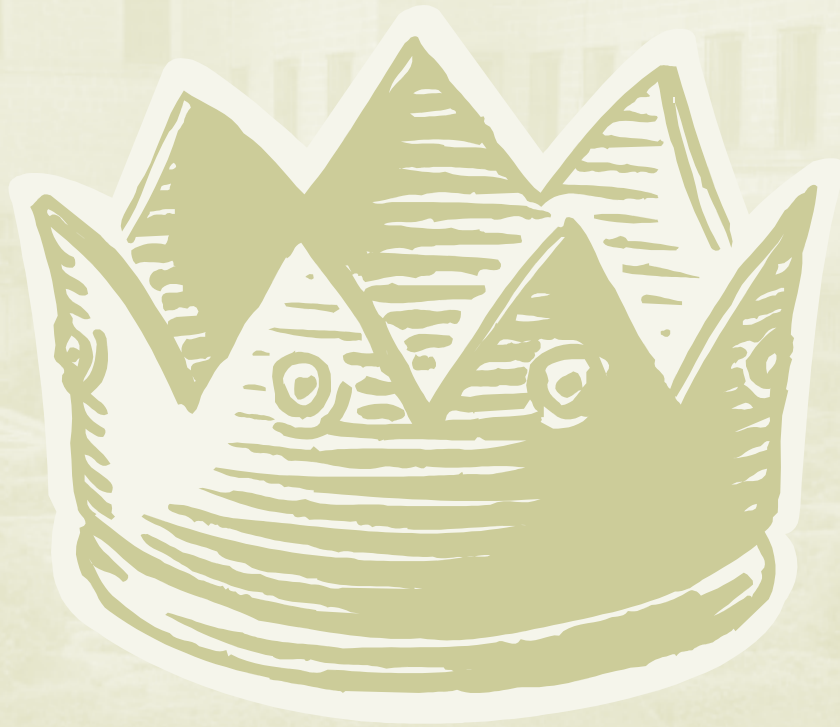


The Persian Press

ALL THE NEWS FROM INDIA TO CUSH



Volume 1, Issue 1

Teacher's Copy

MISSION ARLINGTON / MISSION METROPLEX CURRICULUM-SUMMER 2009

Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

The Persian Press

ESTHER 1:1-8

PARTY IN SUSAL

HEAD-LINES:

- King Xerxes reigned over the Persian Empire (modern day Iran).
- King Xerxes gave a party where all were invited.
- All are invited into a relationship with God, through salvation.

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EXTRA, EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

King Xerxes Has a Party!

After only three years as king, King Xerxes is ruler over all of Persia . . . and Persia is pretty big! There are 127 territories in all and they reach all the way from India to Cush! King Xerxes lives in the Persian capital of Susa.

About that party, it was as big as the kingdom and it was only for the really important people. All of the princes, nobles, officials, and military leaders of Persia and Media were invited. “Every day for 180 days [King Xerxes] showed his guests the great wealth of his kingdom. He also showed them how glorious his kingdom was.” (Esther 1:4 NIV) The likes of it has never

been seen before: six months of partying, with something new and glorious to see every day!

And that’s not all! When the 180 days for the nobles was over, the king gave another party! That’s right—**another party!** This party lasted for only seven days, but it was for everyone who lived in the fortress city of Susa. “Everyone from the least important person to the most important person was invited.” (Esther 1:5 NIV)

The party was in the king’s very own garden. There were blue and white banners everywhere that hung from white and purple ropes connected to amazing marble pillars by silver rings. There were gold and silver couches on a mosaic floor. The floor

was stunning. It “was made out of small stones. The floor had purple crystal, marble, mother-of-pearl, and other stones of great value.” (Esther 1:6 NIV)

This king has spared no expense. His own royal wine was served in gold cups, each different from the next. And the king’s servants were instructed to give the king’s guests whatever they asked for.

It was quite a party!

Reporting from Susa: Fortress of the Persian Empire



T H E P E R S I A N E M P I R E

Now that you have heard about the amazing parties King Xerxes gave, you might want to know a little more about his kingdom.

