

The

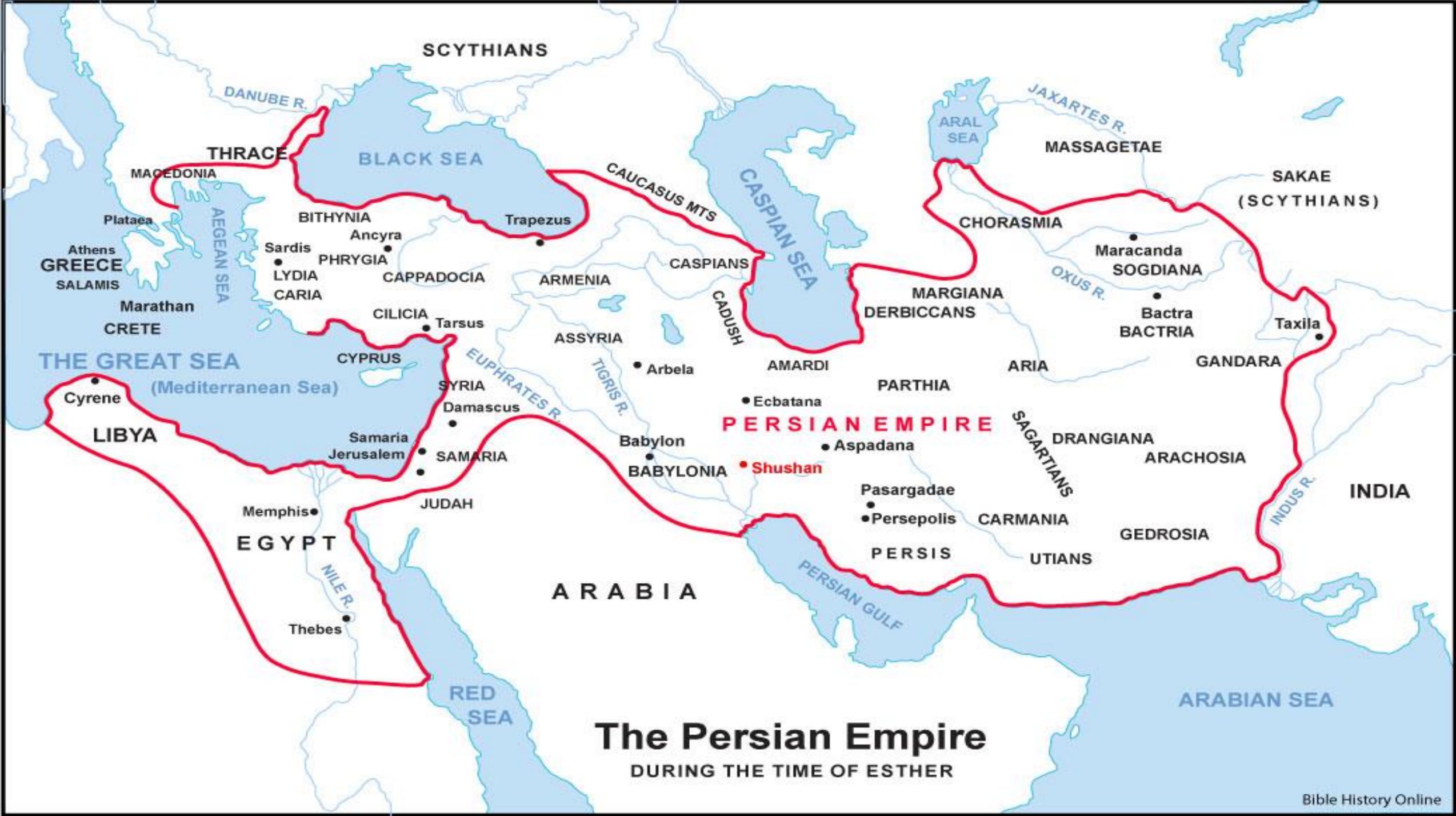
HIDDEN

Esther 1:1-22 Pg 354

Studies in Esther

Don't Forget Who Ultimately Is In Charge

- From the outside Xerxes appears to rule
- Planning a war
- King, Queen, Royal in every verse but 2
- He makes laws he can't even change
- He has the **ILLUSION** of control



SCYTHIANS

DANUBE R.

THRACE

BLACK SEA

JAXARTES R.

MASSAGETAE

SAKAE (SCYTHIANS)

ARAL SEA

CAUCASUS MTS

CASPIAN SEA

CHORASMIA

Maracanda

SOGDIANA

OXUS R.

Bactra

BACTRIA

Taxila

BITHYNIA

Ancyra

Trapezus

CASPIANS

CADUSH

MARGIANA

DERBICCANS

CILICIA

Tarsus

ARMENIA

ASSYRIA

Arbela

AMARDI

PARTHIA

ARIA

GANDARA

THE GREAT SEA (Mediterranean Sea)

CYPRUS

EUPHRATES R.

SYRIA

Damascus

TIGRIS R.

Babylon

PERSIAN EMPIRE

Shushan

SAGARTIANS

DRANGIANA

ARACHOSIA

INDIA

Cyrene

LIBYA

Samaria

Jerusalem

SAMARIA

BABYLONIA

Ecbatana

Aspadana

Pasargadae

Persepolis

CARMANIA

GEDROSIA

Memphis

EGYPT

JUDAH

ARABIA

PERSIAN GULF

PERSIS

UTIANS

Thebes

RED SEA

ARABIAN SEA

The Persian Empire

DURING THE TIME OF ESTHER

Don't Forget Who Ultimately Is In Charge

- His wife demonstrates he isn't
- He loses control of himself
- He follows **AWFUL** advice
- He unsuccessfully tries to **COMMAND** respect



You play any
dangerous
sports?

I sometimes
disagree with
my wife

Don't Forget Who Ultimately Is In Charge

“The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.”

Prov 21:1

“Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.”

John 19:11

Don't Confuse Knowledge With Wisdom

- Knowledge is having a grip on the facts
- Wisdom is knowing how to USE the facts

“...men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do.”

1 Chronicles 12:32

Don't Be Confused About What Makes Up True Success

- At the end of Ch 1 it *APPEARS* Xerxes was successful
- True success is different:
“True success is when those that are closest to you and know you best love and respect you the most!” **Andy Stanley**

Don't Assume That Because You Can't See God's Hand He is Absent

- God's name is never seen in Esther
- Prayer is never mentioned in Esther

- True success is different:

““ But, though the name of God be not in it, the finger of God is, directing many minute events for the bringing about of his people's deliverance.”

Matthew Henry

Settle this:

“Who has the right to rule your life?”

- Have you forgotten who is in charge?***
- Have you confused knowledge with wisdom?***
- Do you need to redefine success in your life?***
- Have you assumed God isn't present because you can't see His hand?***

Come make the adjustments You need to make.