

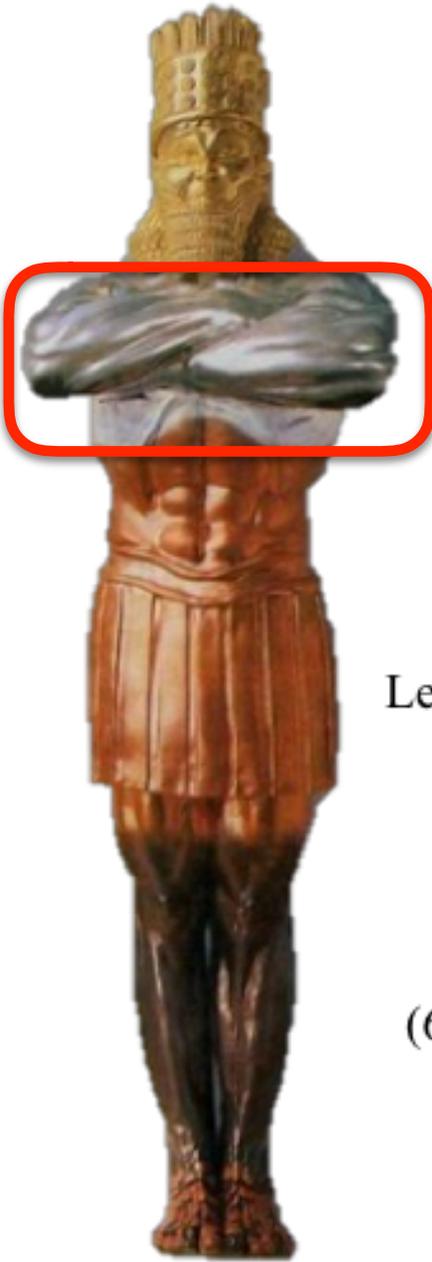
Mt. Pleasant
Bible Institute
www.kjbstudy.com

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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)



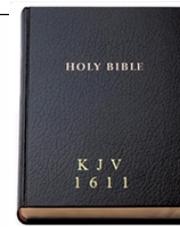
4. Rome

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 6

XERXES I

- The Lord troubled the king's heart and prevented him from being able to sleep just as he did to Darius the Mede the night Daniel was cast into the den of lions (Dan 6:18)
- The Lord stirred his heart (Pro 21:1) to have the Persian book of records brought before him and read and it was then that he learned that Mordecai was responsible for saving his life by uncovering Bigthana and Teresh's plot to assassinate him, and informing the royal authorities (Est 6:1-2)
- When he learned that nothing had been done to honor Mordecai for his deed, he determined to get feedback from the first available person on what could be done to honor him (Est 6:3)
- Haman was waiting in the court to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had built, so the king called Haman in and asked him what should be done for the one the king delighted to honor (Est 6:4-6)
- Haman forgot all about asking the king about hanging Mordecai because he assumed the king wanted to honor him (Est 6:6)
- He proceeded to tell the king that he should dress the honoree in the king's royal apparel, set him on his royal steed, put the royal crown upon his head, and have one of the most noble princes parade him through the street of the city proclaiming that this is what is done to those whom the king delights to honor (Est 6:7-9)

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 6



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XERXES I

- The king informed Haman to do as he proposed to Mordecai the Jew (Est 6:10)
- There are two important things alluded to by the king mentioning that Mordecai was a Jew
- First, even though Mordecai served in the king's gate, the king did not know who he was much less that he was a Jew, until the book of the records was read to him
- Second, and most importantly, the king was not aware that the Jews were the people targeted for genocide in the royal decree Haman manipulated him to agree to, and he would remain unaware until Esther revealed it to him (Est 7:4; 8:5)
- For if he was aware of it, why would he need feedback on how to honor Mordecai for saving his life? Wouldn't he simply return the favor?
- The ramification of his being unaware is that he had not reviewed the decree before it was ratified with his seal and distributed throughout the empire, nor had he read it since
- He so trusted Haman with the administrative affairs of the kingdom that when he gave him his signet ring (Est 3:10-11), it was with the understanding that the decree would be drafted and distributed sight unseen



