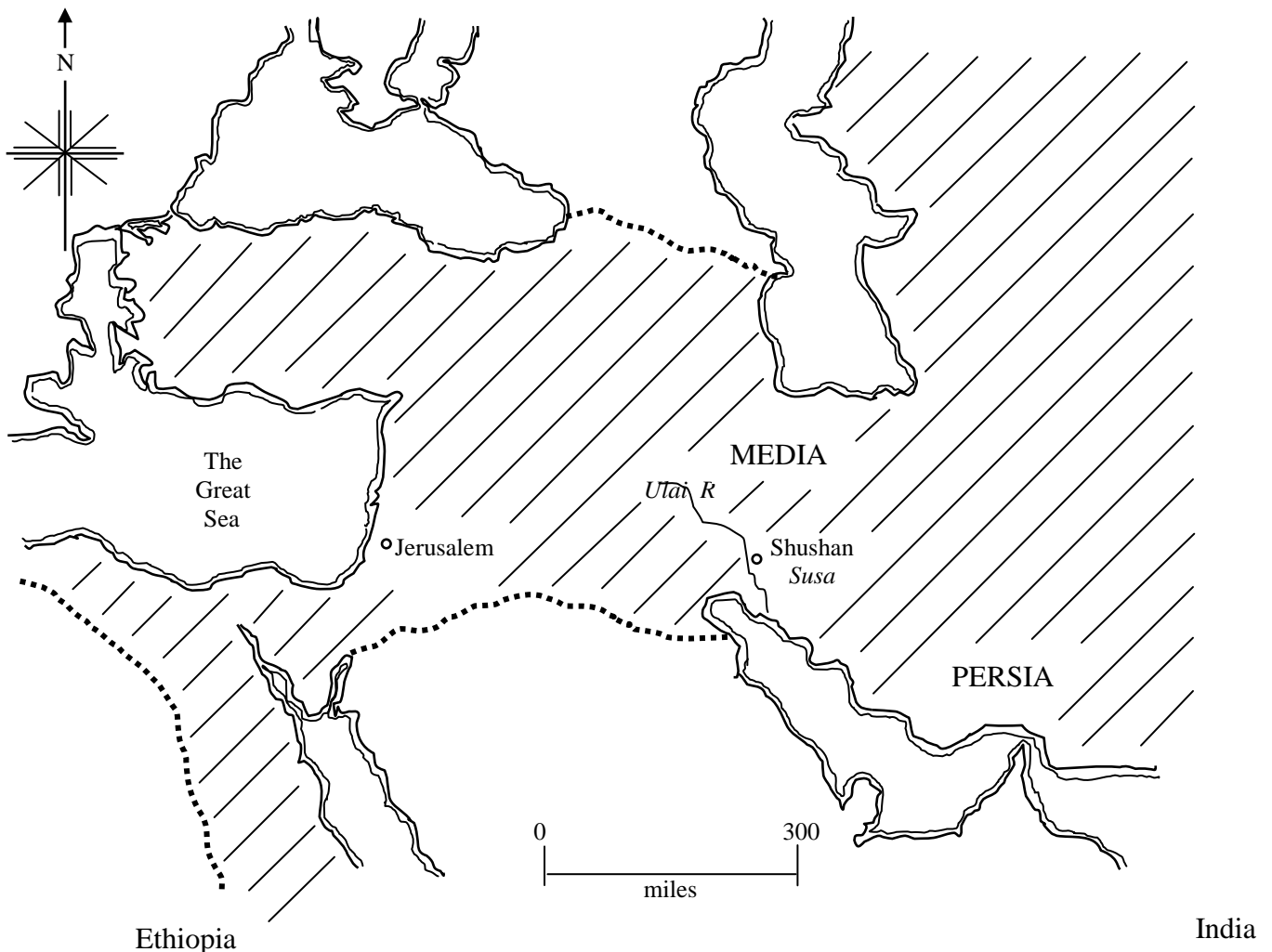


HADASSAH

#1, just say no! – Esther 1:1-21

"You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. 32 "The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, . . . 36 This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. 37 "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; 38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold. "39 After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, . . . " Dan 2:31-39a

God revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel. The dream revealed four present and future world powers. The (head of gold) which was Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, was followed by the less powerful kingdom, Media- Persia (breast and arms of silver). Media-Persia, (Dan 5:30) having conquered Babylon made it's royal city at Susa or Shushan. 65-ysr later Ahasuerus became its king and reigned ~486 to 465 BC over 127 provinces - from India to Ethiopia -.



