

Mordecai's Dream

Additions to Esther 11:2 – 12:1

(Ezra 4:6)

by Don Falkos

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A few years after the completion of the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem, King Darius of Persia made a push to extend his empire to the west. There was a rebellion in Greece. He put down the revolt through victory after victory on Greek soil. Then he suffered a devastating defeat at Marathon. Darius returned to Persia a broken man. His health declined until his death a few years later. His son Xerxes succeeded him as king of the vast Persian Empire and ruled from the fortress of Susa.

The leaders of Samaria lodged a complaint with Xerxes concerning the people of Judah. But he was busy elsewhere in those early years of his reign. Xerxes put down rebellions in Babylon and Egypt. Then he went to Greece to avenge his father, but was roundly defeated.

Meanwhile there was a Jew named Mordecai who lived in the city of Susa and held an important position of service in the king's court. Mordecai was resting in the palace courtyard when he had a dream in which he believed he saw God's plan for the future:

The earth shook with thunder and lightning, earthquakes and landslides. Two dragons appeared, roaring and ready to fight. All the nations of the earth prepared for battle against the Lord's people. It was a day of darkness and danger, of tribulation and distress; a day of great fear for the followers of the Lord. But the people of God prayed; and from a tiny spring came a mighty river. The sun rose, and God's people stood victorious.