

Brief Flow of History

(The following is a very brief flow of history from the second beast—the bear—Medo-Persian Empire to the end of the third beast – the leopard – Greece; it is taken from various historical accounts—it is designed to give the Spirit Filled believer who desires to see how **The Four Winds** burst forth on the **Great Sea**.)

We will start off with the point that the great **Persian Empire** desired to conquer into Europe. This is where the next two beast were already forming—**Greece** and **Rome**.

KINGS OF PERSIA

Achaemenes;	Teispes, the Great King, King of Anshan;
Cyrus I;	Cambyses I, married Mandane, daughter of Astyages of Media;
Cyrus II	(549–530 B.C.), known as Cyrus the Great, King of Anshan and King of Persia; started returning Jews back to Jerusalem
Cambyses II	(529–522); conquered Egypt;
Pseudo-Smerdis	(Gautama), usurper (522–521);
Darius I	(521–486), known as Darius Hystaspes or Darius the Great; Had the temple rebuilt in Jerusalem.
Xerxes I	(486–465), the Ahasuerus of the book of Esther ; During his reign the prophets Zechariah, Haggai, are active
Artaxerxes II	(465–424), also known as Artaxerxes Longimanus (Ezra 7: 1–8; Neh. 2: 1); Sent Nehemiah back to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

Xerxes II	(424);
Darius II	(423–404); Malachi –last book of OT written 435-415
Artaxerxes II	(404–359); Jerusalem completed in 396 bc
Artaxerxes III	(359–338); Arses (338–335); Darius III (335–331), last Persian king defeated by Alexander the Great

From this time on we have the inter-testament period, no more prophets until the incarnation.

What is going on in Greece during this time?

It was Darius the Great who started the wars between Persia and Greece.

The city states here were starting this intrigue Darius Hystaspes who set (490 bc) out across the Hellespont to conquer the Greek cities of **Eretria** and **Athens**. He sends his Navy in from the Black Sea in Northern Turkey and landed his soldiers (120,000) at Marathon. He had a great army and a great fleet. He sent his navy across the Aegean and they wiped out Eretria and deported its citizens. Sailing from Eretria the navy landed the Persian army at Marathon as the first step towards destroying Athens.

Darius's strategy was not to take Athens by siege so in dropping off part of his army at Marathon to threaten the entire Greek peninsula he was hoping to draw the Athenian army northeastward to Marathon to fight. Darius I's plan was that he would leave a holding force at Marathon to draw the Athenian army northeastward away from Athens such that he could send his navy with an attack force of his army to sneak up on Athens from the rear and destroy it while the Athenian army was fighting his holding force up in Marathon.

Unfortunately for Darius I his plan was discovered and the Greeks did some famous running between Athens and Marathon and after defeating the Persian holding force in Marathon, when they got the news about Darius plan, the Athenian army made a forced march from Marathon back to Athens and successfully defended Athens against the Persian attack. This defeat of the Persian army was the first weakening of the bear.

The Second Invasion of Greece by the Persian: 480 bc

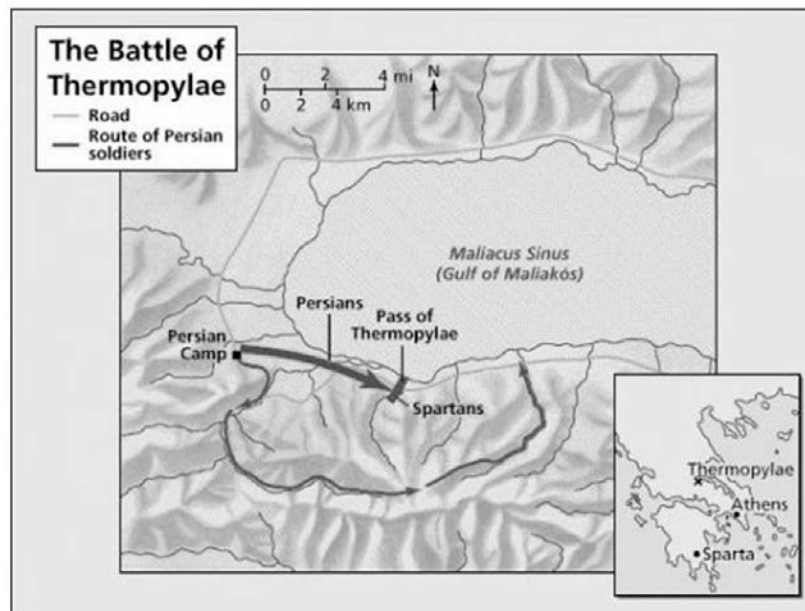
The successor of Darius I was **Xerxes**, (of Esther story) a man primarily interested in architecture. He built a very famous city called Persopolis. Unfortunately for Xerxes he

