

P.T. BIBLE SURVEY

The Book of Esther

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

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- ⦿ Who wrote it?
 - Unknown, but possibly Mordecai.

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 - Around 465 B.C.

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- Around 465 B.C.

- ◎ Timing of Events:

- From 483 to 473 B.C.
- Esther became queen around 479 B.C.

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◎ Key Term: Providence

- This book is unique in that it does not directly mention God. Yet one cannot understand the story apart from God's remarkable presence and providence with His people however invisible He may seem to be at times.

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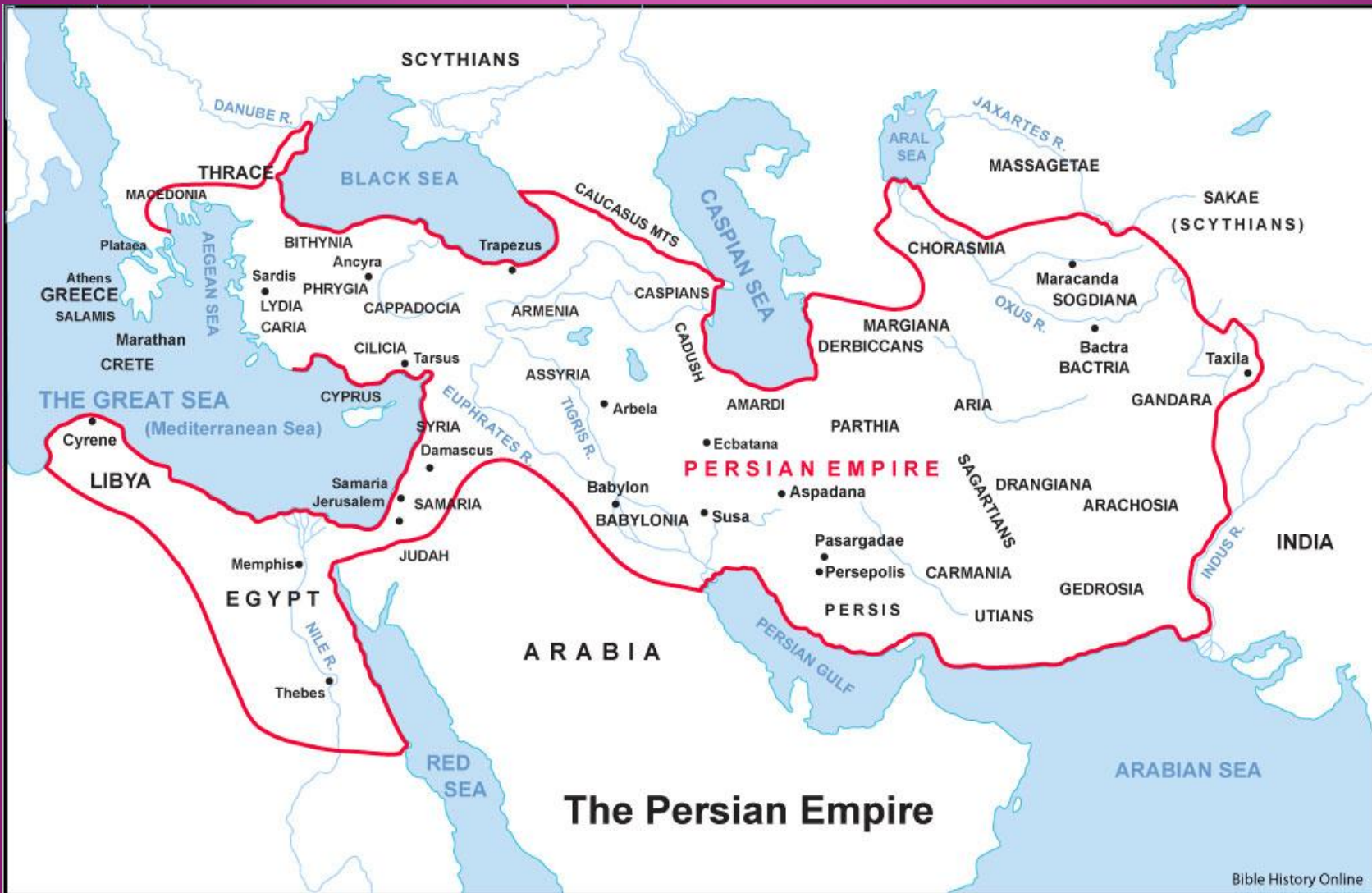
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◎ Location of Events:

- **Persia**

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◎ General Outline:

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- **Part 1 - The Threat to the Jews (Chaps. 1-4)**
 - The Selection of Esther as Queen
 - The Formulation of the Plot of Haman
- **Part 2 - The Triumph of the Jews (Chaps. 5-10)**
 - The Triumph of Mordecai over Haman
 - The Triumph of Israel over Her Enemies
 - Feast of Purim instituted (Esther 9:18-32)

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- ◎ Summary in one sentence:
 - Esther, a Jewish beauty selected by Persian king Ahasuerus to become his new queen, saved the Jews from Haman's wicked plot, so her relative Mordecai established the yearly Jewish feast of Purim.

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- ◎ Summary in one sentence:
 - Esther, a Jewish beauty selected by Persian king Ahasuerus to become his new queen, saved the Jews from Haman's wicked plot, so her relative Mordecai established the yearly Jewish feast of Purim.
- ◎ Summary in 10 words or less:
 - Beautiful Jewish girl becomes queen, saves fellow Jews from slaughter.

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◎ Cast of Characters:

- **Ahasuerus (Xerxes):** king of Persia
- **Vashti:** Xerxes' queen; loses her crown after displeasing the king
- **Hagai:** in charge of the king's harem; is pleased with Esther and helps her
- **Esther:** beautiful orphan adopted by Mordecai who becomes new queen
- **Mordecai:** an exile from Jerusalem, living in Shushan; Esther's cousin
- **Haman:** raised up in power by Xerxes; plans to kill the Jews

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- ◎ Where is the work of Christ?
 - Although the name of God is not mentioned in Esther, nowhere in Scripture is the care of God for His people more evident. Prior to His arrest, Jesus prayed, “While I was with them I was protecting them by Your name that You have given Me. I guarded them and not one of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled” (John 17:12).

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Verse to Remember

- ⦿ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14)

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- The 75 foot high gallows constructed by Haman would be comparable to a 7 story building today.

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- ◎ What is my take away?
 - The providential favor of God has the power to overcome any and all attacks and schemes of the enemy.

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◎ Home Study

- Read a chapter daily in Ezra this week.
- Study the One Sentence Summary.
- Recite your memory verses daily.