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Ancient persian empire map

Map of the Persian Empire (550-486 B.C.) Map of the Achaemenid Empire of Persia (PDF for Print) (Freely distributed) This map reveals the expansion of the Persian Empire from Cyrus the Great to Darius I, 550-486 BC. The Persian Achaemenid empire was actually the last great empire of the old Near East. The borders stretched from the Aegean Sea to the west to the Indus River in the east, such a great empire was established in just over 10 years by Cyrus II the Great. Cyrus the Great (559-530 BC) Cyrus II, also known as Cyrus the Great was the founder of the Persian Empire. He was of the Achaemenid family and the vast Achaemenid Empire of the Persians reached from the Aegean Sea in the West all the way to Sagdiana in the East. It included the former kingdom it had conquered, the Babylonian Empire. Cyrus came to the throne about 559 BC when Persia was under the rule of the Medes, a kingdom north of Persia. The Median Empire stretched from the middle of Turkey (Anatolia) in the West, to the area of Afghanistan in the East. In 550 BC, Cyrus refused to submit the Persian to the Medes, and the king of the media immediately attacked Persia. Cyrus triumphed in battle in Pasargadae and continued to conquer the Median capital in Ecbatana. Cyrus brought into submission the entire former Central and Babylonian empires by 539 BC, and was finally killed in a battle against the targeted Scythian nomadic warriors in Central Asia. Cyrus the Diplomat Cyrus was a diplomatic ruler and this contributed greatly to his success. Unlike the Babylonians and Assyrians Cyrus was gracious to his defeated enemies, and respected their customs and religions. He even had the captured Jews in Babylon return to their homeland and rebuild the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. Cyrus The Bible's decree states in the book of Ezra that King Cyrus issued a decree from the Persian Palace in Achmetha (Ecbatana) to free the Jews, and allow them to return to Israel to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem: Ezra 6:2-3 And there was found in Achmetha, in the palace that [is] in the province of the Medes , a roll, and in it [was] a report thus written: In the first year of Cyrus the king [the same] Cyrus the king made a decision [concerning] the house of God in Jerusalem, Let the house be built, the place where they sacrificed sacrifices, and let its foundations be strongly laid. Cyrus' grave epitaph reads: Oh man whoever you are, I am Cyrus who founded the empire of the Persians and was the King of Asia. Don't cherish this monument. Cambyses II (530-522 BC) Later in 525 BC the son of Cyrus whose name was Cambyses south with the powerful Persian army and conquered Egypt in 529 BC, and he besieged several Egyptian cities, including Memphis. His army marched all the way to the Mediterranean and Libya surrendered to him. About. Egypt was conquered it quite easily, maintaining Persian rule was not so easy. In fact, the historian Herodotus records major disasters in the Persians attempts to subdue Nubia. Note: It is interesting that the Elephantine Papyri documents written in Aramaic were discovered in Yeb (Elephantine) showing that Cambyses found an armed Jewish colony at that location. Cambyses suppressed all uprisings in Egypt with cruelty, but in 522 BC he heard about an uprising in Gaumata in his homeland and on his return he had an accident. According to Herodotus, he cut himself with his own sword, got blood poisoning and died near Hamath in Syria. He had no sons to inherit the throne. In 521 BC, Darius I expanded the Persian Empire and conquered territories all the way to the Indus Valley, before turning west to Macedonia. Darius reorganized the empire in 20 provinces (satrapies) with heavy taxes. He also improved the 1,600 miles of Royal Road that ran from Susa, the capital of the Persian Empire, all the way to Sardis on the Aegean Sea. He had carved a huge relief on a cliff in Bisitun, along with a huge inscription commemorating his victories over his enemies. The inscription was written in Persian, Elamite, and Akkadian languages. Part of this inscription was discovered in Elephantine. Darius I made Van Persepolis his capital. When he conquered India, he turned it into a satrapy of Hindush. In 513 BC he moved his armies over Thrace and Macedonia, which immediately surrendered to him. The Ionian King Miletus rebelled against him and Darius defeated him forcefully because of the burning of the provincial house in Sardis. Later in 490 BC, the Persians were heavily defeated by the Athenians at the battle of Marathon. The History of Persia in Smith's Bible Dictionary --The history of Persia begins with the rebellion of the Medes and the accession of Cyrus the Great. B.C. 558. Cyrus defeated Croesus, and added the Lydian empire to his dominions. This conquest was closely followed by the submission of Greek settlements on the Asian coast, and by the reduction of Caria and Lycia The empire was soon thereafter greatly expanded to the northeast and east. In B.C. 539 or 538, Babylon was attacked, and after a stout defense fell into the hands of Cyrus. This victory first brought the Persians into contact with the Jews. The conquerors found in Babylon an oppressed race -- like herself, loathers of idols and professors of a religion in which they could largely sympathize. This breed Cyrus determined to restore to their own country: what he did through the remarkable edict included in the first chapter of Ezra. 1:2-4 He was killed in an expedition against the Massagetae or the Derbices, after a 29-year reign. Under its son and successor Cambyses the conquest of Egypt took place, B.C. 525. This Prince Prince to the Ahasuerus of Ezr 4:6 Gomates, Cambyses' successor, reversed Cyrus's policy toward the Jews, and by an edict forbade the further construction of the temple. Ezr 4:17-22 He ruled for only seven months, and was succeeded by Darius. In his second year, by the Jews, who wanted to resume the construction of their temple, Darius not only granted them this privilege, but helped the work by subsidizing his own income, allowing the Jews to complete the temple as early as its sixth year. Ezr 6:1-15 Darius was succeeded by Xerxes, probably the Ahasuerus of Esther. Artaxerxes, the son of Xerxes, ruled forty years after his

