



DANUBE  
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

# ESTHER

The Hiddenness of  
God

In Our Pain

## **Esther 2:1-17; 21-23**

**1** After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. **2** Then the king's young men who attended him said, Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king. **3** And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in Susa the capital, under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women. Let their cosmetics be given them. **4** And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti. This pleased the king, and he did so. **5** Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, **6** who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away. **7** He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

## **Esther 2:1-17; 21-23**

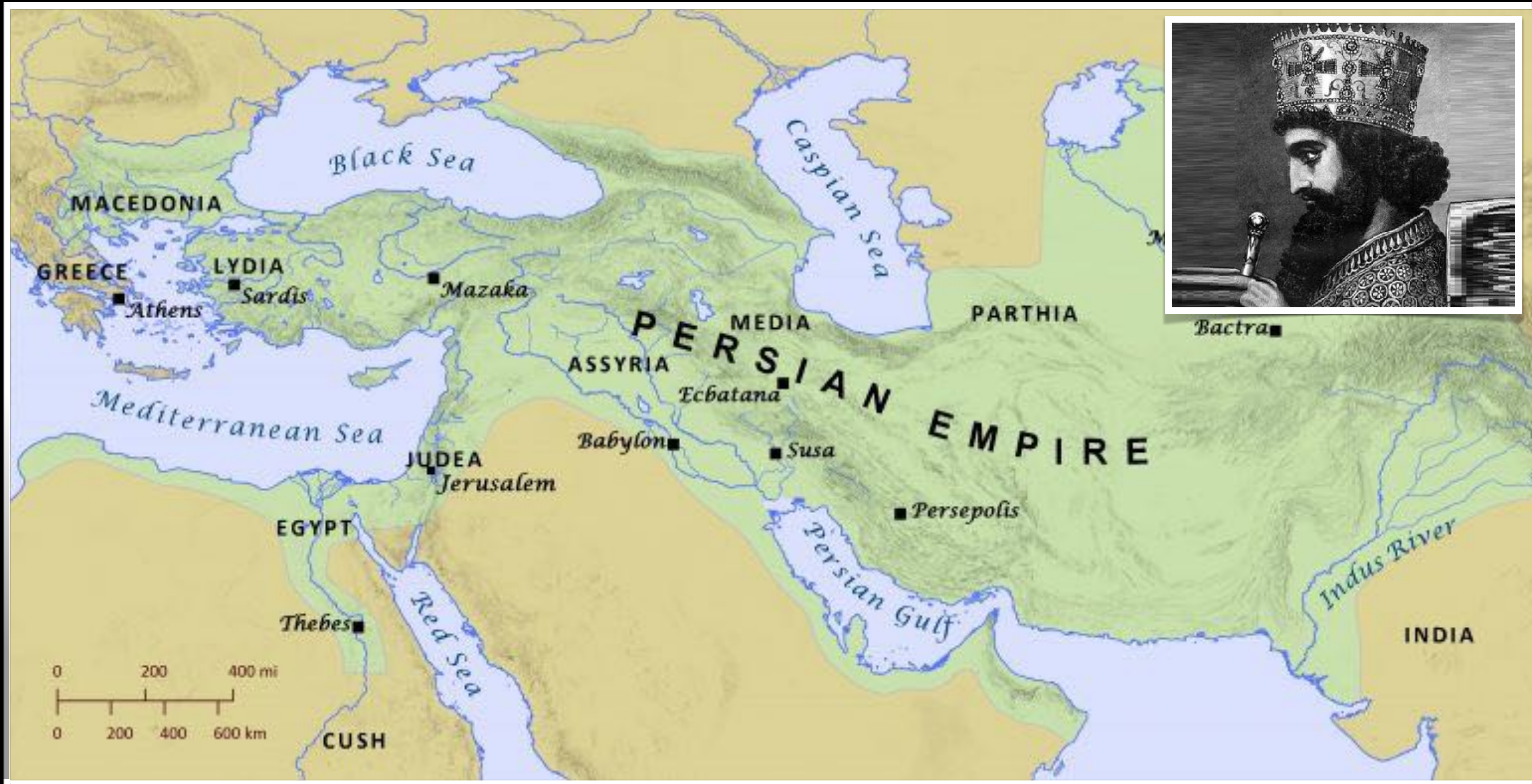
**8 So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women. 9 And the young woman pleased him and won his favor. And he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her portion of food, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem. 10 Esther had not made known her people or kindred, for Mordecai had commanded her not to make it known. 11 And every day Mordecai walked in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and what was happening to her. 12 Now when the turn came for each young woman to go in to King Ahasuerus, after being twelve months under the regulations for the women, since this was the regular period of their beautifying, six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and ointments for women—**

