



DANUBE  
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

# ESTHER

The Hiddenness of  
God

In the Courts of Kings

## **Esther 1:1-12; 19-21**

**1** Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces, **2** in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa, the capital, **3** in the third year of his reign he gave a feast for all his officials and servants. The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the provinces were before him, **4** while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor and pomp of his greatness for many days, 180 days. **5** And when these days were completed, the king gave for all the people present in Susa, the citadel, both great and small, a feast lasting for seven days in the court of the garden of the king's palace. **6** There were white cotton curtains and violet hangings fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rods and marble pillars, and also couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and precious stones. **7** Drinks were served in golden vessels, vessels of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king.

## **Esther 1:1-12; 19-21**

**8 And drinking was according to this edict: There is no compulsion. For the king had given orders to all the staff of his palace to do as each man desired. 9 Queen Vashti also gave a feast for the women in the palace that belonged to King Ahasuerus. 10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, 11 to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was lovely to look at. 12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. At this the king became enraged, and his anger burned within him.**

## **Esther 1:1-12; 19-21**

**19 If it please the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be repealed, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus. And let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. 20 So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, for it is vast, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike. 21 This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did as Memucan proposed.**

## Esther 1:1-3

**1** Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces, **2** in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa, the capital, **3** in the third year of his reign...

WHAT?

WHEN?

WHO?

WHERE?

**XERXES  
AHASUERUS**



**486 BC**



Map 4-1  
*Ways of the World, First Edition*  
 © 2009 Bedford/St.Martin's



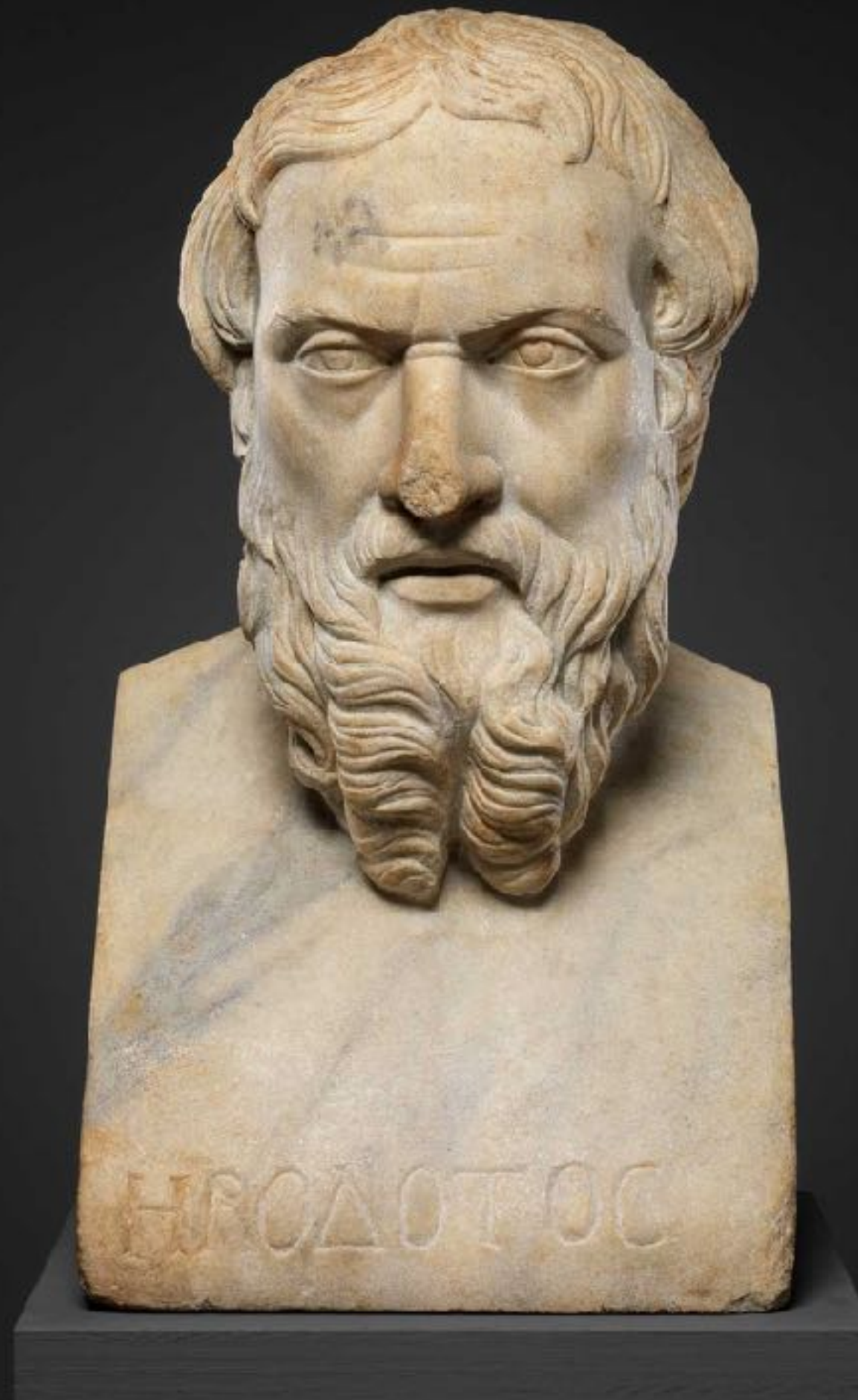
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# MARATHON 490 BC

