if she did nothing, the Lord would still deliver his people somehow, but that the horrible set of circumstances could be the very reason the Lord put her in the position of queen (Est 4:14)
- Although Mordecai does not mention the story of Joseph and his ascendancy in Egypt for the purpose to preserve the lives of his brethren and their posterity (Gen 45:5,7), the implication is there
- Esther responded that Mordecai should gather all the Jews of Shushan (Susa) together to fast and pray three days and three nights for her, and she and her maidens would do the same; after which, she would attempt to go in before the king and if she dies, she dies (because she is likely dead anyway) (Est 4:16)
- The risk that Esther appeared to be taking in the eyes of men, could not be greater
- Not only was she going to deliberately violate royal protocol, but the king on the other side of this was XERXES, a man known for his extreme intemperance, and a king who was publicly shamed by Esther's predecessor Vashti (i.e.- Amestris)



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 5

XERXES I

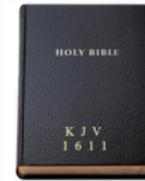
- At the end of the three day fast, Esther arrayed herself in her royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the palace (Est 5:1)
- When Ahasuerus (Xerxes) saw Esther waiting in the inner court, instead of becoming angry that she had come without being called, she obtained favor in his sight and held out the golden scepter as a sign of his approval that she could enter (Est 5:2) cf. (Pro 21:1)
- She entered and touched the top of the scepter, and the king asked her what her request was and promised he would grant it even if it was to possess half the kingdom (Est 5:2-3)
- Esther requested that the king and Haman attend a banquet that day that she had prepared for the king (Est 5:4)
- At the banquet of wine, the king again asked Esther what her request was and promised he would grant it (Est 5:6)
- It is not clear as to why Esther elected to further delay disclosing her request but she did, inviting the king and Haman to attend the banquet she prepared for the following day and that she would reveal her request at that time (Est 5:7-8)
- When Haman left the banquet of wine he was so overjoyed at the invitation that when he saw Mordecai continuing to refuse to bow, he restrained his wrath (Est 5:9-10)



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 5

XERXES I

- When Haman came home, he called for his wife Zeresh and his friends in order to brag about his riches, promotion, and apparent favor with the queen that he was the only one invited to attend a banquet she prepared for him that day, as well as the following day (Est 5:10-12)
- He told them that all of it meant nothing as long as Mordecai the Jew was still alive (Est 5:13)
- His wife Zeresh and his friends then recommended that he have a gallows built of 50 cubits high (i.e.- 75 feet tall) and that he should go in to the king before the banquet and seek permission to have Mordecai hung for his civil disobedience, which Haman agreed to (Est 5:14)



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