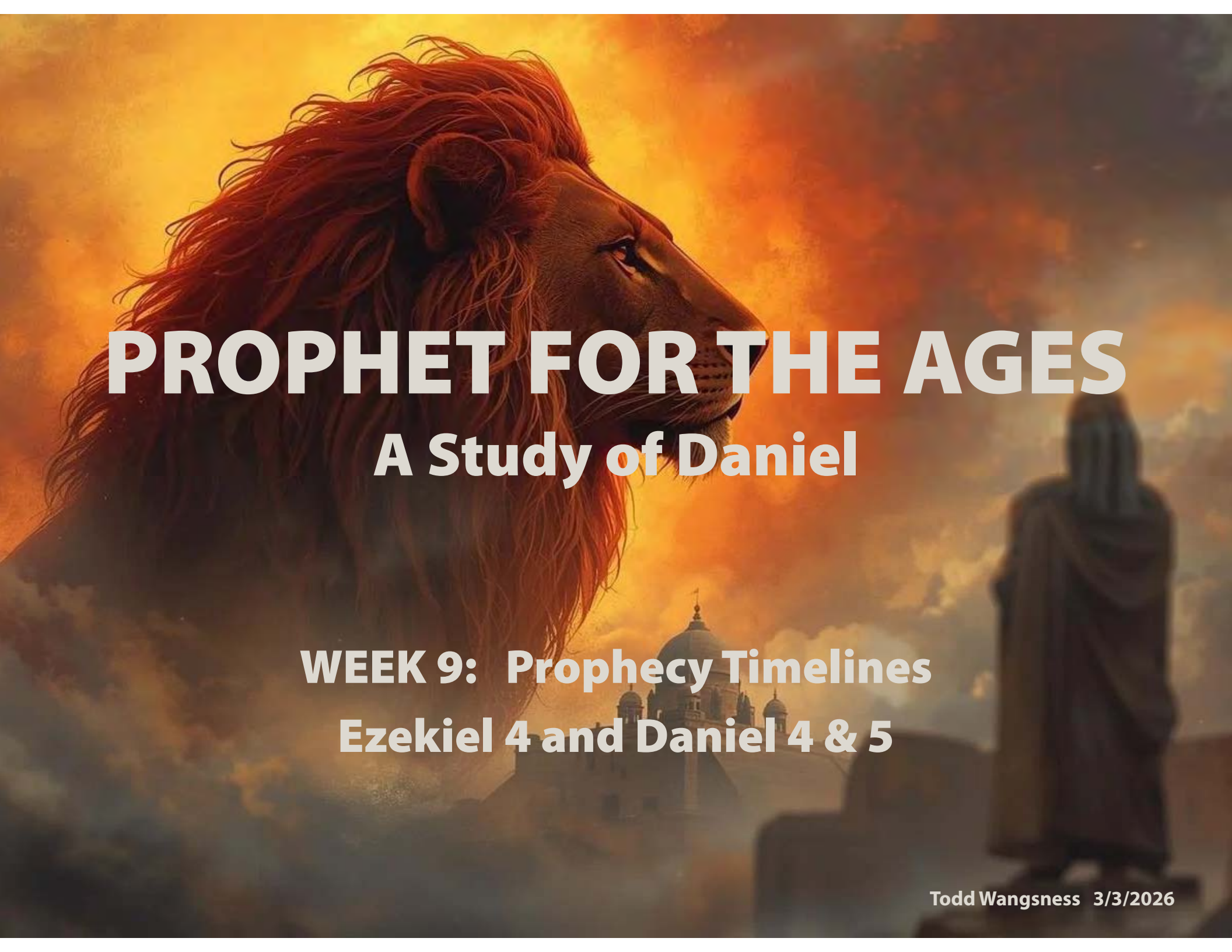




PROPHET FOR THE AGES

A Study of Daniel

WEEK 9: Prophecy Timelines
Ezekiel 4 and Daniel 4 & 5

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

“Principles” God Uses Regarding Prophecies

- Principle of a ‘Prophetic Year’ having a duration of 360 days
 - *Daniel 7:25* "time, times, and half a time," is interpreted as 3½ years
 - In *Revelation 12:6*, this same period is described as 1,260 days
 - Dividing 1,260 days by 3½ years yields 360 days per year
 - **1,260 Days ÷ 3½ Prophetic Years = 360 Days / Prophetic Year**
- Principle of a Day for a Year
 - *Num 14:34* "According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection."
 - *Eze 4:4-6* "And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year."