## **Esther 2:1-17; 21-23**

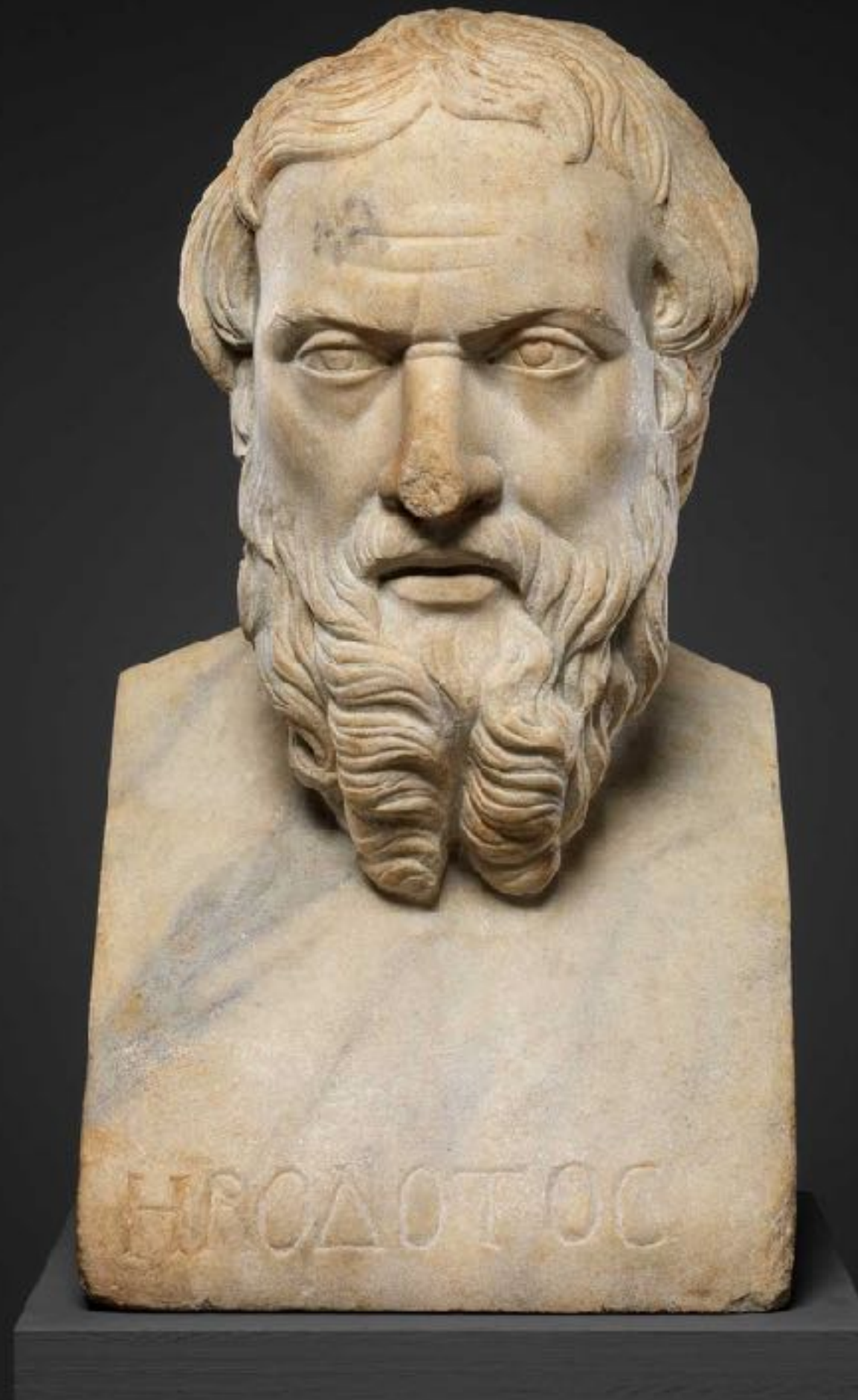
**13** when the young woman went in to the king in this way, she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the harem to the king's palace. **14** In the evening she would go in, and in the morning she would return to the second harem in custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who was in charge of the concubines. She would not go in to the king again, unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name. **15** When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her. **16** And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, **17** the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

