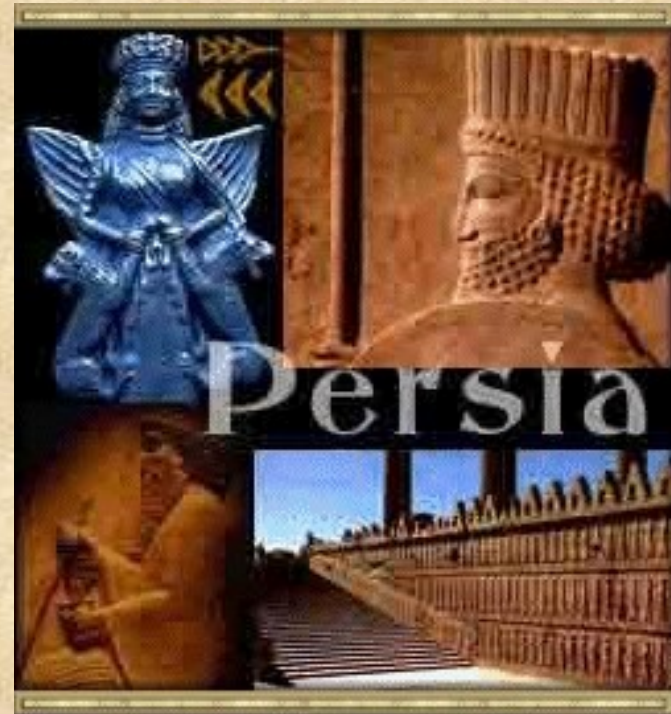


# Ancient Persia

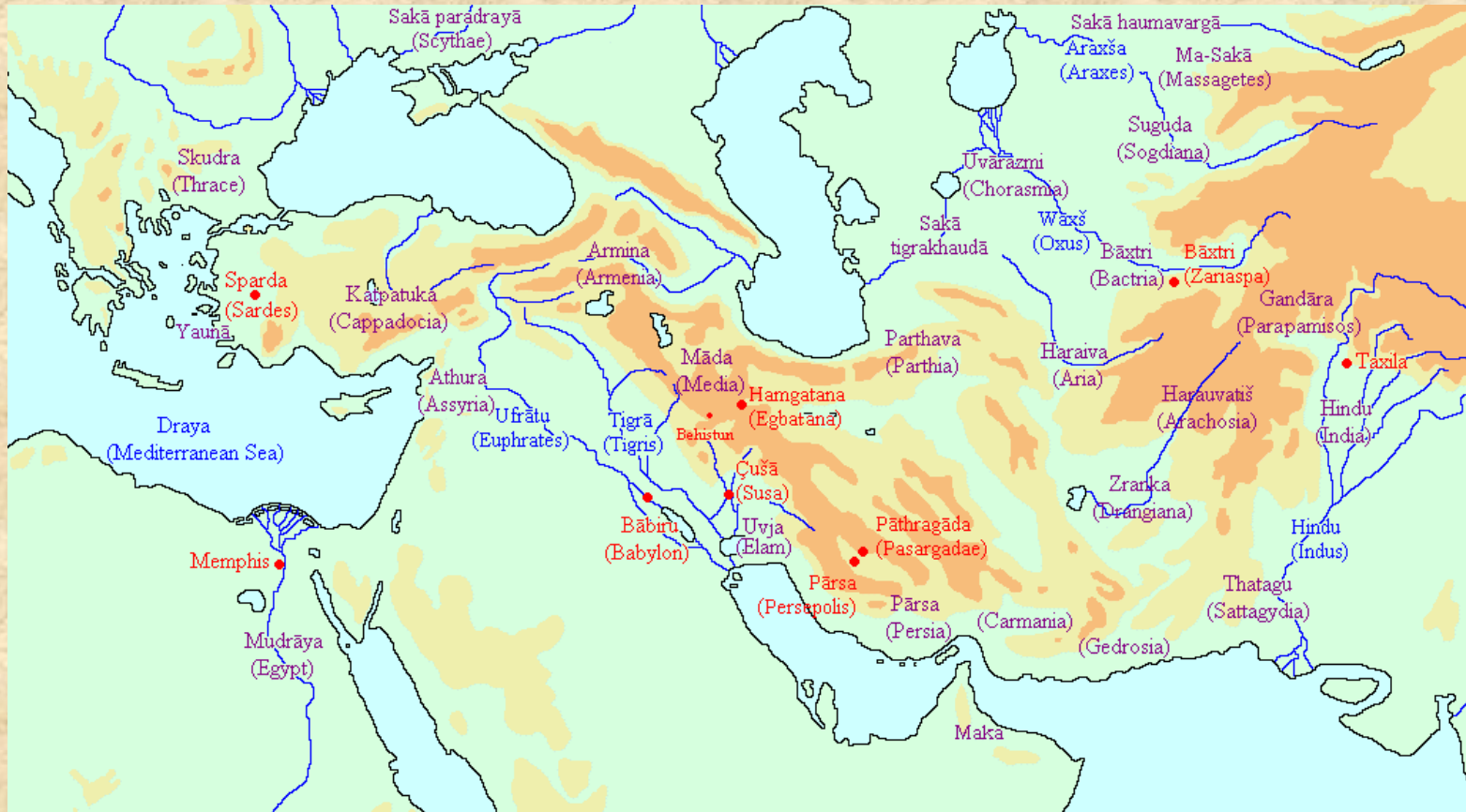


# Persian Empire (ancient)



**Map 2.1 The Assyrian and Persian Empires** In the 660s B.C. the Assyrians ruled the largest empire the ancient world had seen yet, extending from the Tigris to the Nile. The Persian Empire was even greater. Around 500 B.C. it reached from its heartland in southwestern Iran westward to Macedonia and eastward to India.

# Map of the Persian Empire



# Creation of the Persian Empire



# Persepolis Palace



# Persepolis



# Persepolis



## **Persepolis**