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

“Principles” God Uses Regarding Prophecies (cont.)

- **Principle of Punishment of Seven Times for Sins**
 - *Lev 26:14-18 ‘But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, 15 and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, 16 I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. 17 I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.*
 - *18 ‘And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.*

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Reign of Cyrus Prophesied 150 Years Earlier in Isaiah

- Isaiah prophesied that Cyrus would subjugate Babylon 150 years earlier, naming Cyrus by name long before he was even born!
 - *Isa 44:27-28 Who says to the deep, 'Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers'; 28 Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." '*
 - *Isa 45:1-5 "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held — To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: 2 'I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron. 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel. 4 For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me. 5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me ...*

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

The Medo-Persian Decrees Regarding Jerusalem and the Temple

Overview of the Four Decrees

Date	Decree	Content	Verse References
538/537 BC	Decree of Cyrus (documented on the "Cyrus Cylinder")	Permission to rebuild the Temple	2 Chr 36:22-23, Ezr 1:1-4, 6:1-5
520/516 BC	Decree of Darius I Hystaspes	Re-affirmed previous decree	Ezr 6:6-12
458/457 BC	Decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus to Ezra	Permission to proceed with Temple Service	Ezr 7:11-26
445/444 BC	Decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus to Nehemiah	Permission to rebuild walls of Jerusalem	Neh 1 – 2:8

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Isaiah Prophesied Cyrus to be Instrumental in Restoring the Jews

- The Most High God appoints the specific actions Cyrus will undertake to restore the Jews in their homeland. He will:
 1. Restore the Jews to Their Homeland
 - *Isa 45:13 I have raised him up in righteousness, And I will direct all his ways; He shall build My city And let My exiles go free, Not for price nor reward,” Says the LORD of hosts.*
 2. Rebuild Jerusalem
 - *Isa 44:28 "...who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built’...”*
 - Repeated from above: *Isa 45:13 ... He shall build My city ...*
 3. Rebuild the Temple
 - *Isa 44:28 "... and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”*

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Cyrus the Great's Decree

- The decree from Cyrus the Great around 537 BCE is best known from two main sources:
 - The Cyrus Cylinder (an ancient clay inscription in Akkadian cuneiform, discovered in Babylon and now in the British Museum)
 - Biblical accounts in the Hebrew Bible (Ezra 1:1–4 and 2 Chronicles 36:22–23)
- Edicts inscribed on the Cyrus Cylinder
 1. Restoration of neglected temples and sanctuaries throughout the region
 2. Permission for deported/exiled peoples to return to their original homelands and settlements
 3. Allowing resumption of exiled people's religious rites and offerings

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

The Cyrus Cylinder

- The Cyrus Cylinder is a document issued by Cyrus the Great, consisting of a cylinder of clay inscribed in Akkadian cuneiform script. The cylinder was created around 537 BCE, by order of Cyrus the Great.



Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Cyrus the Great's Decree in Ezra 1 (~537 BC)

- *Ezr 1:2-4 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. 3 Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. 4 And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.*

Darius I Hystaspes Issues a Renewed Decree (~518 BC)

- *Ezr 6:1-4 Then King Darius issued a decree, and a search was made in the archives, where the treasures were stored in Babylon. 2 And at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of Media, a scroll was found. 3 In the first year of King Cyrus, King Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem: "Let the house be rebuilt, the place where they offered sacrifices; and let the foundations of it be firmly laid, its height sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits, 4 with three rows of heavy stones and one row of new timber. Let the expenses be paid from the king's treasury.*