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 6

XERXES I

- Haman obeyed the king's command and put the royal apparel and crown upon Mordecai, and paraded him on the king's horse through the street of the city, proclaiming that this is what is done to the man the king delights to honor (Est 6:11)
- What did Mordecai think when Haman approached him at the king's gate? He probably thought he was about to die but the Lord had other plans
- Mordecai went back to the king's gate but Haman went home devastated and humiliated (Est 6:12)
- When he told his wife and friends what happened, his wife and wise men advised him that this turn of events was likely an indication of a greater fall to come (Est 6:13)
- While they were still talking, the king's chamberlains arrived to escort Haman to the banquet Esther had prepared (Est 6:14)



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 7

XERXES I

- At the banquet, the king again asked Esther what her petition was and assured her that it would be granted even to the half of his kingdom (Est 7:1-2)
- Esther made her request that if she had found favor in the king's sight that he would spare her life and the life of her people who had been targeted for genocide, adding that if they had been targeted for slavery she would not have said anything (Est 7:3-4)
- The king did not make the connection between Esther's request and the genocidal decree Haman manipulated him to agree to, because he asked her who would presume to do such a thing (Est 7:5); moreover, Haman didn't make the connection either
- Esther then disclosed to the king that Haman was responsible (Est 7:6)- she referred to Haman as the **ADVERSARY**, **ENEMY**, and this **WICKED**, thus identifying him as a type of **SATAN** cf. (Matt 13:19,39; 1 Pet 5:8)
- Haman was petrified at the news and rightly so- he realized Esther was referring to the decree he authored to have the Jews exterminated; he realized that Esther herself was a Jew; and that he had essentially manipulated an intemperate king into decreeing the execution of his beautiful and beloved queen

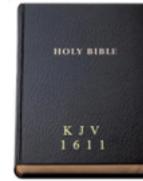
The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 7



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XERXES I

- The king was so full of wrath that he had to step out into the palace garden- this is the second time the word WRATH is associated with Ahasuerus, the other was when Vashti refused to come at his commandment (Est 1:12)
- Based on the king's reaction, Haman knew he was probably a dead man, so as soon as the king stepped out, he stood up and prostrated himself upon the couch bed that Esther was seated upon to plead for his life (Est 7:7)
- At that moment, the king returned from the garden and saw Haman fallen upon Esther's bed
- He assumed Haman was attempting to rape Esther, so in his rage he ordered that Haman's face be covered- an indication that he was to be immediately hanged (Est 7:8), a form of Persian capital punishment cf. (Ezr 6:11)
- Harbonah, one of the king's chamberlains, called to the king's attention that Haman had built a gallows 50 cubits high (i.e.- 75 feet) with the intent of hanging Mordecai on it
- The king then ordered that Haman be hung on the very gallows he had built to hang Mordecai- how the tables had turned
- After Haman was executed by hanging, the king's wrath was pacified- this is the second time the king's wrath was PACIFIED or APPEASED, the other was some time after Vashti was deposed (Est 2:1)

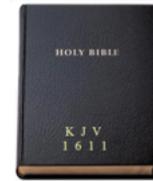


The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 8

XERXES I

- The same day that Haman was executed, the king gave the house of Haman to Esther
- This was likely in response to the two things: (1) the fact that the king, not knowing he was approving a genocidal decree against the Jews, authorized their assailants to seize their assets for a spoil (Est 3:13 note) so he gave her the house of Haman for a spoil; and (2) the king promised to grant Esther's request even to the half of his kingdom so he gave her the house of Haman since he was apparently quite wealthy (Est 3:9 note)
- Esther also informed the king that Mordecai was her uncle and was responsible for raising her when her parents died (Est 8:1)
- The king had Mordecai brought before him and took off the same ring he gave to Haman to seal the genocidal decree, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther gave the house of Haman to Mordecai (Est 8:2)
- Esther then fell down at the king's feet and begged him with tears to do something to spoil Haman's evil plan (Est 8:3)
- The king held out the golden scepter as a sign of favor towards Esther, so she stood and pleaded with him to write a decree that reversed the first one because she could not bear to see the destruction of her people (Est 8:4-6)