Darius I began the elaborate citadel; his son, Xerxes, continued its construction; and his grandson, Artaxerxes I, completed the magnificent city of Persepolis, which was a confluence of styles--Median, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and Greek. Only portions of the audience hall remain. *(George Holton/Photo Researchers, Inc.)*

# Persepolis: Gate of the Nations





# Persepolis, Monumental Staircase

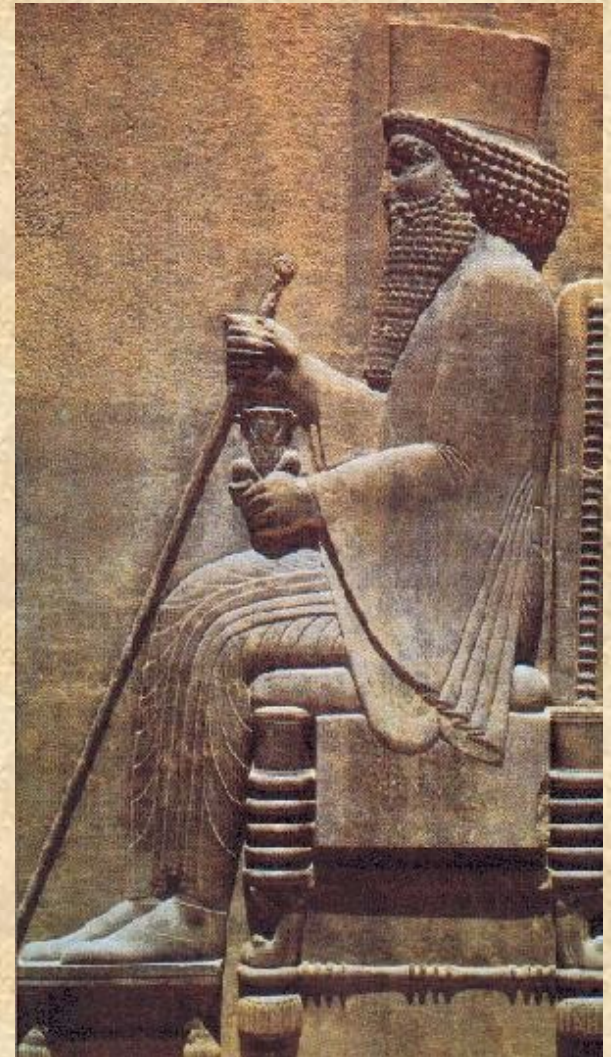


© Werner Forman Archive

# “King of Kings”



Cyrus (559-530 BC)  
Cambyses (530-525 BC)  
Darius (521-486 BC)  
Xerxes (486-465 BC)