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Ezekiel's 430 Days

- *Eze 4:4-6 "Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity. 5 For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. 6 And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year."*
- The sin of the House of Israel was 390 days
- The sin of the House of Judah was 40 days
- Combined, the total length of time was 430 days
- If we apply the Day for a Year Principle to the 430 days
 - $430 \text{ Days} * 1 \text{ Year/Day} = \underline{430 \text{ Prophetic Years}}$
- If we subtract the 70 years of Judah's exile into Babylon, then we have 360 years
 - $430 \text{ Prophetic Years} - 70 \text{ Prophetic Years} = \underline{360 \text{ Prophetic Years}}$

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Ezekiel's 430 Days (cont.)

- If we apply the Principle of Punishment of Seven Times for Sins to the 360 years
 - $360 \text{ Prophetic Years} * 7 = \underline{2,520 \text{ Prophetic Years}}$
- Applying the Principle of a 'Prophetic Year' having a duration of 360 days
 - $2,520 \text{ Prophetic Years} * 360 \text{ Days/Prophetic Year} = \underline{907,200 \text{ Days}}$
- The date of Cyrus's Decree was sometime around 538-537 BC
 - Let's assume a date within the midpoint of that range of July 21, 537 BC
 - If we then add 907,200 days to that date using a "Proleptic Gregorian Calendar" algorithm, we get:
 - $\text{July 21, 537 BC} + 907,200 \text{ Days} = \underline{\text{May 14, 1948 AD}}$
 - Which is the date that Israel was granted statehood following WW2

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Nebuchadnezzar's Period of Exile (Daniel 4)

- *Dan 4:25a "They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you."*
- Nebuchadnezzar was to be exiled as a wild ox for "Seven Times" (or seven years)
 - Following his exile, his kingdom was to be "restored"
 - **7 Years * 360 Days = 2,520 Days**
- Applying the Day for a Year Principle to the 2,520 days
 - **2,520 Days * 1 Year/Day = 2,520 Prophetic Years**
- Applying the Principle of a 'Prophetic Year' having a duration of 360 days
 - **2,520 Prophetic Years * 360 Days/Prophetic Year = 907,200 Days**
- The date of Cyrus's Decree was sometime around 538-537 BC
 - Let's assume a date within the midpoint of that range of July 21, 537 BC
 - Adding 907,200 days to that date, we get:
 - **July 21, 537 BC + 907,200 Days = May 14, 1948 AD**
 - Which is the date that Israel was granted statehood following WW2

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

The Handwriting on the Wall Inscription as a Monetary Value (Dan 5)

- **Mene:** 1 mene (Hebrew *mina*) was equal to 1000 gerahs
- **Tekel:** 1 tekell (Hebrew *shekel*) was equal to 20 gerahs
- **Peres:** 1 peres (Hebrew *paras*) was equal to a half-mina or 500 gerahs
- Adding up the terms of the inscription:
 - **MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN** (Note: *upharsin* is a way of saying “and Peres”)
 - **1000 + 1000 + 20 + 500 = 2,520 gerahs** (Let's let gerahs represent years)
- Applying the Principle of a 'Prophetic Year' having a duration of 360 days
 - **2,520 Years * 360 Days/Prophetic Year = 907,200 Days**
- The decree of Darius I Hystaspes to restore control of the temple mount to the Jews occurred in the timeframe of 520-516 BC
 - Let's assume a date within the midpoint of that range of Aug 13, 518 BC
 - Adding 907,200 days to that date as before, we get:
 - **Aug 13, 518 BC + 907,200 Days = June 6, 1967 AD**
 - Which is the date that Israel recovered control of the Temple Mount following the 6-Day War