death and is without a doubt the king of that name who stood in such a friendly relationship with Ezra, Ezr 7:11-28 and Nehemiah, Ne 2:1-9 etc. He is the last of the Persian kings who had a special bond with the Jews, and the latter only mentioned one in Scripture. His successors were Xerxes II., Sogdianus Darius Nothus, Artaxerxes Mnemon, Artaxerxes Ochus, and Darius Codomannus, who probably ruled the Darius the Persian of Nehemiah Ne 12:22 These monarchs from B.C. 424 to B.C. The collapse of the empire under the attack of Alexander the Great took place B.C. 330. More PERSIA in the Bible Encyclopedia Biblical definition of Persia Persia in Easton's Bible dictionary PERSIA in Naves Current Bible tomb of Cyrus The Bible mentions much related to Persia Ezra 4:7 - And in the days of Artaxerxes wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their companions, unto Artaxerxes King of Persia; and writing the letter [was] written in the Syrian language, and interpreted in the Syrian language. Ezra 4:3 - But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the leader of the fathers of Israel, said to them, You have nothing to do with us to build a house to our God; but we will build ourselves to the LORD God of Israel, as King Cyrus the King of Persia has commanded us. Ezra 9:9 - For we [were] bounds; but our God has not abandoned us in our slavery, but has given us mercy in the eyes of the kings of Persia, to give us a revival, to set up the house of our God, and to restore its desolence, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem. Ezra 6:14 - And the elders of the Jews built, and they flourished by prophesying Haggai the Prophet and Zacharia the son of Iddo. And they built, and ended [it], according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. 2 Chronicles 36:23 - Thus Saith Cyrus King of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth have given me the Lord God of heaven; And he charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem that is in Judah. Who is among you of all his people? LORD his God [being] with him, and let him go up. Daniel 10:1 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus King of Persia, something was revealed to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar; and the thing [was] true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the thing, and had an understanding of the vision. Ezra 1:2 - Thus Saith Cyrus King of Persia, The LORD God of Heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; And he charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem that is in Judah. Esther 1:3 - In the third year of his reign, he made a feast to all his princes and servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, [are] for him: Ezra 3:7 - They also gave money to the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, to them from Zidon, and to them from Bond, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant they had from King Cyrus of Persia. Ezra 4:24 - Then stopped the work of the house of God that is in Jerusalem. So it ended until the second year of darius's reign king of Persia. Daniel 10:20 - Then he said, Do you know I'm coming to you? and now I will return to fight with the Prince of Persia: and when I am gone, lo, the Prince of Grecia will come. Esther 10:2 - And all the deeds of his power and of his power, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, after which the king moves him forward, [are] not they written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of media and Persia? Daniel 11:2 - And now I will tell you the truth shew. Behold, there will be three more kings in Persia; and the fourth will be much richer than [them] all: and by his strength through his wealth he will all stir up against the realm of Grecia. Esther 1:14 - And the next to him [was] Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, [and] Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the face of the king, [and] who was the first in the kingdom;) Esther 1:18 - [Likewise] the ladies of Persia and Media will say this day to all the princes of the king, who have heard of the act of the queen. Thus there will be too much contempt and anger. Ezra 1:8 - Even those did Cyrus king of Persia to produce by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them to Sheshbazzar, the Prince of Judah. 2 Chronicles 36:20 - And those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons to the reign of the kingdom of Persia: Ezra 7:1 - Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes King of Persia, Ezra Ezra, the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, Ezekiel 27:10 - They of Persia and of Lud and Phut were in the army, your men of war : they hung the shield and the helmet in you; they put your comeliness. Daniel 8:20 - The ram you saw with [two] horns are the kings of Media and Persia. Ezekiel - Persia, Ethiopia and and with them; all with shield and helmet: Ezra 1:1 - Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD could be fulfilled through the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD sparked the spirit of Cyrus King of Persia, that he made a proclamation in all his kingdom, and [put it] also in writing, saying, 2 Chronicles 36:22 - Now in the first year of Cyrus King of Persia , that the word of the LORD [spoken] through the mouth of Jeremiah could be reached, the LORD awakened the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation in all his kingdom, and [put it] also in writing, saying: Ezra 4:5 - And hired advisors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all days of Cyrus King of Persia, even until the reign of Darius King of Persia. Daniel 10:13 - But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the most important princes, came to help me; and I stayed there with the kings of Persia. 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