

~MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE (182)

- **THE Medes and the Persians are referred to repeatedly in the Scriptures because they pursued a policy of religious toleration that served to fulfill Bible prophecy.**
- **Yehowah had permitted the Jews to be taken into captivity by Babylon, a nation that did not release captive peoples. Yet, God also had foretold Jewish restoration to their homeland.**
- **To Babylon is where they will be brought and there they will continue to be until the day of my turning my attention to them, is the utterance of Yehowah. And I will bring them up and restore them to this place. (Jeremiah 27:22)**
- **For; look! There are days coming, is the utterance of Yehowah, and I will gather the captive ones of my people, Israel and Judah, Yehowah has said; And I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers, and they will certainly repossess it. (Jeremiah 30:3)**
- **Medo-Persia, referred to in the Bible symbolically as a bear;**
- **And, see there! Another beast, a second one, it being like a bear. And on one side it was raised up, and there were three ribs in its mouth between its teeth, and this is what they were saying to it, Get up, eat much flesh. (Daniel 7:5)**
- **Served Yehowah's purpose in this regard.**
- **Shortly after Babylon's fall, Persian King Cyrus decreed that the formerly captive Jews could return to their homeland and rebuild Yehowah's temple.**
- **This is what Cyrus the king of Persia has said; All the kingdoms of the earth Yehowah the God of the heavens has given me, and he himself has commissioned me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. (Ezra 1:2)**
- **Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God prove to be with him. So let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of Yehowah the God of Israel, he is the**

true God, which was in Jerusalem. (Ezra 1:3)

- **As for anyone that is left from all the places where he is residing as an alien, let the men of his place assist him with silver and with gold and with goods and with domestic animals along with the voluntary offering for the house of the true God, which was in Jerusalem. (Ezra 1:4)**
- **Darius I later honored this decree.**
- **It was then that Darius the king put an order through, and they made an investigation in the house of the records of the treasures deposited there in Babylon. (Ezra 6:1)**
- **And at Ecbatana, in the fortified place that was in the jurisdictional district of Media, there was found a scroll, and the memorandum to this effect was written within it. (Ezra 6:2)**
- **In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king put an order through concerning the house of God in Jerusalem. Let the house be rebuilt as the place where they are to offer sacrifices, and its foundations are to be fixed, its height being sixty cubits, its width sixty cubits. (Ezra 6:3)**
- **With three layers of stones rolled into place and one layer of timbers, and let the expense be given from the king's house. (Ezra 6:4)**
- **And also let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God that Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon be returned, that they may reach the temple that is in Jerusalem at its place and be deposited in the house of God. (Ezra 6:5)**
- **Now Tattenai the governor beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai and their colleagues, the lesser governor's that are beyond the River, keep your distance from there. (Ezra 6:6)**
- **Let the work on that house of God alone. The governor of the Jews and the older men of the Jews will rebuild that house of God upon its place. (Ezra 6:7)**
- **And by me an order has been put through as to what you will do with these older men of the Jews, for rebuilding that house of**

God, and from the royal treasury of the tax beyond the River the expense will promptly be given to these able-bodied men without cessation. (Ezra 6:8)

- **And what is needed, young bulls as well as rams and lambs for the burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine and oil, just as the priests that are in Jerusalem say; Let there be given them continually day by day without fail. (Ezra 6:9)**
- **That they may continually be presenting soothing offerings to the God of the heavens and praying for the life of the king and his sons. (Ezra 6:10)**
- **And by me an order has been put through that, as for anybody that violates this decree, a timber will be pulled out of his house and he will be impaled upon it, and his house will be turned into a public privy on this account. (Ezra 6:11)**
- **King Ahasuerus, evidently Xerxes I, when properly informed, signed a decree that thwarted a scheme to exterminate the Jews.**
- **At this Esther the queen answered and said; If I have found favor in your eyes, O king, and if to the king it does seem good, let there be given me my own soul at my petition and my people at my request. (Esther 7:3)**
- **And of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai and Zabbud, and with them seventy males. (Ezra 8:14)**
- **In 455 B.C.E, King Artaxerxes Longimanus granted permission for Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem's walls, thus beginning the prophetic countdown to the appearance of the Messiah.**
- **Then I said to the king; Let the king himself live to time indefinite! Why should not my face become gloomy when the city, the house of the burial places of my forefathers, is devastated, and its very gates have been eaten up with fire? (Nehemiah 2:3)**
- **In turn the king said to me; What is this that you are seeking to secure? At once I prayed to the God of the heavens. (Nehemiah 2:4)**
- **After that I said to the king; If to the king it does seem good,**

and if your servant seems good before you, that you would send me to Judah, to the city of the burial places of my forefathers, that I may rebuild it. (**Nehemiah 2:5**)

- At this the king said to me, as his queenly consort was sitting beside him; How long will your journey come to be and when will you return? So it seemed good before the king that he should send me, when I gave him the appointed time. (**Nehemiah 2:6**)
- And I went on to say to the king; If to the king it does seem good, let letters be given me to the governor's beyond the River, that they may let me pass until I come to Judah. (**Nehemiah 2:7**)
- Also a letter to Asaph the keeper of the park that belongs to the king, that he may give me trees to build with timber the gates of the Castle that belongs to the house, and for the wall of the city and for the house into which I am to enter. So the king gave them to me, according to the good hand of my God upon me. (**Nehemiah 2:8**)
- And you should know and have the insight that from the going forth of the word to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Leader, there will be seven weeks, also sixty-two weeks. She will return and be actually rebuilt, with a public square and moat, but in the straits of the times. (**Daniel 9:25**)

PRINCIPAL LOCATIONS

Pasargadae; An early **Persian** capital.

Shushan; Former Elamite capital that became administrative center of the **Medo-Persian** Empire.

Persepolis; A royal city built by Emperors Darius I, Xerxes I, and Artaxerxes Longimanus.

Ecbatana; Summer capital of the empire, it had been the capital of **Media**.

Babylon; A royal city of the empire, because of the torrid summer weather, the city seldom served as more than a winter Capital.

Gaugamela; Site of the defeat of Persia's million-man army by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C.E, thus marking the end of the empire.