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Now it took place in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces, 2 in those days as King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne which was at the citadel in Susa, 3 in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his princes and attendants, the army officers of Persia and Media, the nobles and the princes of his provinces being in his presence.

province, *OT:4082 (*med-ee-naw'*); from OT:1777; properly, a judgeship, i.e. jurisdiction; by implication, a district (as ruled by a judge); generally, a region:

4 And he displayed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor of his great majesty for many days, 180 days.

[1.] v:1-3, OK, looking at v:1-3 and the definition, estimate the minimum number of folks at Ahasuerus's shindig.

[2.] v:3, If all these guys were at the party, who was judging the provinces?

[3.] v:3, You don't have to decide now but as we move along, consider how well aware the king was of his responsibility . . . or, did he just like to party?

[4.] How often are you away from your primary responsibilities?

[5.] Are there certain things that draw us from responsibility or is it just something that happens along?

[6.] v:4, If you had to smile and cheer, every day for ~6-months at this guys toys, describe your "real" feelings over the following time increments

(a) 2nd day:

(b) after one week

(c) after one month

(d) I won't burden you with any more!

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5 When these days were completed, the king gave a banquet lasting seven days for all the people who were present at the citadel in Susa, from the greatest to the least, in the court of the garden of the king's palace. 6 There were hangings of fine white and violet linen held by cords of fine purple linen on silver rings and marble columns, and couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and precious stones.

7 Drinks were served in golden vessels of various kinds, and the royal wine was plentiful according to the king's bounty. 8 The drinking was done according to the law, there was no compulsion, for so the king had given orders to each official of his household that he should do according to the desires of each person.

9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, 11 to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown in order to display her beauty to the people and the princes, for she was beautiful.

[7.] v:5-6 describe the king's in-house bash for the citadel staff. What are we learning about Ahasuerus "the person".

[8.] How can we as Christians "really" get to know our fellow believers?

[9.] v:7-8, no compulsion, This sounds like a good thing but think about what you learned about the king. If he was drinking heavily, why would you not be comfortable leaving his choice booze alone?

[10.] v:9, Just for fun! Take a shot at what you feel were the girl's topics of conversation?

[11.] v:10, seven eunuchs We know from Christ's words (Matt 19:12) how eunuchs came to be. Which of these three descriptions, do you think, describe these seven men?

[12.] v:11, OK, these seven have observed the king's behavior ever since they "won" their job. Suppose they disapproved of the order to bring Vashti to display her beauty. Why do you think they would immediately obey any way?

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12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. Then the king became very angry and his wrath burned within him.

13 Then the king said to the wise men who understood the times – for it was the custom of the king so to speak before all who knew law and justice 14 and were close to him: Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media who had access to the king's presence and sat in the first place in the kingdom –

15 "According to law, what is to be done with Queen Vashti, because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by the eunuchs?"

[13.] v:10-11, In king's mind, where were the boundaries of his possessions?

[14.] Now we know that Vashti's gonna say "sorry Charlie" but why wouldn't any woman jump at the chance to display herself to the gazes of a bunch of guys merry with wine?

[15.] v:12, the king became very angry Give some possible reasons for the king's anger.

- a) looked bad in front of the staff.
- b) didn't get his own way.
- c) had a bad hair day.
- d) hadn't realized the queen had feelings.

[16.] v:13-14, wise men who understood the times, This should really be good! This smacks of the evening news. Oops sorry! Why or why don't you have confidence regarding the "magnificent seven's" council?

[17.] v:15, According to law And by the way, who made these laws?

[18.] Here's a point, if you have people working for you, why is it important that they're not a bunch of "yes men"?