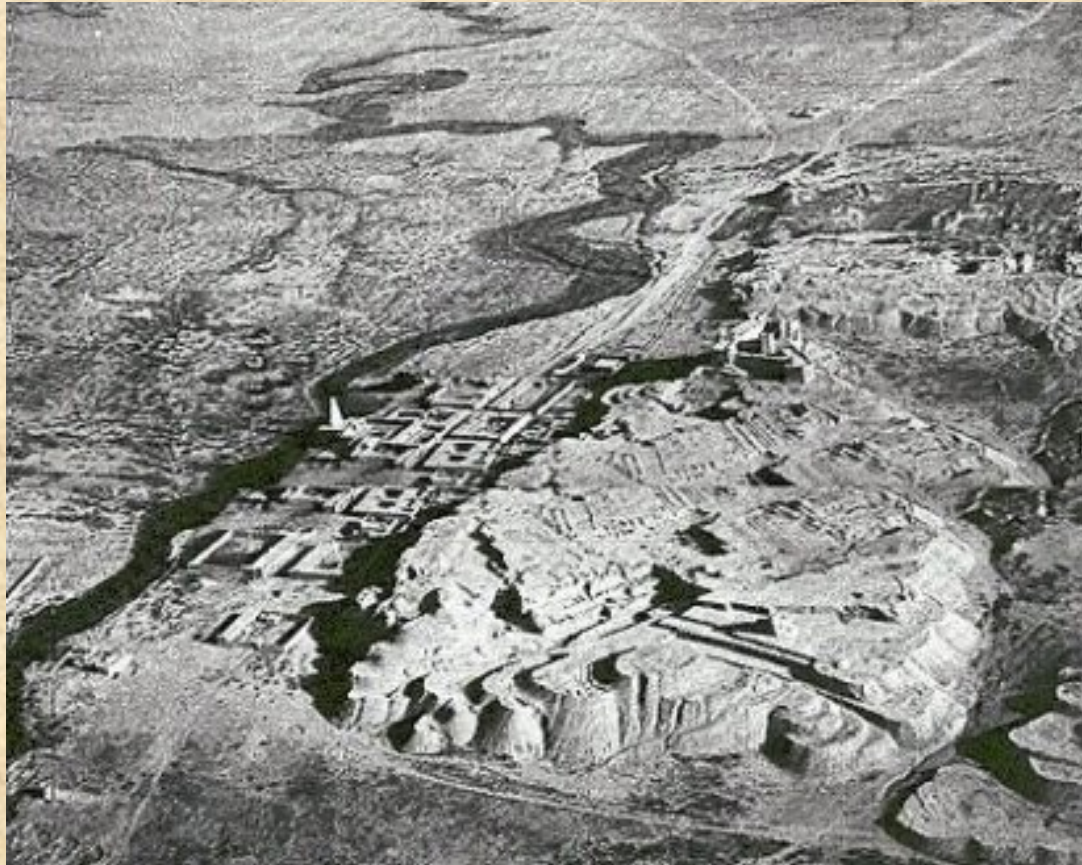


King Darius

# “King of Kings”



# Susa, Areal Image

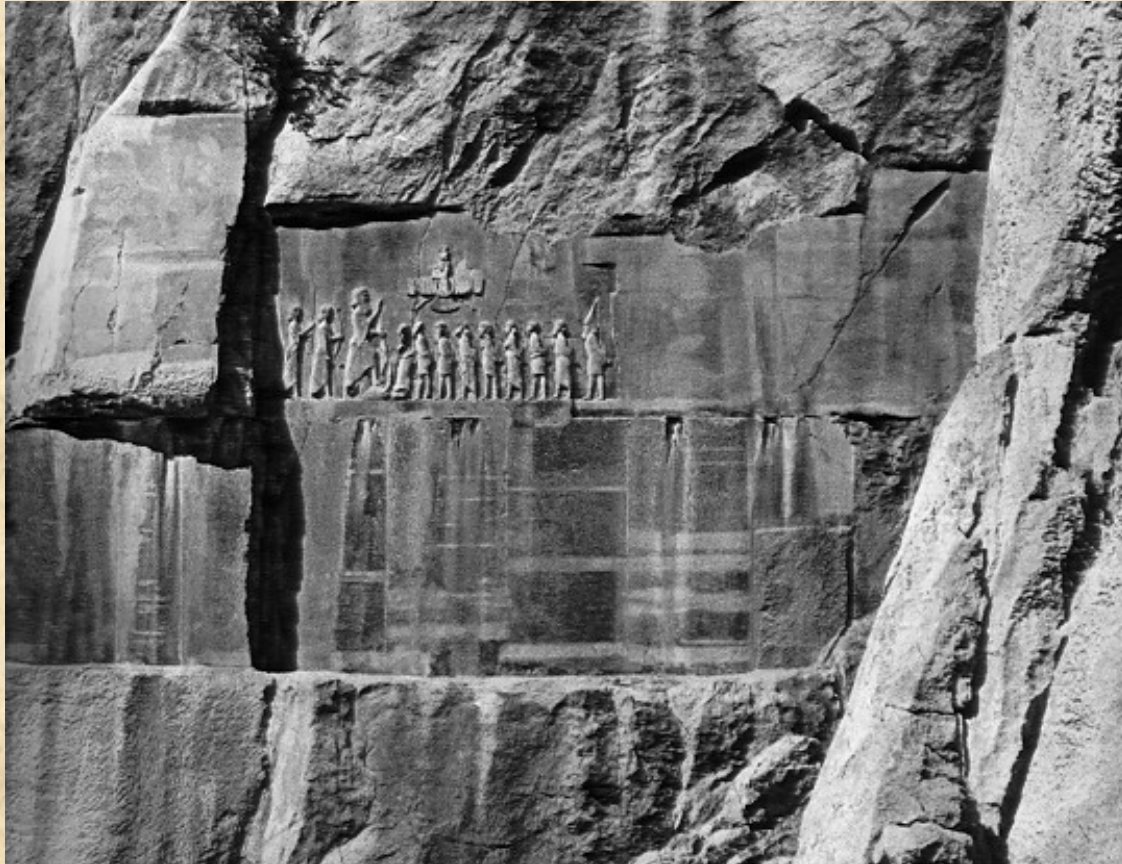


# Tombs of the Persian Kings at Naghsh-e Rostam

From Left: Darius I, Artaxerxes I, Darius II



# Behistun (Bisutun) Inscription of Darius



# Tomb of Cyrus