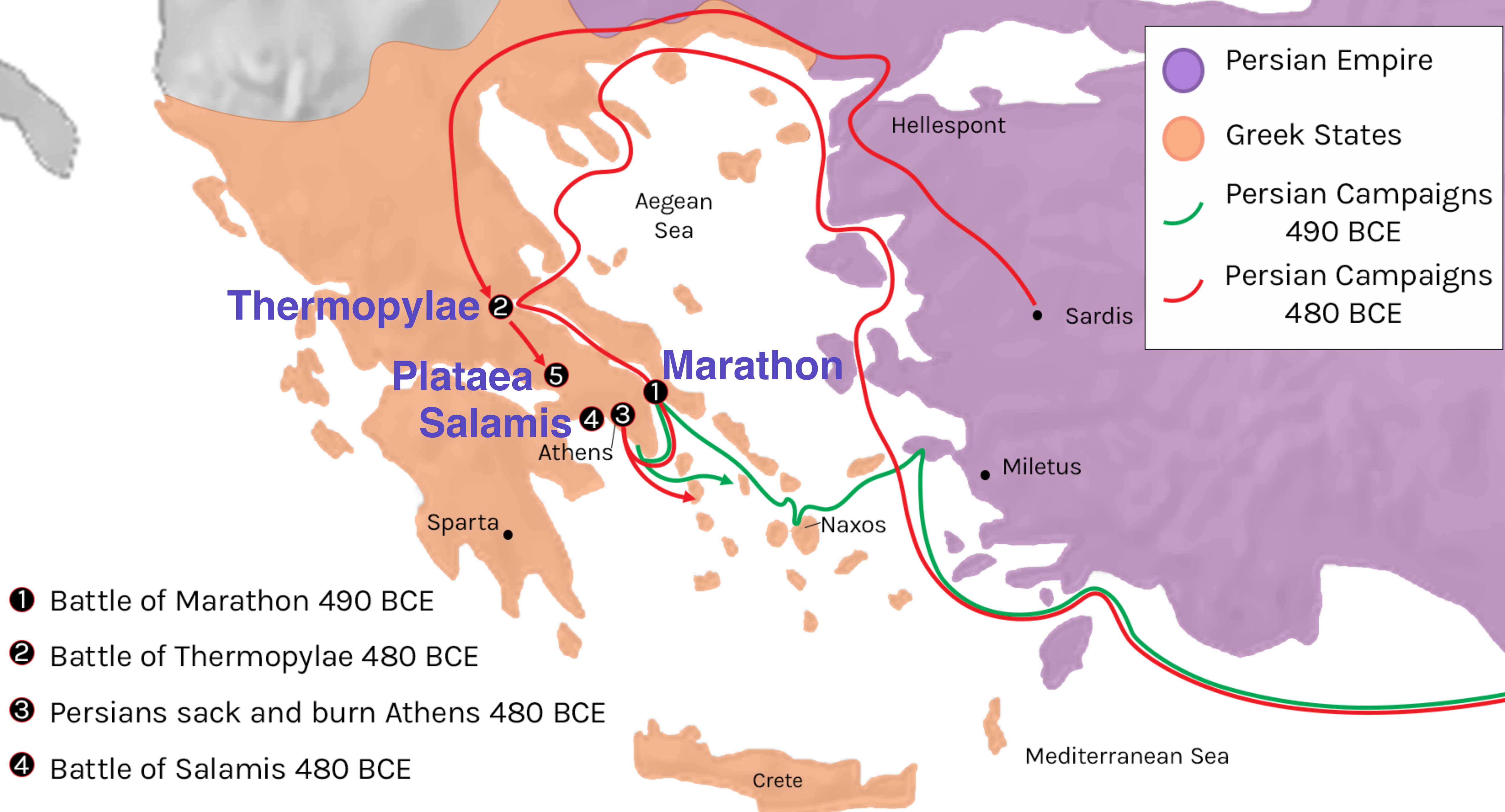
## **Esther 2:1-17; 21-23**

**21 In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 22 And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. 23 When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.**