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Observations

- Days between 1948 and 1967 events match days between 1st and 2nd Decrees
 - Israel Statehood Declared: May 14, 1948 AD
 - 6-Day War Control of Temple Mount: June 6, 1967 AD
 - Difference: 6,962 Days
 - Cyrus's Decree: July 21, 537 BC
 - Darius I Hystaspes Decree: August 13, 518 BC
 - Difference: 6,962 Days
- Dates of Cyrus and Darius Decrees are not precisely documented
 - Dates are very close, but are estimates (within a tight margin)
 - Only God knows the precise timing of those historical events – unless He reveals it to us in the future through archeological findings
- The Proleptic Gregorian Calendar algorithm is very close to historical records, but doesn't precisely match exact historical dates (within a couple of days)
 - It uses Gregorian reckoning for leap years, but the earlier Julian calendar was used prior to 1582, which used 365 days/year instead of 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days/year

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Prophecy in Jeremiah about Elam & Persia

- *Jer 49:34-39 The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet against Elam, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, saying, 35 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, The foremost of their might. 36 Against Elam I will bring the four winds From the four quarters of heaven, And scatter them toward all those winds; There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go. 37 For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies And before those who seek their life. I will bring disaster upon them, My fierce anger,’ says the LORD; ‘And I will send the sword after them Until I have consumed them. 38 I will set My throne in Elam, And will destroy from there the king and the princes,’ says the LORD. 39 ‘But it shall come to pass in the latter days: I will bring back the captives of Elam,’ says the LORD.”*
- Elam was historically along the coastline of modern-day Iran
- Cyrus the Great incorporated Elam into the Medo-Persian empire in 550 BC
- Prophecies regarding Elam are synonymous with Persia and modern day Iran

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Prophecy in Jeremiah about Elam & Persia (cont.)

- ***:36 ... And scatter them toward all those winds; There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go.***
 - Could very likely pertain to the Shah of Iran being deposed in 1979 during the Iranian Revolution and many citizens of Iran fleeing the Islamic theocracy established by Ayatollah Khomeini
- ***:37b-38 I will send the sword after them Until I have consumed them.***
 - “*send the sword*” is an idiom for a “flying sword” or dagger
 - May be indicative of drone or missile warfare used to degrade/destroy the warmaking ability of Iran
- ***:38 I will set My throne in Elam, And will destroy from there the king and the princes,’ says the LORD.***
 - “*destroy ... the king and the princes*” possibly shows the rulers of Iran are to be destroyed, not the population in general

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Prophecy in Jeremiah about Elam & Persia (cont.)

- The book of Esther pertains to subversive elements (Amalekites, descended from Esau) within the Medo-Persian empire seeking to destroy/annihilate the Jews
- King Artaxerxes married Esther (a Jew) and she became queen of Persia
- Haman (an Agagite descended from the Amalekites) sought to slaughter the Jews
- Through God's miraculous intervention Esther and Mordecai (her uncle) were able to petition King Artaxerxes to issue a decree that allowed the Jews to defend themselves
 - *Est 8:11 By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city to gather together and protect their lives—to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to plunder their possessions*
- This event is commemorated to this day as the Festival of Purim (*Est 8:15*)
- Wouldn't it be interesting if the Jews were able to defend themselves against modern-day Amalekites that were attempting to destroy the Jewish people?
- And what if this would occur on Purim, extending this historical pattern to the modern day?

Prophet for the Ages: Prophecy Timelines

Prophecy in Jeremiah about Elam & Persia (cont.)

AD 2026							ADAR							5950 AM						
Sun			Mon			Tue			Wed			Thu			Fri			Sat		
1 Feb 15			2 Feb 16			3 Feb 17			4 Feb 18			5 Feb 19			6 Feb 20			7 Feb 21		
8 Feb 22			9 Feb 23			10 Feb 24			11 Feb 25			12 Feb 26			13 Feb 27			14 Feb 28 Purim		
15 Mar 01			16 Mar 02			17 Mar 03			18 Mar 04			19 Mar 05			20 Mar 06			21 Mar 07		
22 Mar 08			23 Mar 09			24 Mar 10			25 Mar 11			26 Mar 12			27 Mar 13			28 Mar 14		
29 Mar 15			30 Mar 16			Mar 17 Tekufah Nisan (Spring)														