II at Pasargadae



# Temple of Anahita at Ecbatana



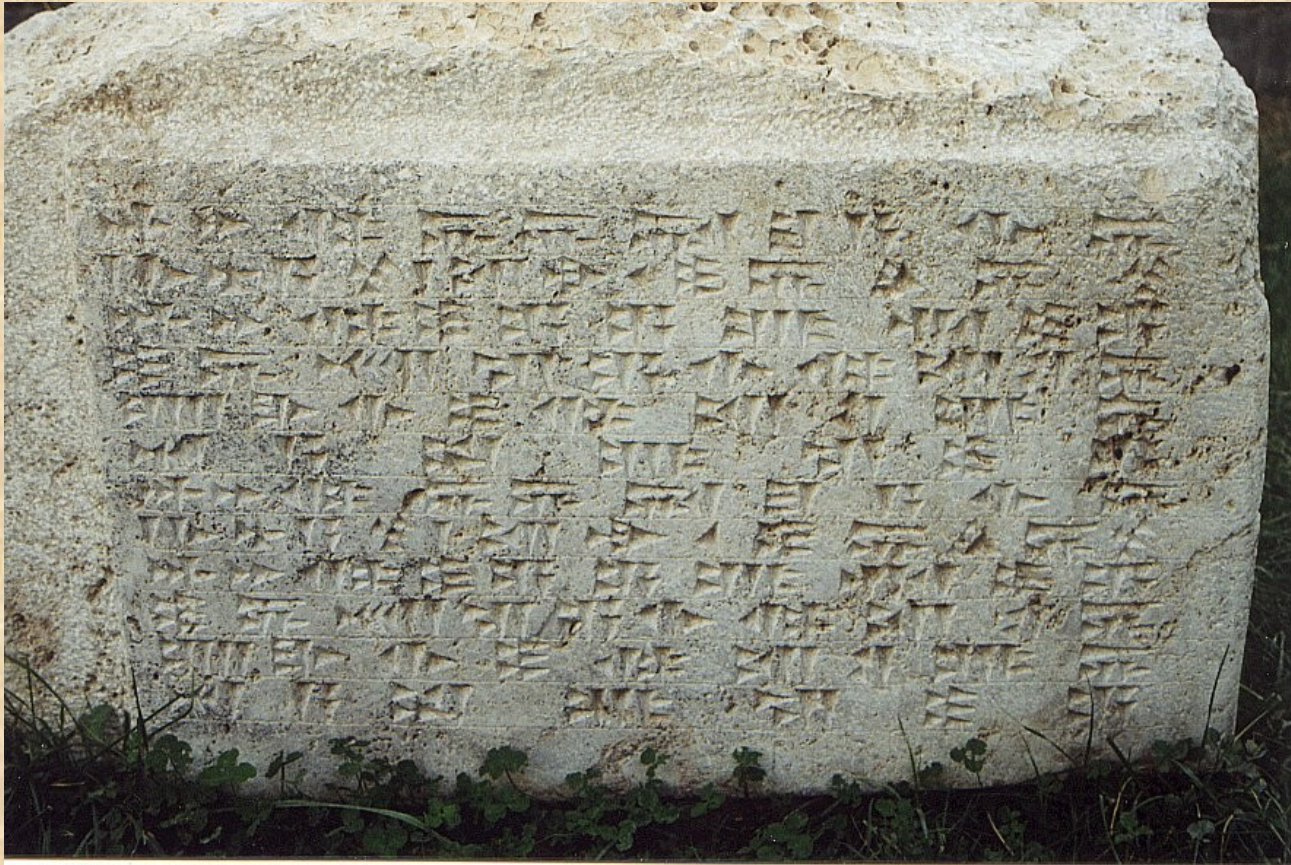


# Images of Persian Art

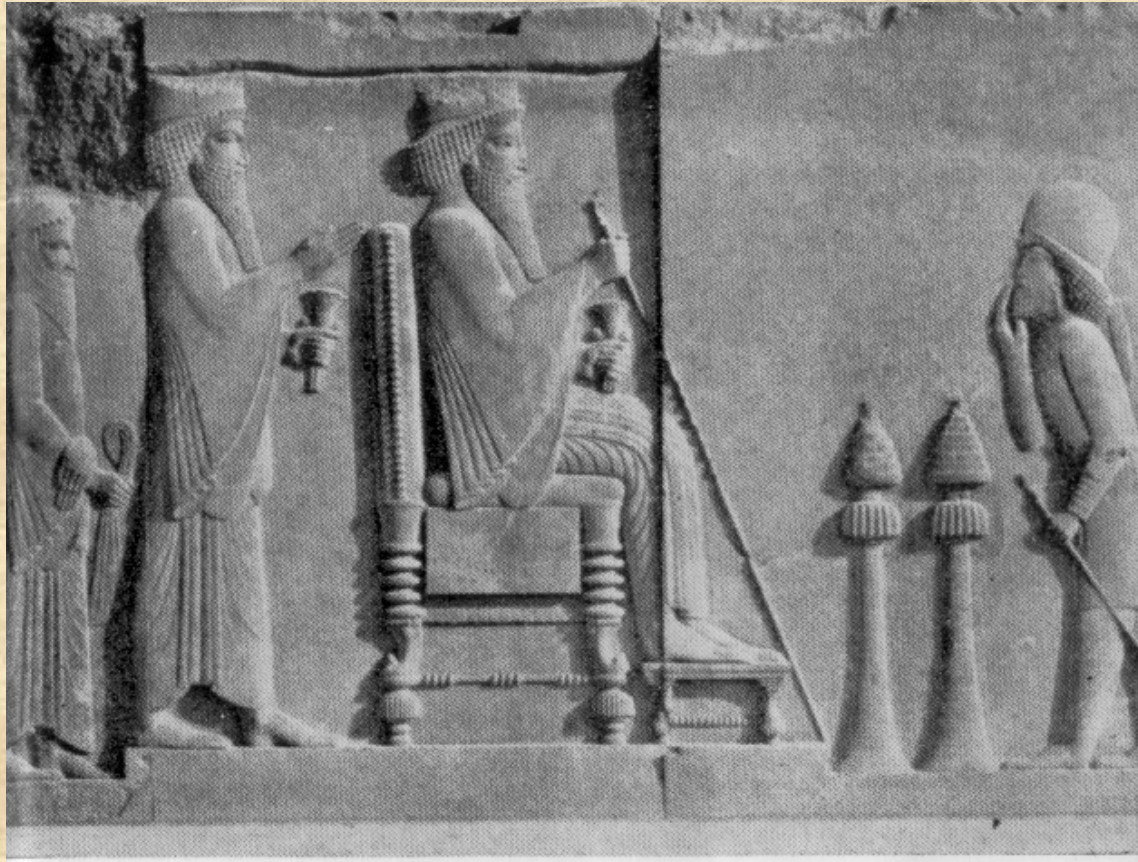


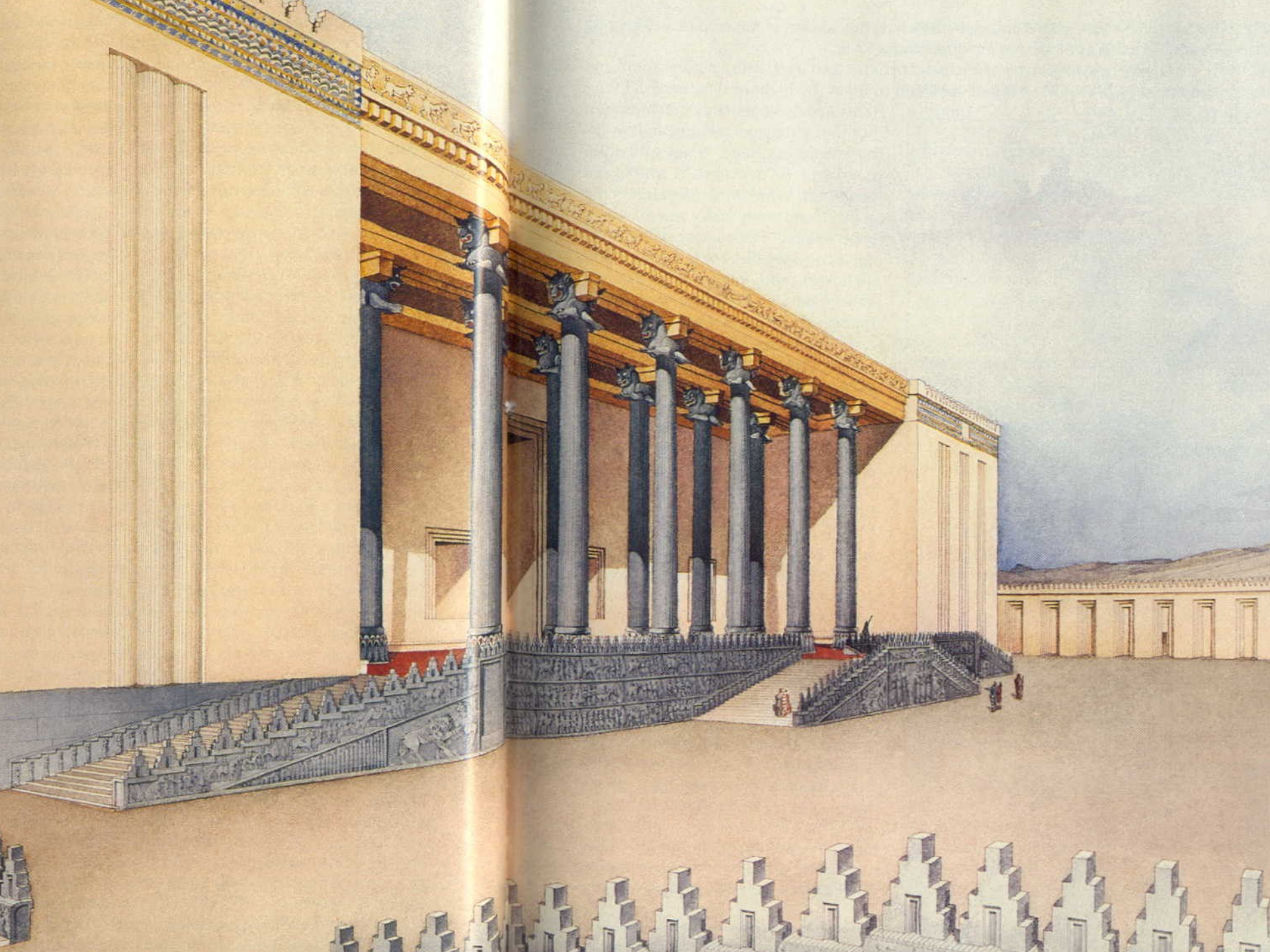


# Persian Cuneiform



Darius I on the throne, with the tall figure of Crown Prince Xerxes behind him.