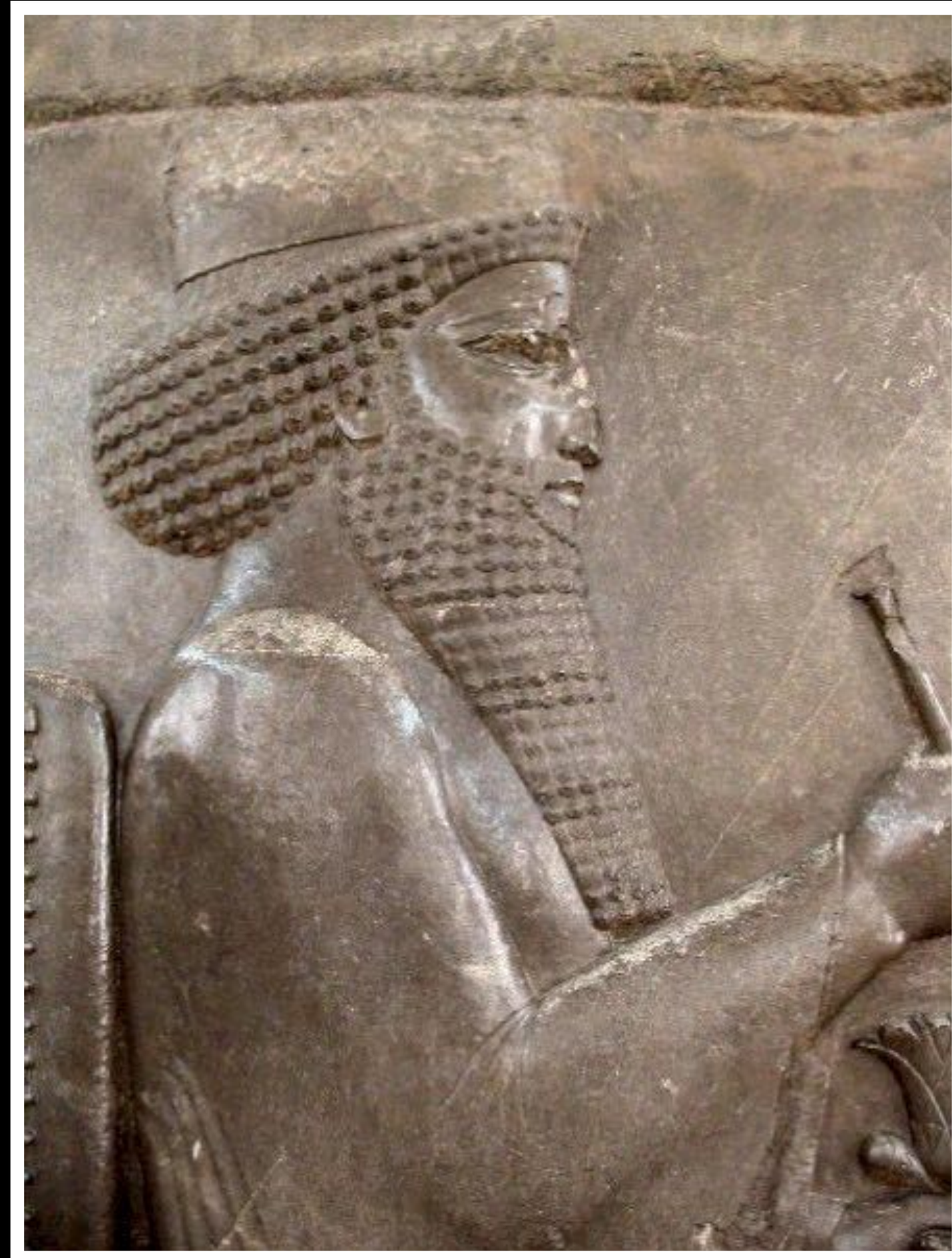




**HERODOTUS**



**DARIUS**



**522 BC - 486 BC**

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540 B.C.  
