

Old Testament Historical Books (OT5)

Esther

Ross Arnold, Winter 2014
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Old Testament Historical Books (OT5)

1. Introduction; Book of Joshua: Conquest and Partition of the Land
2. Judges & Ruth: Moral Crisis
3. 1st & 2nd Samuel: The United Kingdom; David the Great King
4. 1st & 2nd Kings: Solomon; Division and Destruction
5. 1st & 2nd Chronicles: Sacred History Retold
6. Ezra & Nehemiah: Rebuilding
7. Esther; Final Exam

THE STRUCTURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



Law/History (5+12)

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

Wisdom (5)

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SOLOMON

Prophets (5+12)

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL

JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER

Number of books
in the
Old Testament:

39

Number of books
in the
New Testament:

27

Number of books
in the Bible:

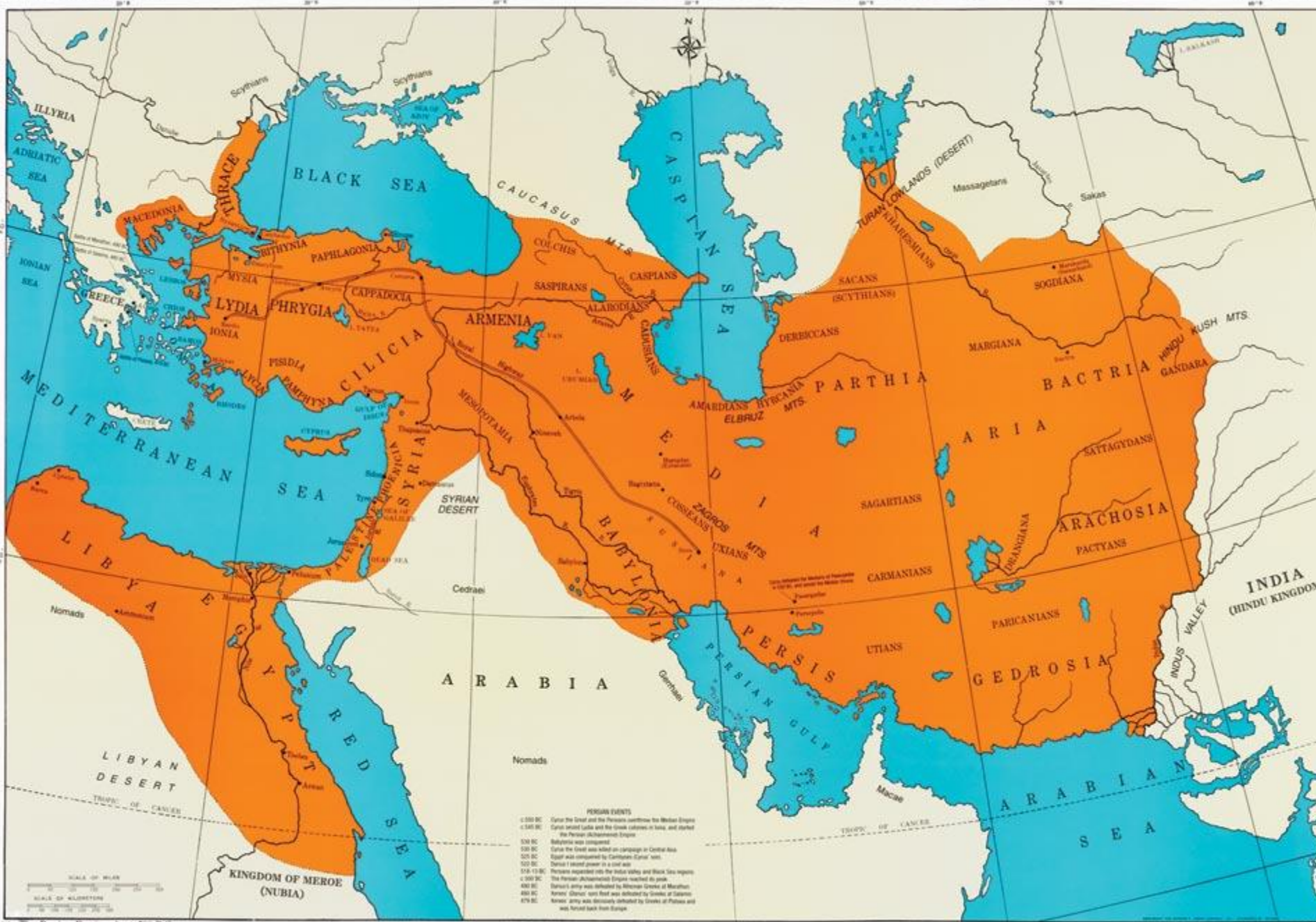
66

HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI



The Book of Esther

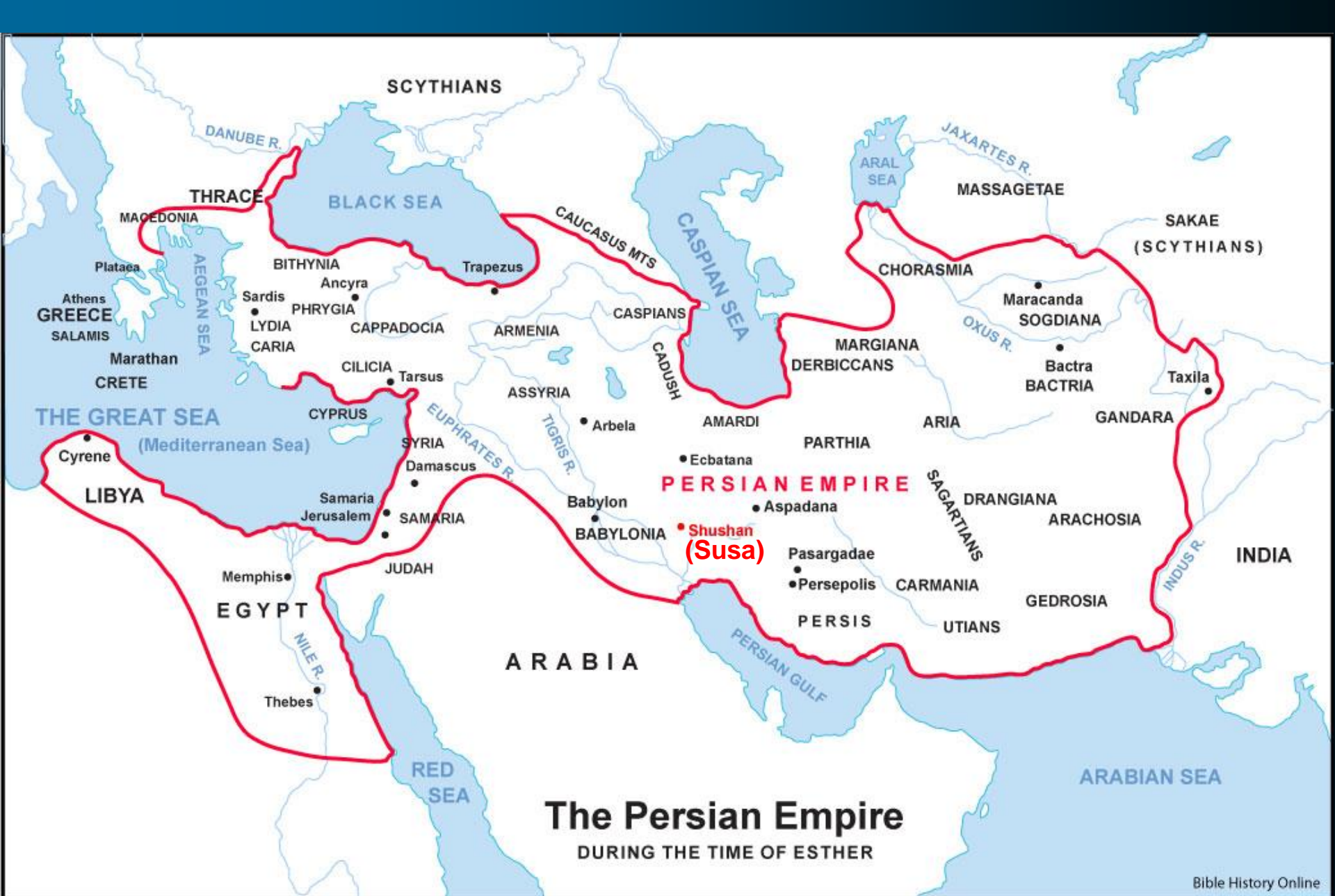
THE PERSIAN EMPIRE 550-330 BC



The Persian Empire about 500 B.C.