# Persian military

- 10,000 Immortals
- Meritocracy
- Very large army



Cataphracts =  
Persian knight



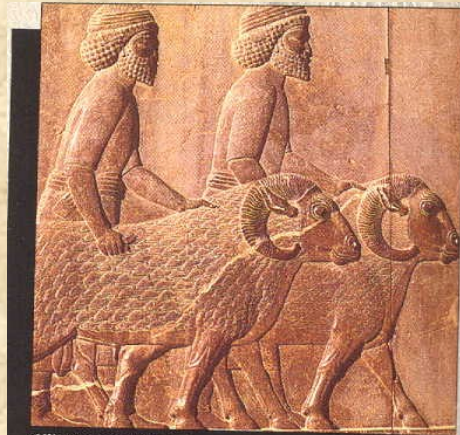
# Trade, tribute, & taxes in Persia



Scythian offering a stallion



Bactrian leading a camel



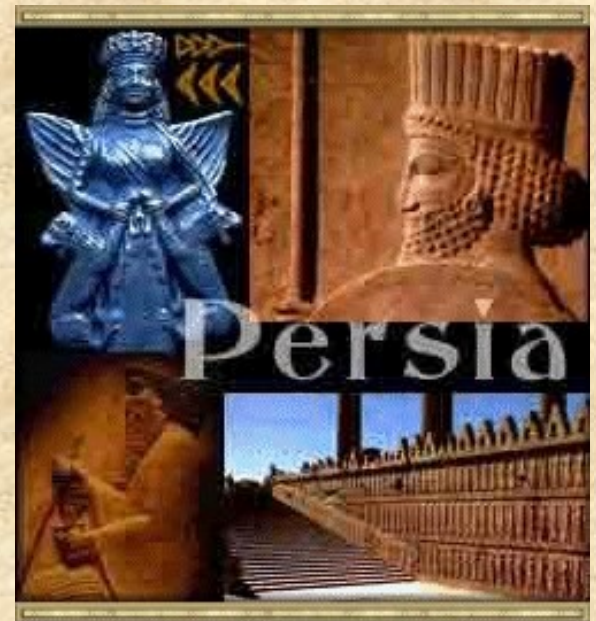
Cilicians with two prize rams



Indians, probably bringing gold dust

# Persian economy

- Gold daric & silver shekels standardized
- Royal Road:
  - 1700 miles from Sardis to Susa
  - “neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor darkness...”  
(Herodotus)
- International trade