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16 In the presence of the king and the princes, Memucan said, "Queen Vashti has wronged not only the king but also all the princes and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. 17 "For the queen's conduct will become known to all the women causing them to look with contempt on their husbands by saying, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in to his presence, but she did not come.'

18 "This day the ladies of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's conduct will speak in the same way to all the king's princes, and there will be plenty of contempt and anger.

19 "If it pleases the king, let a royal edict be issued by him and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media so that it cannot be repealed, that Vashti may no longer come into the presence of King Ahasuerus, and let the king give her royal position to another who is more worthy than she. 20 "When the king's edict which he will make is heard throughout all his kingdom, great as it is, then all women will give honor to their husbands, great and small."

[19.] v:15, what is to be done with Queen Vashti, Go ahead and analyze this question.

a) was her crime worthy of death?

b) was she passed out being merry with wine with the rest of the girls?

c) was she someone who would not be controlled?

[20.] v:16-18, Concern about the women's contempt for the men would definitely be a worthy goal but, in this empire, why or why don't you feel this train kinda already left the station?

[21.] v:19, Vashti may no longer come into the presence of King Ahasuerus, **Oh wow! This a little too rough for such a small offence. Knowing the king like you do, how do you think Vashti will respond when she hears the verdict?**

[22.] v:20, Describe why or why didn't Memucan, one of the "seven", really had a handle on the good citizens of the empire?

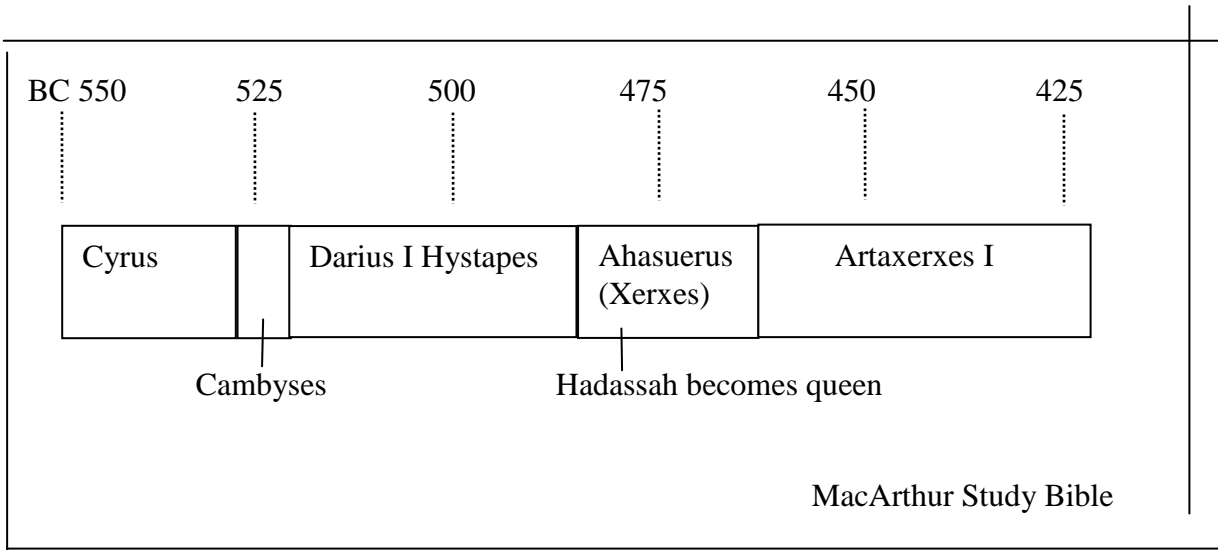
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21 This word pleased the king and the princes, and the king did as Memucan proposed. 22 So he sent letters to all the king's provinces, to each province according to its script and to every people according to their language, that every man should be the master in his own house and the one who speaks in the language of his own people.

[19.] v:21-22, OK, that's cool! Do you agree or disagree that there are limits to what the master in his own house should expect from his spouse.

[20.] For the born again Christian, how does Eph 5:25 coincide with the master in his own house thing?



* New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary