

**~SHUSHAN (182)**  
**(Shu'shan)**

- An ancient city, the ruins of which lie between the **Karkheh** River and the **Ab-i-Diz** River on the East bank of the Sha`ur, about 350 kilometers (220 miles) East of Babylon.
- There are four major mounds on the site. The modern village Shush lies below the slopes of the acropolis, the most important of the mounds. **Shushan** or a fortified part of the city, **Shushan** the castle, was the setting for one of the visions of the prophet Daniel.
- And I began to see in the vision, and it came about, while I was seeing, that I was in **Shushan** the castle, which is in Elam the jurisdictional district, and I proceeded to see in the vision, and I myself happened to be by the watercourse of Ulai. (**Daniel 8:2**)
- The scene for the events narrated in the book of Esther.
- That in those days as King Ahasuerus was sitting upon his royal throne, which was in **Shushan** the castle. (**Esther 1:2**)
- And when these days had come to the full, the king held a banquet for seven days for all the people that were found in **Shushan** the castle, for the great as well as the small, in the courtyard of the garden of the kings palace. (**Esther 1:5**)
- There were linen, fine cotton and blue held fast in ropes of fine fabric, and wool dyed reddish purple in silver rings and pillars of marble, couches of gold and silver upon a pavement of porphyry and marble and pearl and black marble. (**Esther 1:6**)
- And let the king appoint commissioners in all the jurisdictional districts of his realm, and let them collect together all the young women, virgins, beautiful in appearance, at **Shushan** the castle, at the house of the women in charge of Hegai the kings eunuch, the guardian of the women, and let there be a giving of their massages. (**Esther 2:3**)
- A certain man, a Jew, happened to be in **Shushan** the castle, and his name was Mordecai the son of Jair the son of Shimei the son of Kish a Benjaminite. (**Esther 2:5**)

- And it came about that, when the king's word and his Law were heard, and when many young women were collected together at **Shushan** the castle in charge of Hegai, then Esther was taken to the king's house in charge of Hegai the guardian of the women. (**Esther 2:8**)
- In those days while Mordecai was sitting in the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two court officials of the king, doorkeepers, became indignant and kept seeking to lay hand on King Ahasuerus. (**Esther 2:21**)
- And all the king's servants that were in the king's gate were bowing low and prostrating themselves to Haman, for so the king had commanded respecting him. But as for Mordecai, he would neither bow low nor prostrate himself. (**Esther 3:2**)
- The couriers themselves went out, being moved to speed because of the king's word, and the Law itself was given in **Shushan** the castle. As for the king and Haman, they sat down to drink, but as for the city of **Shushan**, it was in confusion. (**Esther 3:15**)
- The couriers themselves, riding post horses used in the royal service, went forth, being urged forward and being moved with speed by the king's word, and the Law itself was given out in **Shushan** the castle. (**Esther 8:14**)
- And the king proceeded to say to Esther the queen; In **Shushan** the castle the Jews have killed, and there has been a destroying of five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman. In the rest of the jurisdictional districts of the king what have they done? And what is your petition? Let it even be given to you. And what is your further request? Let it even be done. (**Esther 9:12**)
- Accordingly Esther said; If to the king it does seem good, let it be granted tomorrow also to the Jews that are in **Shushan** to do according to the Law of today, and let the ten sons of Haman be hanged upon the stake. (**Esther 9:13**)
- So the king said for it to be done that way. Then a Law was given out in **Shushan**, and the ten sons of Haman were hanged. (**Esther 9:14**)

- And the Jews that were in **Shushan** proceeded to congregate themselves also on the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and they got to kill in Shushan three hundred men, but on the plunder they did not lay their hand. (**Esther 9:15**)
- And the place where Nehemiah served as cupbearer during the reign of Artaxerxes, Longimanus, the son of Xerxes I.
- The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah; Now it came about in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, that I myself happened to be in **Shushan** the castle. (**Nehemiah 1:1**)
- And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him, and I as usual took up the wine and gave it to the king. But never had I happened to be gloomy before him. (**Nehemiah 2:1**)

**See Also CASTLE**

**See Also ELAM 1**

**See Also PERSIA, PERSIANS (Persian capitals)**

- There is evidence that **Shushan**, also called **Susa**;
- Then Rehum the chief government official and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their colleagues, the judges and the lesser governor's across the River, the secretaries, the people of Erech, the Babylonians, the inhabitants of **Susa**, that is, the Elamites. (**Ezra 4:9**)
- Was the capital of ancient Elam. In the **Seventh Century B.C.E**, King Asenappar, or Ashurbanipal of Assyria conquered **Shushan** and transported inhabitants of the city to Samaria.
- Then Rehum the chief government official and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their colleagues, the judges and the lesser governor's across the River, the secretaries, the people of Erech, the Babylonians, the inhabitants of **Susa**, that is, the Elamites. (**Ezra 4:9**)
- And the rest of the nations whom the great and honorable Asenappar took into exile and settled in the cities of Samaria, and the rest beyond the River, and now. (**Ezra 4:10**)

- Under Persian domination, **Shushan** was a royal city. In the **Fourth Century B.C.E**, **Shushan** fell to Alexander the Great and eventually witnessed decline. Today only a mound of ruins occupies the site.
- Archaeologists have uncovered the ruins of a palace, thought to be the one begun by Persian King Darius I and completed by his son Xerxes I, believed to be Ahasuerus, the husband of Esther. The panels of colored glazed bricks and the stone capitals give some indication of its former glory.
- An inscription of Darius I about the erection of the palace reads: **This is the hadish palace which at Susa I built. From afar its ornamentation was brought. Deep down the earth was dug, until rock bottom I reached.**
- **When the excavation was made, gravel was packed down, one part sixty feet, the other thirty feet in depth. On that gravel a palace I built. And that the earth was dug down and the gravel packed and the mud brick formed in molds, that the Babylonians did.**
- **The cedar timber was brought from a mountain named Lebanon, the Assyrians brought it to Babylon, and from Babylon the Carians and Ionians brought it to Susa. Teakwood was brought from Gandara and from Carmania.**
- **The gold which was used here was brought from Sardis and from Bactria. The stone lapis lazuli and carnelian was brought from Sogdiana. The turquoise was brought from Chorasmia. The silver and copper were brought from Egypt.**
- **The ornamentation with which the wall was adorned was brought from Ionia. The ivory was brought from Ethiopia, from India, and from Arachosia. The stone pillars were brought from a place named Abiradush in Elam.**
- **The artisans who dressed the stone were Ionians and Sardians. The goldsmiths who wrought the gold were Medes and Egyptians. Those who worked the inlays were Sardians and Egyptians.**
- **Those who worked the baked brick, with figures, were Babylonians. The men who adorned the wall were Medes and Egyptians.**

· **At Susa here a splendid work was ordered, very splendid did it turn out. [History of the Persian Empire, by A. T. Olmstead, 1948, p. 168]**

**See Also ARCHAEOLOGY (Persia)**