Rebellion

500 B.C.

ATHENS

IONIA



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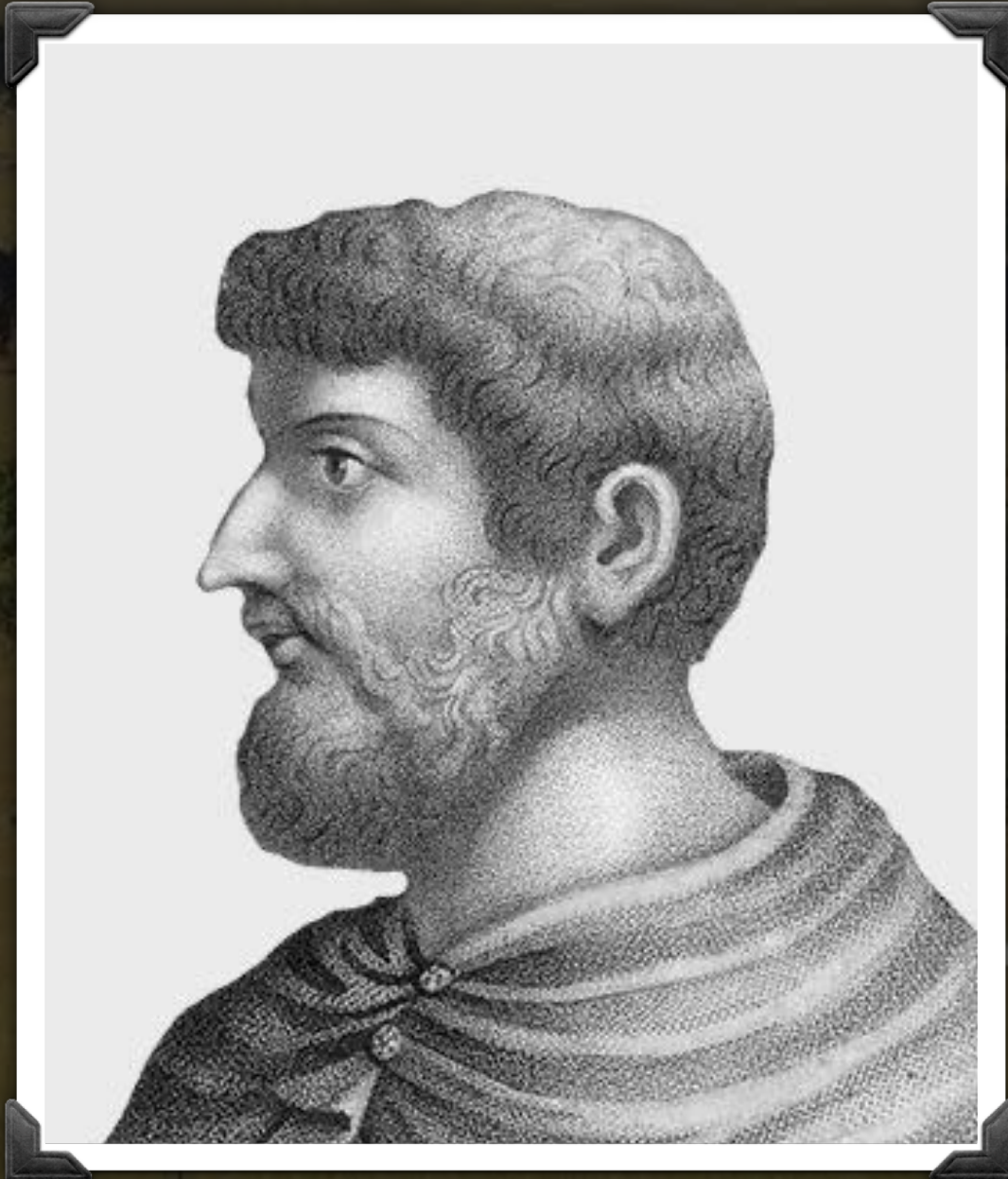




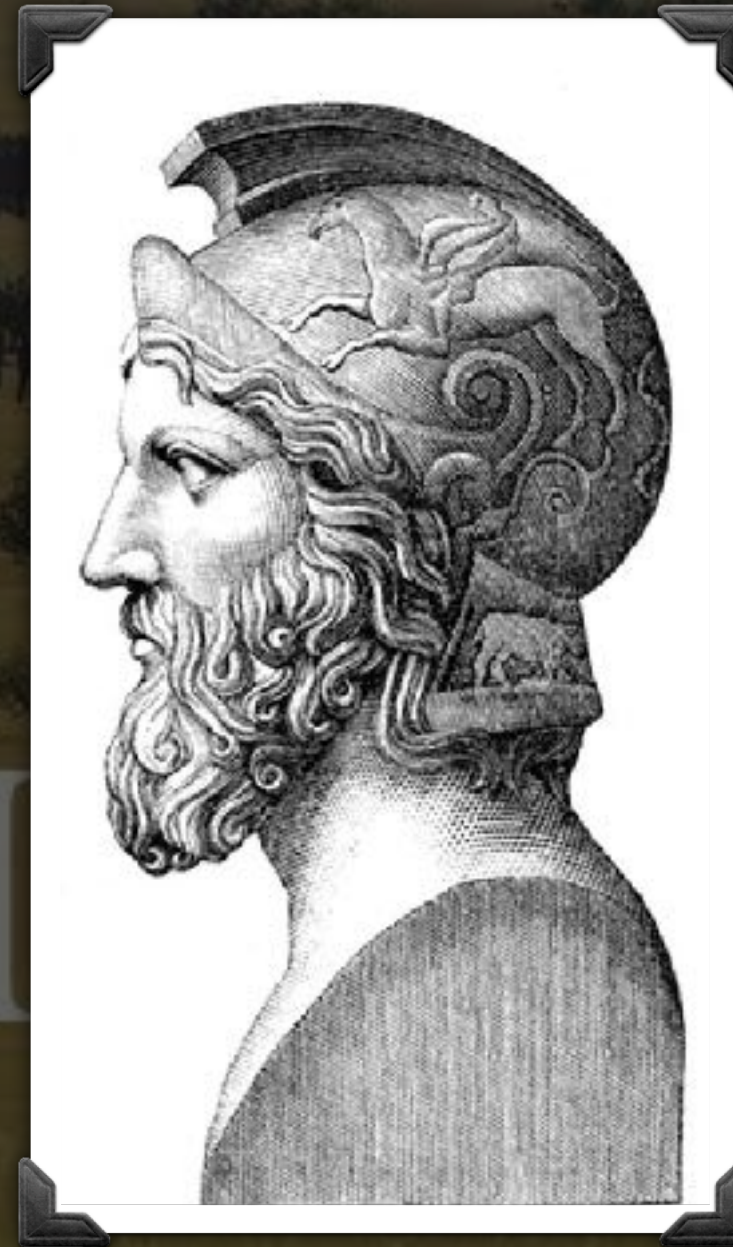
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**Callimachus**



