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Today's Sermon:

Esther

Strength & Dignity:

Introduction

Speaking: Dan Housam

15 May 2022



Esther

Strength & Dignity:

Introduction

Context In _____ History

Esther occurred after the end of the Babylonian exile.

The _____ Empire

- Also known as the Achaemenid Empire (a ruling clan of Persia)
- Lasted approximately from 559 B.C. to 331 B.C.
- Cyrus the Great started ruling in 559 BC
- Cyrus overthrew the Median, Lydian, and Babylonian Empires
- Cyrus created an empire of many nations.
- Was tolerant of other's national religions
- Cyrus sent the exiles to rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 1)
- Cyrus -> Cambyses II -> Darius -> Xerxes
- Darius was king when Daniel went to the lion's den (Daniel 6)
- Xerxes is the king in the book of Esther
- Xerxes was the antagonist in the movie "300"
- Persia's capital was the Citadel of Susa
- Susa is one of the worlds oldest cities
- Susa is located in modern day Iran

Theology of the book of _____

- God is not mentioned (similar to Song of Solomon)
- Major Themes
 - God's Providence
 - God cares for Israel
 - Women have Power

Popular Verse

"... who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

(Esther 4:14 NIV)