**HERODOTUS**





- Persian Empire
- Greek States
- Persian Campaigns 490 BCE
- Persian Campaigns 480 BCE

- 1** Battle of Marathon 490 BCE
- 2** Battle of Thermopylae 480 BCE
- 3** Persians sack and burn Athens 480 BCE
- 4** Battle of Salamis 480 BCE
- 5** Battle of Plataea 479 BCE



# Thermopylae 480 B.C. (Hot Gates)







## Action Report

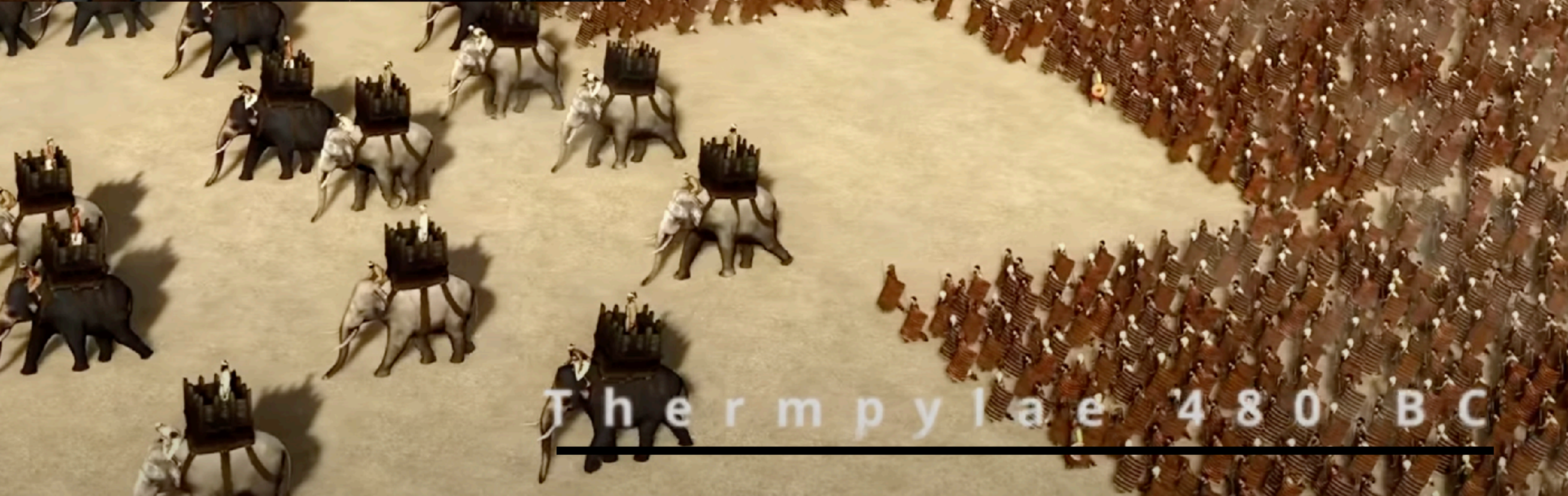
**Persians:** 

**150,000 Light infantry,  
and cavalry**