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 8



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XERXES I

- The king responded that he gave Esther the house of Haman and executed Haman on the gallows, but he could not reverse the decree because no man could reverse what had been written in the king's name and sealed with his ring (Est 8:7-8)
- The law of the Persians and Medes was that no decree or statute established by the king of PERSIA could be changed or altered (Dan 6:8,12,15) because it is a type of the word of God; in contrast, the word of the king of BABYLON could be changed (Dan 3:28) because it is a type of the word of Lucifer, the king of Babylon (Isa 14:4,12)
- The king called for his scribes in the third Jewish month, which is Sivan, on the 23rd day of the month; since this was in the 13th year of his reign, it corresponded to June 8, 473 BC (Est 8:9)
- He commanded them to write another decree at the direction of Mordecai that he would seal with his ring and have distributed throughout the empire
- This second decree authorized the Jews to defend and avenge themselves against any one who would seek to fulfill the first decree on the 13th day of the twelfth month of Adar in the following year (i.e.- February 28, 472 BC), and to seize their assets (Est 8:10-12)

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 8



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XERXES I

- The king sealed the decree and hastened the postmen to distribute it throughout the 127 provinces of the kingdom (Est 8:13-14)
- The Jews at Shushan and all over the empire rejoiced when the decree came and many people converted to Judaism out of fear of the Jews (Est 8:15-17)

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 9



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XERXES I

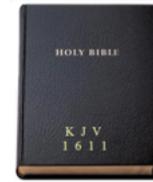
- On the 13th day of the twelfth month in the 14th year of the reign of Ahasuerus (i.e.- February 28, 472 BC), a total of 7 years and 2 months after Esther became queen (Est 2:16-17), the Jews gathered themselves together in all the cities throughout the empire and destroyed those who sought to destroy and spoil them (Est 9:1-2)
- The Persian authorities did all that they could to help the Jews because of Mordecai's favored status with the king (Est 9:3-5)
- The Jews killed 500 men at Shushan (Susa), including the 10 sons of Haman, but refused to take the spoil (Est 9:6-10)
- When the tally was brought to the king he asked Esther if there was anything else he could do for her and it would be done, so she requested that the Jews be permitted to defend themselves again the following day and that Haman's 10 sons be hanged (Est 9:11-13)
- The king commanded it to be done so the decree was given and Haman's sons were hanged (Est 9:14)
- On the 14th day of the twelfth month in the 14th year of Ahasuerus (i.e.- March 1, 472 BC), the Jews gathered themselves together again and killed 300 men at Shushan, but did not take the spoil (Est 9:15)

The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 9-10



XERXES I

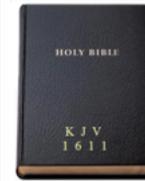
- In the other provinces, the Jews killed 75,000 on the 13th day of Adar but also refused to take the spoil (Est 9:16)
- On the 14th and 15th days they rested and made them days of feasting and gladness, and sending gifts to one another (Est 9:17-19)
- Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews throughout the empire establishing the 14th and 15th days of Adar as days of annual observance among the Jews (i.e.- holidays) (Est 9:20-22)
- Since the entire set of circumstances began with Haman casting *pur*, the Persian word for “the lot”, the holiday was called *Purim* (i.e.- “lots”) (Est 9:23-28)
- Esther the queen and Mordecai wrote with all authority to confirm these days of Purim in their appointed times, and it was written in the Persian book of the records (Est 9:29-32)
- Ahasuerus (Xerxes I) then laid a tribute upon the land, possibly to fund the construction projects that depleted the royal coffers and defined the last seven years of his reign (472 BC- 465 BC)
- This included the expansion of the cities of Susa and Persepolis, construction of the *Gate of All Nations* and the *Hall of a Hundred Columns* at Persepolis, and maintenance of the Royal Road



The Medo-Persian Empire- Est 10

XERXES I

- He promoted Mordecai to the same position once held by Haman (Est 10:1-3)
- All of this was written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia (Est 10:2) but Satan erased much, if not all, of the events in Esther from secular Persian history because of the humiliating defeat he suffered
- Haman is not mentioned, Esther is not mentioned, and Mordecai may or may not be one of the four officials in the Persian court named *Marduka* in the Persian Administrative Archives
- Xerxes may have escaped assassination in the book of Esther, but not in August 465 BC, when Artabanus, the commander of his royal bodyguard and the most powerful official on the Persian court, killed him with the help of a eunuch named Aspamitres
- Xerxes died at the age of 54 after a reign of 21 years (i.e.- 486 BC- 465 BC)
- Xerxes 21-year reign can be divided into three nearly equal parts:
 - 1) 486 BC- 480 BC= The Invasion of Greece
 - 2) 480 BC- 472 BC= Events of Esther
 - 3) 472 BC- 465 BC= Construction Projects
- What happened to Esther after the book of Esther, or after the assassination of Xerxes? Was Artaxerxes the son of Esther?



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