**Miltiades**



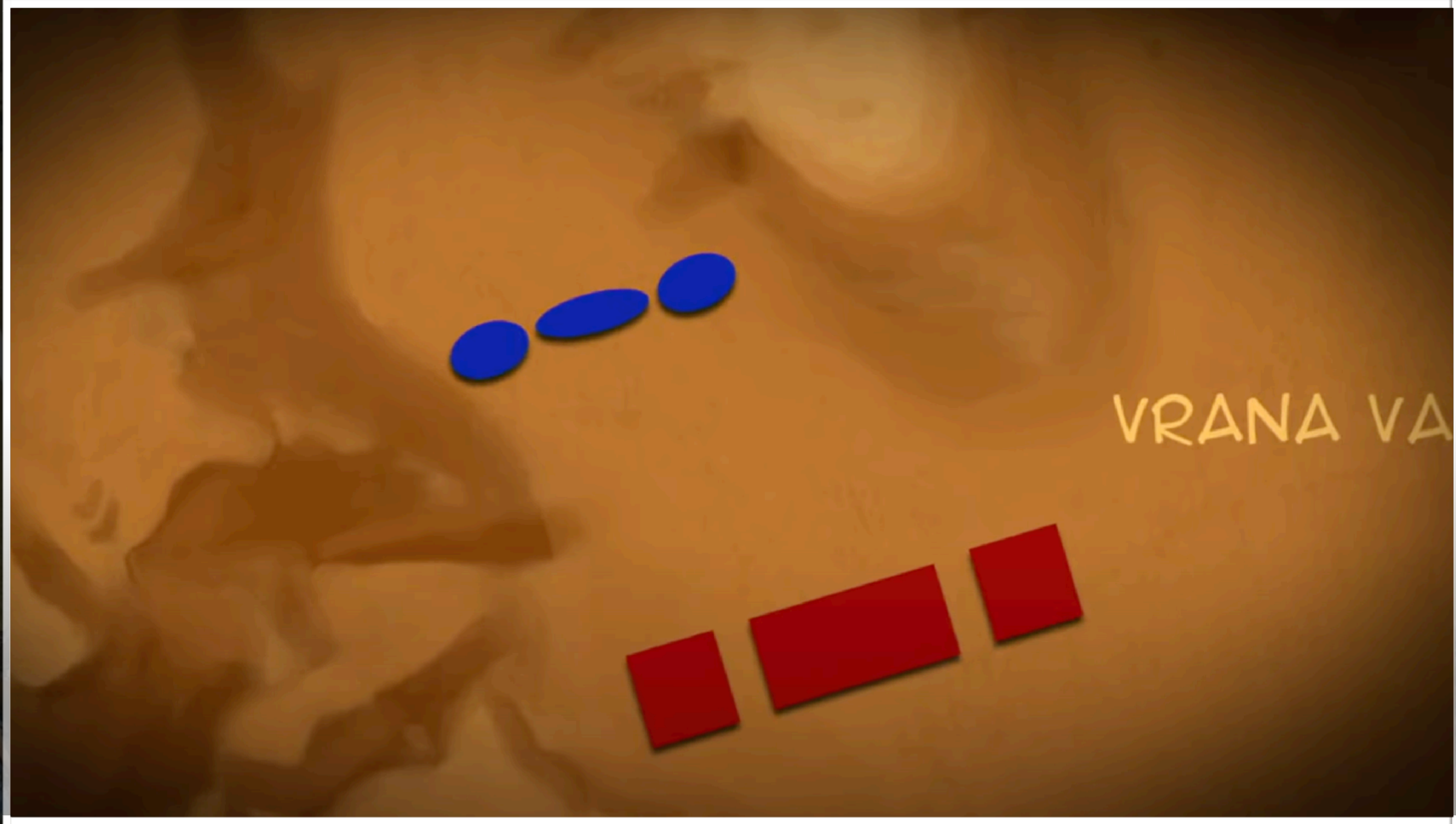