King Xerxes reigned over the 127-province Persian Empire. During this time, the Persian empire extended as far west as Macedonia and as far east as the Indus

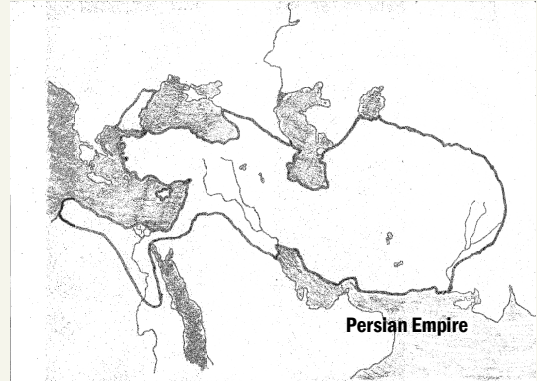
River; it stretched north from the Caucasus Mountains and south to the Aral Sea to the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Their government, developed by Xerxes' father Darius, became a model for many governments after them.

The Persians invented

the game of polo. They made beautiful pottery and mosaics. Their art

was visibly influenced by Greek and Egyptian art.



God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.
John 3:16

F R O M T H E E D I T O R

How does this apply to you? Parties and history . . . so what? What did we learn about King Xerxes' second party? Who was invited? "Everyone from the least important person to the most important person was invited." (Esther 1:5 NIV)

Guess what? A big party is going to be given in

Heaven one day . . . and you are invited! From the richest to the poorest, the most important to the least important, ALL are invited! How do I know? It says in 2 Peter 3:9 that God doesn't want anyone to die apart from Him - He wants ALL to come to repentance. And John 3:16 says that God's salvation is for

whoever believes.

RSVP-“So, friends, confirm God's **invitation** to you, his choice of you. Don't put it off; do it now. Do this, and you'll have your life on a firm footing, the streets paved and the way wide open into the eternal kingdom of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:10 (MSG)

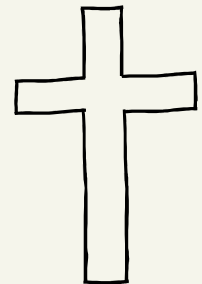
T H E R E A L K I N G O F K I N G S

King Xerxes was the most influential man of his day. He ruled over many people.

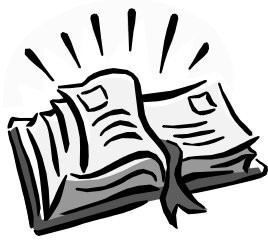
Revelation 19 explains the party we are invited to in heaven. It also talks about the One who the

party is given for, the Lamb. That is a way to explain the sacrifice Jesus made for us when he died on the cross. Revelation 19 also uses another name for Jesus, “KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS.”

King Xerxes may have been amazing in his time, but he cannot even compare to the King who laid down His life for us. Won't you trust Him today and let Him be Lord of your life? Life is so much better when He is in control.



ACTIVITIES



Hide God's Word in your heart!
Psalm 119:11

Memory Verse Activities for John 3:16

Sing the memory verse to aid in memorization.

Deconstruct the memory verse, talking about each word or phrase and its meaning. Encourage your students to write out a long version of the verse (like the Amplified Bible) including explanations of difficult words.

Provide coloring sheets that include the memory verse.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Read Luke 14:15-24, Matthew 25:1-13, and Revelation 19:6-9. Discuss the passages and their relevance to our lesson. Encourage your students to write their own editorial about our invitation to God's big party.

How are you doing at inviting others to a saving relationship with God? Take time today to deliver today's issue (lesson) to those who didn't come. Be sure to let them know about God's invitation!

*"Think so as to
have sound
judgment."
Romans 12:3*

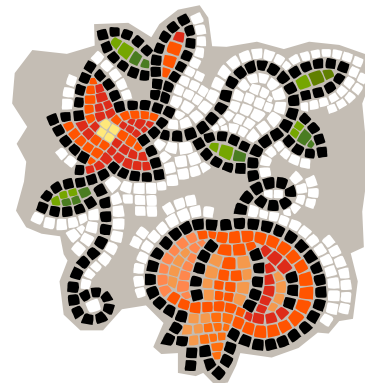
HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Decorate your space the way King Xerxes decorated for his parties.

- Make Mexican "papel picado" with white and blue tissue paper.
- Make mosaics. Use purple and white "tiles" of construction paper.
- Decorate your own paper cup with gold foil.

Make marbled paper to resemble the pillars in the king's courtyard.

Make gold crowns.



The Persian Empire made beautiful mosaics.



IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:
ESTHER 1:9-22

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