# Silver rhyton

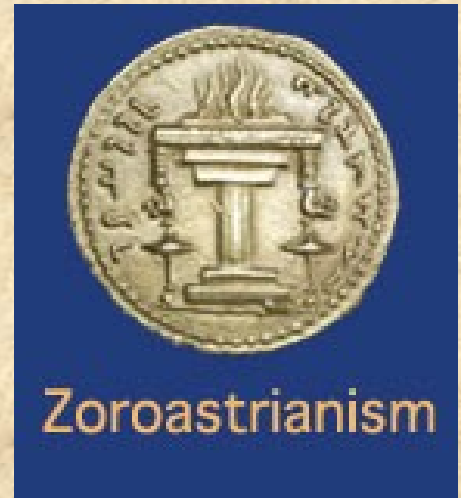


## **Silver rhyton**

This Achaemenid Persian silver rhyton (drinking vessel) is in the shape of a griffin, a mythological animal that is part lion and part eagle. Persian rulers commanded the talents of western Asia's best artists and craftsmen, silversmiths among them. *(Courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum)*

# Zoroastrianism

- Zoroaster (6<sup>th</sup> c. BC)
- Reformer against sacrifice, intoxicants
- Ahura Mazda vs. Ahriman (dualism)
- Alternatively known as Parsiism.
- Magi



**Farohars** are powerful, holy guardian spirits who aid the god Ahura Mazda since His creation of the universe. Somewhat akin to angels. Farohars can also curse when they are offended.

# Stone relief of Persian Magi



## **Stone relief of Persian Magi**

This stone relief from Dascylium, headquarters of the Persian governor in northwest Anatolia, shows two magi wearing veils over their mouths and holding bundles of sticks used in the ceremony of sacrifice. The Persian kings and their subordinates were Zoroastrians, and it is likely that Zoroastrianism spread to the provinces, where significant numbers of Persians lived, and influenced the beliefs of other peoples. (*Archaeological Museums of Istanbul*)