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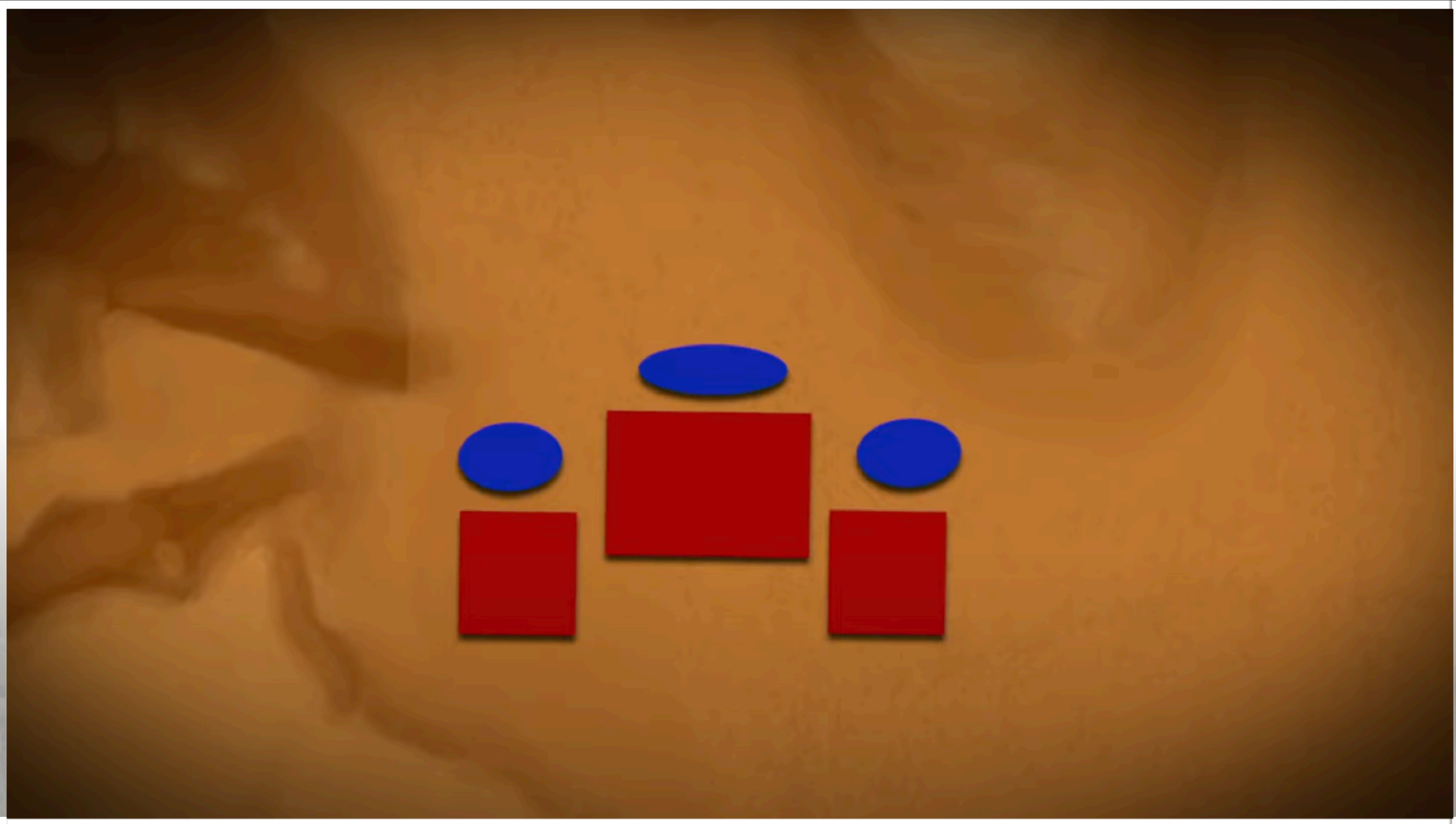