**Greeks:** 

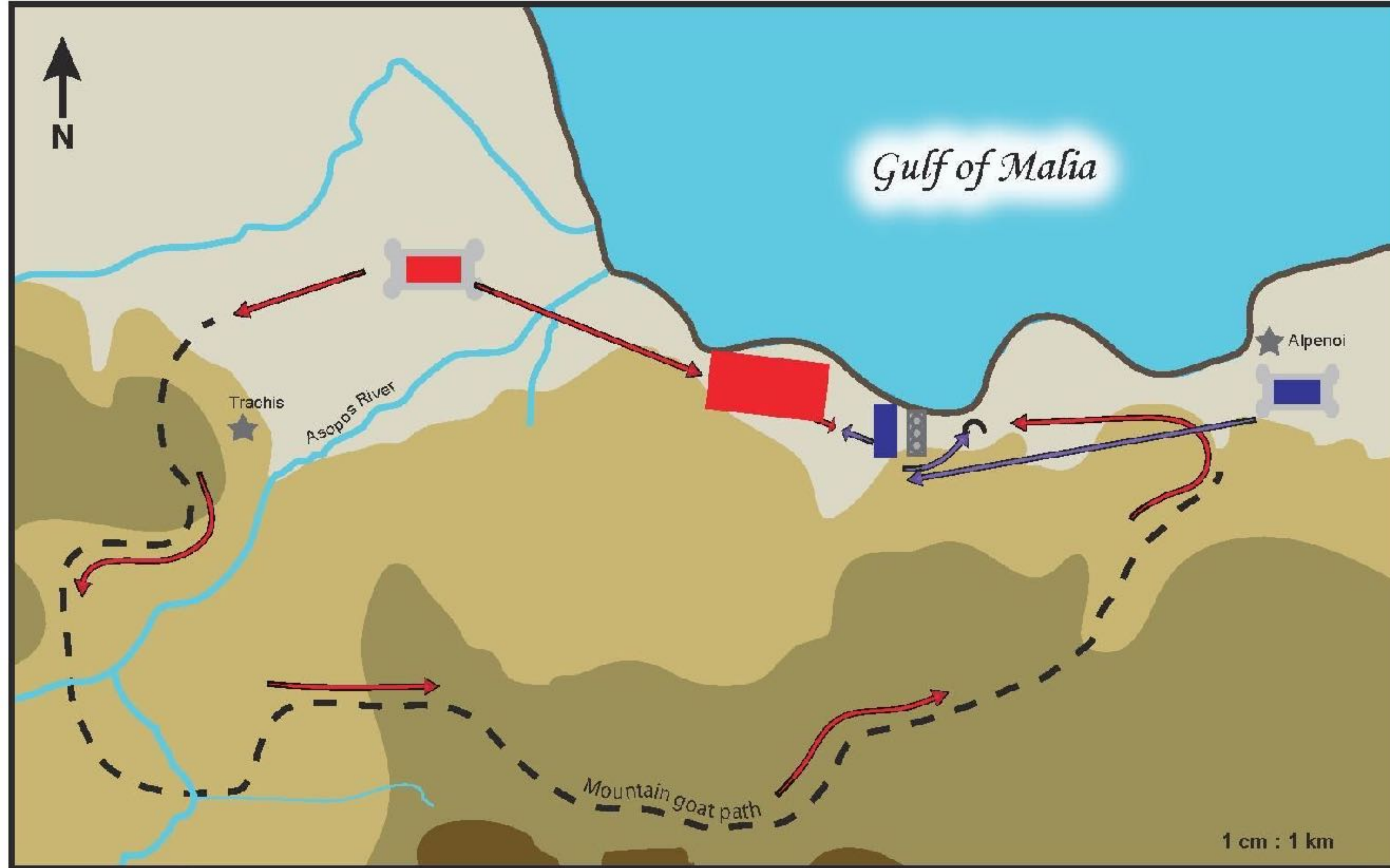
**7,000 Heavy Hoplites**





The r m p y l a e 4 8 0 B C

# The Battle of Thermopylae, 480 B.C.



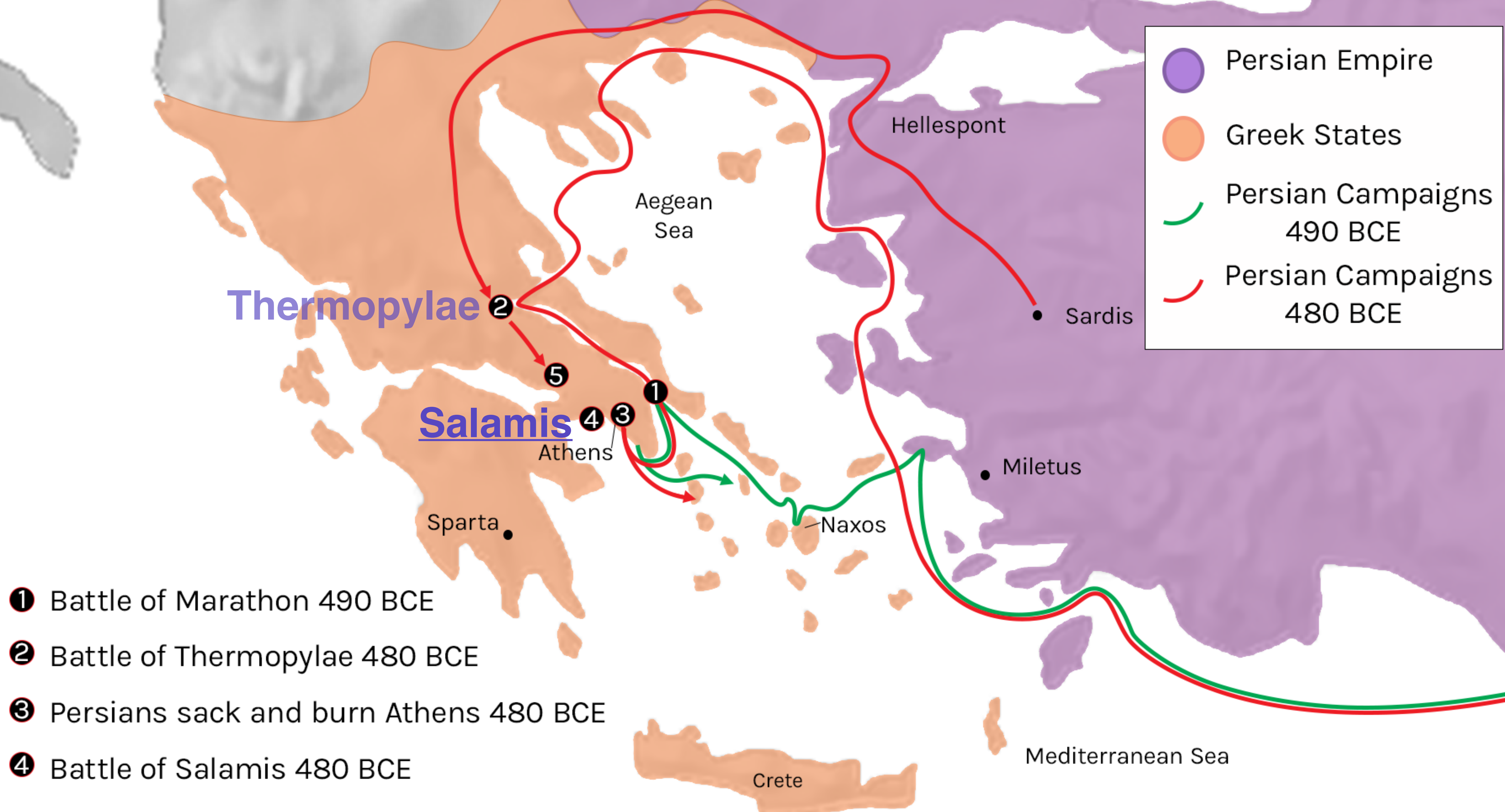
- |                   |                     |                        |                      |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Allied Greek camp | Allied Greek forces | Allied Greek movements | Increasing elevation |
| Persian camp      | Persian Forces      | Persian movements      |                      |
| Phocian wall      | Town                | Hill of the last stand |                      |

Brian Martens  
11/8/2012

Source: [www.livius.org/a/1/maps/thermopylae\\_map.gif](http://www.livius.org/a/1/maps/thermopylae_map.gif)

# 300 SPARTANS LEONIDES





	Persian Empire
	Greek States
	Persian Campaigns 490 BCE
	Persian Campaigns 480 BCE