had a cousin by the name of **Mardonias** who agitated Xerxes into organizing an expedition to conquer the Greeks. This Persian invasion of Greece was almost suicidal, but Xerxes tried it.

Xerxes organizes a tremendous army that had to be supplied by sea, an army that was too large to be transported by sea. He built a navy of 3,000 transport ships and a 1,000 warships. He built a navy of 3,000 transport ships & a 1,000 warships. He marched to Sardis and while there he captured three Greek spies. There, in an act of arrogance, because he had such a low view of the Greeks that he gave them a tour of his army. Every unit, all his weapons, up one row and down the next. When he was done he sent them home to tell the Greeks what he had.

To move across the **Dardenelles** Xerxes built a series of pontoon bridges, some of the first pontoon bridges ever built in military history. It took the Persian army seven days to march across these pontoon bridges constructed across the Dardenelles. After crossing the Dardenelles Xerxes split his army into three corps, one of which was responsible for holding the coastline in order for the Persian navy to be able to supply the advancing Persian army.

In preparing for the **Persian invasion** the Greeks didn't think that they could stand and fight against Xerxes and his massive armies, so they decided to totally abandon the **Greek peninsula** and build a massive fortification across the **Isthmus of Corinth** to make their stand on the Peloponnesian Peninsula. In order to build their fortification across the Isthmus of Corinth the Greeks need time so **300 volunteers went up to Thermopylae Pass and these 300 Greeks held this mountain pass in the face of 180,000 Persians** until a traitor told the Persians of a way to sneak around the side of the pass and attack them from the rear. The **Spartans** fought to the last man. One of the most significant battles of history.



The **Battle of Thermopylae Pass** was just the beginning of the surprises in store for Xerxes. When he got down to **Athens** he came to **Salamis**. While the Athenians were evacuating, to leave by sea, the Persian navy closed in. Xerxes sent 200 ships southward around the island of **Salamis** to cut off the only means of escape for the Greek fleet and kept his main force of 600 ships in the mouth of the bay.

At this point Xerxes had complete control of the Greek peninsula, he was the master of the situation, **he was the bear devouring much flesh**. In this so far completely successful invasion of Greece. The Greeks were at the mercy of Xerxes, they had their heroics at **Thermopylae Pass** and they were now prostrate before the armies of Xerxes. If Xerxes had been able to destroy the Greek navy off the island of **Salamis** then he could have proceeded south by sea unchallenged with the world's greatest navy to the Peloponnesian peninsula where with his navy he could have outflanked the Greek fortification on the Isthmus, making a landing somewhere along the coast of the Peloponnesian peninsula, and could have wiped out the remaining Greek force. The destruction of Greece was potentially in his hands.

In this beautiful situation Xerxes began to show what always leads to the destruction of a nation. **His arrogance kicked in! The bear destroyed itself through arrogance.**

Xerxes was impatient and didn't want to wait for the Greek fleet and the Athenians to be starved out. So after a month of patient waiting and Xerxes would have destroyed the entire Greek navy, but he initiated a fight. He ordered the Persian navy to move up into the strait. **The Greeks retreated, allowing the Persians to move further up and then the Greeks ambushed them and sank 200 Persian ships.** By getting trapped in the strait they could only bring so many ships to bear at a time.

In this battle Xerxes lost one third of his fleet, and after this the Persian and Greek armies continued to fight for a few years but the Persians never again gained a superior position.

He still could have won, but Xerxes blamed his naval commanders and called all his survivors in and ordered them executed. When the Persian navy found out that he was killing all their captains, they were mostly Egyptians, Phoenicians and men from other nations, they deserted.

Daniel 7:6 and dominion was given to it.