

~INDIA (45) (In'di-a)

- The exact area designated by the Bible name **India** is uncertain.
- Accordingly the secretaries of the king were called at that time in the third month, that is, the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day of it, and writing went on according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews and to the satraps and the governor's and the princes of the jurisdictional districts that were from **India** to Ethiopia, a hundred and twenty-seven jurisdictional districts, to each jurisdictional district in its own style of writing and to each people in its own tongue, and to the Jews in their own style of writing and in their own tongue. (**Esther 8:9**)
- Scholars generally suggest that it denotes the area drained by the **Indus River** and its tributaries, that is, the Punjab region and perhaps also Sind.
- The testimony of the historian Herodotus [III, 88,94][IV, 44] indicates that **India** first became a part of the Persian Empire during the rule of Darius Hystaspis, **521-486 B.C.E.**
- In the time of Ahasuerus, considered to be Xerxes I, son of Darius Hystaspis, India was the eastern limit of the empire.
- Now it came about in the days of Ahasuerus, that is, the Ahasuerus who was ruling as king from **India** to Ethiopia, over a hundred and twenty-seven jurisdictional districts. (**Esther 1:1**)
- Likely the **Indus Valley** was settled not long after the language of Babel's builders was confused. A comparison of the ancient civilization of the **Indus Valley** with that of Mesopotamia reveals the erection of structures like the ziggurat platforms of Mesopotamia, sculptures of the human figure with heads having the masklike features typical of ancient Mesopotamian sculpture, and pictographic signs that bear a resemblance to early Mesopotamian forms.
- Assyriologist **Samuel N. Kramer** has suggested that the **Indus Valley** was settled by a people who fled from Mesopotamia when the Sumerians took control of the area.