**Thermopylae** ②

**Salamis** ④

- ① Battle of Marathon 490 BCE
- ② Battle of Thermopylae 480 BCE
- ③ Persians sack and burn Athens 480 BCE
- ④ Battle of Salamis 480 BCE
- ⑤ Battle of Plataea 479 BCE

Greek Camp

AHASUERUS

PERSIANS

SALAMIS







A composite image featuring a cutout of the Greek general Themistocles in the foreground. He is depicted with a beard, wearing a blue plumed helmet, a gold breastplate, and a blue chiton. He holds a large, round shield with a blue background, a white owl, and the Greek letters 'ΑΓΕ' (AGE). The background is a detailed digital reconstruction of an ancient Greek fleet of triremes on the water, with many ships and a large crowd of soldiers on the deck of the nearest vessel.

# THEMISTOCLES

The Greek fleet



Xerxes observes battle from here

Persian Line

Greek Line

Piraeus (port of Athens)

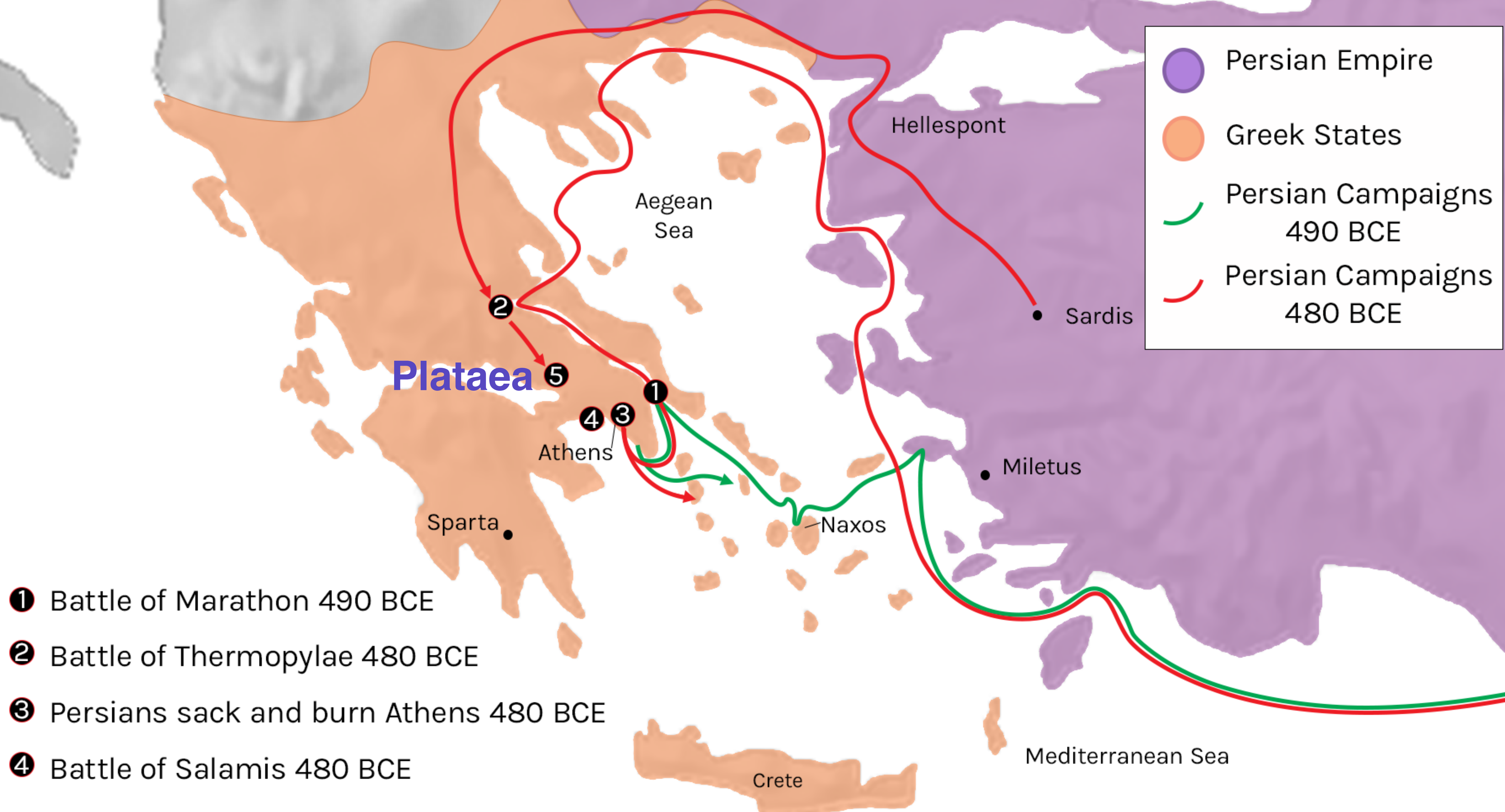
1 Mile

Salamis Island

Cynosuran Peninsula

Balance of Persian fleet





- Persian Empire
- Greek States
- Persian Campaigns 490 BCE
- Persian Campaigns 480 BCE

- 1** Battle of Marathon 490 BCE
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**XERXES  
AHASUERUS**



**479 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 Our Pain



# In Our Pain

**I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-18**

**III. A Plot is Uncovered Esther 2:19-23**

# In Our Pain

## I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-18

A. The Proposal vv. 1-7

B. The Process vv. 8-14

C. The Pay-Off vv. 15-18

## III. A Plot is Uncovered Esther 2:19-23

A. The Plot vv. 19-23

# In Our Pain

## A. The Proposal vv. 1-7

2 *“Let beautiful your virgins be sought out for the king.”*

4 **“And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti. This pleased the king, and he did so.”**

### **The world's way**

**He's being told he needs painkilling pleasure and he's in total agreement.**

# In Our Pain

## A. The Proposal vv. 1-7

### The world's way

He's being told he needs painkilling pleasure  
and he's in total agreement.

**15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.**

**I John 2:15-17**

# In Our Pain

## A. The Proposal vv. 1-7

**How do you deal with painful situations in your life?**

# In Our Pain

## A. The Proposal vv. 1-7

**How do you deal with painful situations in your life?**

**“There is a God-shaped vacuum in every human heart that can only be filled by God.”**

**Blaise Pascal**

# In Our Pain

## I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-20

### A. The Proposal vv. 1-7

<— Mordecai and Esther

### B. The Process vv. 8-14

### C. The Pay-Off vv. 15-18

# In Our Pain

## I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-20

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5 Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, 6 who had been **carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away.** 7 He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.