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The Book of Esther

- Author: Unknown (trad. Mordecai)
- Date: c. 460 BC - 435 BC
- Purpose: To tell how the Jews were protected and preserved by God even while in exile.
- Outline:
 - *Search for a new Queen (1-2)
 - *Haman's Plot (3)
 - *Esther's Plan (4-6)
 - *Haman's Downfall (7)
 - *Esther saves the Jews (8-10)

Outline of Esther

- I. The Feast of Xerxes (Ahasuerus) (1:1-2:18)
 - A. Queen Vashti deposed (ch.1)
 - B. Esther made queen (2:1-18)
- II. The Feasts of Esther (2:19-7:10)
 - A. Mordecai uncovers a plot (2:19-23)
 - B. Haman's plot (ch.3)
 - C. Mordecai persuades Esther to help (ch.4)
 - D. Esther's request to the king: her first banquet (5:1-8)
 - E. A sleepless night (5:9-6:14)
 - F. Esther's second banquet; Haman hanged (ch.7)
- III. The feasts of Purim (chs.8-10)
 - A. The king's edict on behalf of the Jews (ch.8)
 - B. The institution of Purim (ch.9)
 - C. The promotion of Mordecai (ch.10)

The Book of Esther

Key Verses

Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews-young and old, women and little children-on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

Esther 3:13 NIV

"Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:13-14 NIV