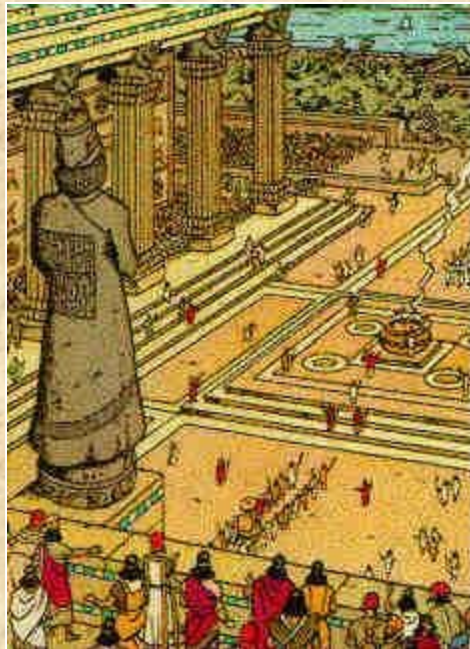
# Zoroastrian Magus



# Ancient Persepolis



# Persepolis



# The People of Persepolis



# Persian “Royal Road”





# Persian Archers &

Soldiers



# Zarathustra [Zoroaster],

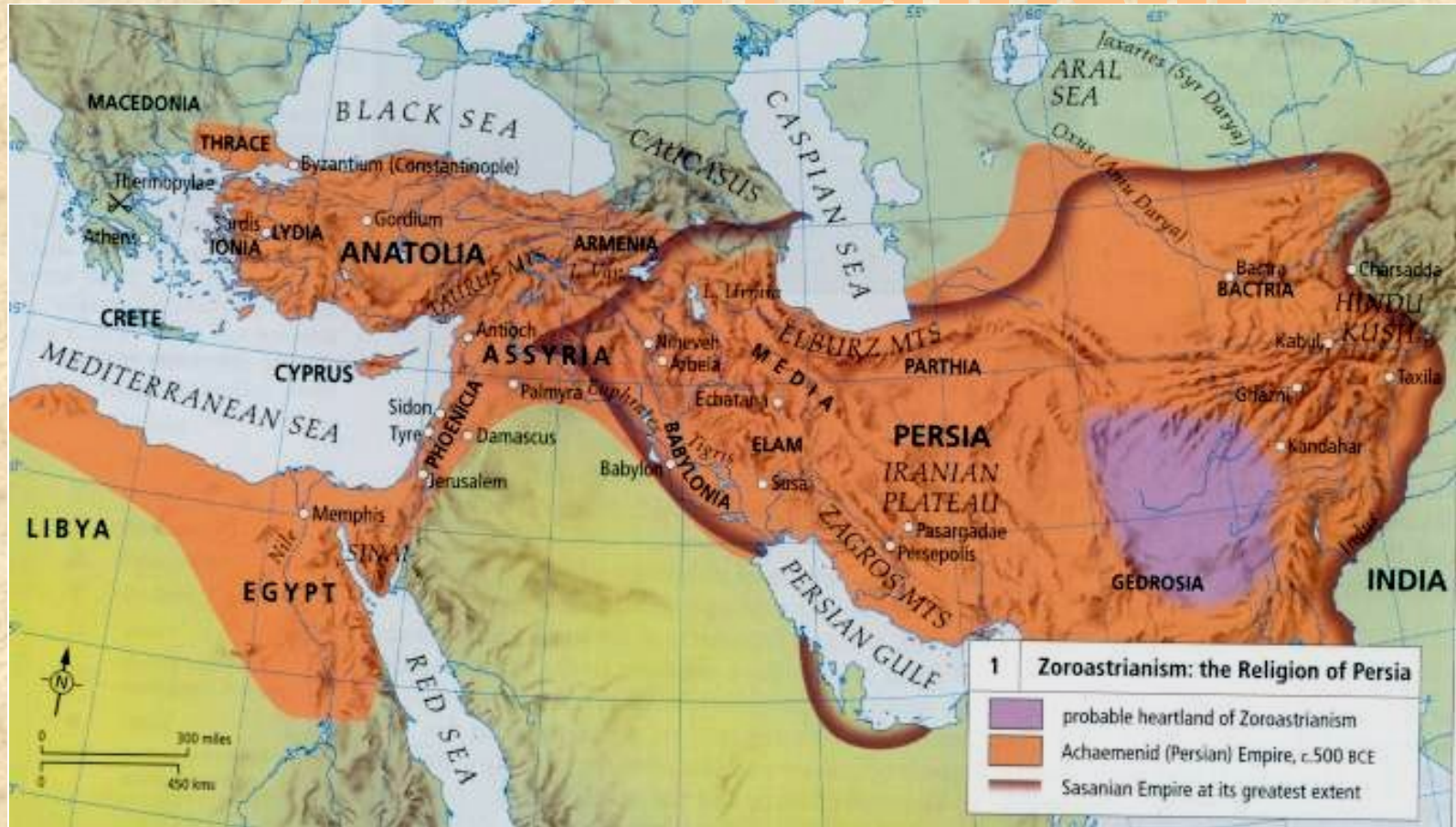
6c BCE:

*Truth, Good Deed, Good Word*



*"Tree of Life"*

# Extent of Zoroastrianism



# Dualistic Battle of Good vs. Evil



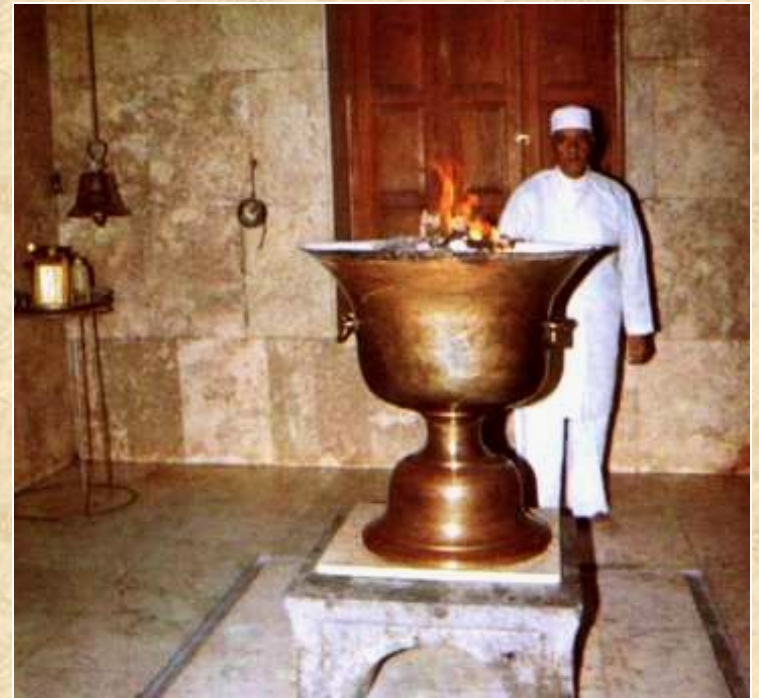
**Ahura Mazda**  
“Holy Spirit”



**Ahriman**  
“Destructive  
Spirit”

# *Zend-Avesta*

(The “Book of Law”)



The “Sacred Fire” → the force  
to fight

evil.



Haurvatat

Mithra

Ameretat

Ahriman

Atar

Asha

Vohu Manah

Armaiti

Ahura Mazda

Kshathra Vairya



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ایران سرزمین خرد و مین  
به انجمن زرتشتیان  
استان کرمان  
مهره ۱۳۸۳



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