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# MARATHON 490 BC





**DARIUS**

# AHASUERUS



486 BC

# Book of Esther

**People**

**1 - 2**

**Plot**

**3 - 8**

**Purim**

**9 - 10**

**Grave Danger**

**Great Deliverance**



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# ESTHER

The Hiddenness of  
God

In the Courts of Kings

# In The Courts of Kings

***“The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.”***

**Proverbs 21:1**

# **In The Courts of Kings**

**I. The King's Riches. Esther 1:1-9**

**II. The King's Request. Esther 1:10-12**

**III. The King's Rule. Esther 1:13-22**



# In The Courts of Kings

## I. The King's Riches. Esther 1:1-9

3 in the third year of his reign he **gave** a feast for all his officials and servants. The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the provinces were before him, 4 while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor and pomp of his greatness for many days, 180 days. 5 And when these days were completed, the king **gave** for all the people present in Susa, the citadel, both great and small, a feast lasting for seven days in the court of the garden of the king's palace. 6 There were white cotton curtains and violet hangings fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rods and marble pillars, and also couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and precious stones. 7 Drinks were served in golden vessels, vessels of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king. 8 And drinking was according to this edict: There is no compulsion. For the king had given orders to all the staff of his palace to do as each man desired. 9 Queen Vashti also **gave** a feast for the women in the palace that belonged to King Ahasuerus.

# In The Courts of Kings

## I. The King's Riches. Esther 1:1-9

### PRIDE

Pride in his fortune v. 4

Pride in his fame v. 4

Pride in his power v. 4

Pride in his possessions v. 6

Pride in his pleasure v. 7-8



# In The Courts of Kings

## I. The King's Riches. Esther 1:1-9

### PRIDE

*“It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest...”*

C.S. Lewis



# In The Courts of Kings

## I. The King's Riches. Esther 1:1-9

### PRIDE

*“Look at what **‘I’** achieved”*



# In The Courts of Kings

## I. The King's Riches. Esther 1:1-9

### APPLICATION

*God is using Ahasuerus for His purposes.*

*Ahasuerus' boasting in all those things is ultimately a fragile life.*



# In The Courts of Kings

## I. The King's Riches. Esther 1:1-9

### APPLICATION

*God is using Ahasuerus for His purposes.*

*Ahasuerus' boasting in all those things is ultimately a fragile life.*

*“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”* 1 Corin. 4:7



# **In The Courts of Kings**

**I. The King's Riches. Esther 1:1-9**

**II. The King's Request. Esther 1:10-12**

# In The Courts of Kings

## II. The King's Request. Esther 1:10-12

**There's a request and there's a refusal.**

**10** On the seventh day, when the heart of **the king was merry with wine**, he **commanded** Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, **11 to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was lovely to look at.**

**12 But Queen Vashti refused** to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. At this the king became enraged, **and his anger burned within him.**



# In The Courts of Kings

## II. The King's Request. Esther 1:10-12

**What do you do when you don't get your way?**

**What do you do when things don't seem to be working out they way you wanted?**

**How do you react when you have a blocked goal?**

# In The Courts of Kings

## II. The King's Request. Esther 1:10-12

### Bad news

**Not only against the king has Queen Vashti done wrong, but also against all the officials and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. 17 For the queen's behavior will be made known to all women, causing them to look at their husbands with contempt, since they will say, King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.**

## **Esther 1:1-12; 19-21**

**19 If it please the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be repealed, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus. And let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. 20 So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, for it is vast, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike. 21 This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did as Memucan proposed.**

# **In The Courts of Kings**

## **III. The King's Rule.**

**A new law**

**I. Problematic partners don't really help your cause.**

**II. Quick reactions can lead to permanent regrets.**



DANUBE  
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**God is at work,  
even when we can't see it.**

**In the Courts of Kings**



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# ESTHER

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# TIME LINE

Persian  
Kings

CYRUS

**XERXES**

ARTEXERXES

ARTEXERXES

DARIUS (**Ahasuerus**)

Return to  
Jerusalem

1st Return

2nd Return

3rd Return

Year

538 BC

**483 BC**

458 BC

444 BC

Bible

EZRA

**ESTHER**

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

HAGGAI

MALACHI

ZACHARIAH

Captivity  
70 yrs