# In Our Pain

## I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-20

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5 Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, 6 who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away. 7 He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. *The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at*, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

# **In Our Pain**

## **Esther's Pain**

**v. 5 Lost her family home... she's in exile**

**v. 6 Lost her national identity - living among captives**

**v 6. Lost a family and nurturing environment - no father or mother**

**v. 8 Lost her freedom - trained to pleasure a king**

**v. 14 Lost all control - she goes where they tell her to go**

# In Our Pain

## I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-20

### B. The Process vv. 8-14

8 So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also **was taken into the king's palace** and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women.

# In Our Pain

## I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-20

### B. The Process vv. 8-14

#### Passive

8 So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also **was taken into the king's palace** and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women.

#### Active

v. 10 Esther is actively hiding her identity under the orders of Mordecai.

v. 11 Mordecai is active every day walking in front of the court of harem checking on Esther.

# In Our Pain

## I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-20

### B. The Process vv. 8-14

9 And the young woman pleased him and **won his favor**. And he quickly provided her with **her cosmetics and her portion of food**, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem.

14 In the evening she would go in, and in the morning she would return to the second harem...She would not go to the king again, unless the king delighted in her and she as summoned by name.



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# In Our Pain

## I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-20

### C. The Pay off vv. 15-18

**15** When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king,...Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her.

**17** the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

**18** Then the king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther's feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.

# In Our Pain

## I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-18

### What are we to do with Esther?

19 Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting **at the king's gate**. 20 Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him. 21 In those days, **as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate**, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 22 And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. 23 When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.



# **In Our Pain**

**I. A New Queen is Chosen Esther 2:1-20**

**III. A Plot is Uncovered Esther 2:21-23**

**Remember this in your pain,  
God's not finished with you yet!**



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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

