



# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Vision 3, Part 2 (Revelation 12:13 - 13:2, Daniel 2 and 7, ) - The Dragon, the Woman, and the Beast

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# SUMMARY OF 12:1-12

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- God preserved a remnant of faithful Israelites who brought His Son into the world
  - Satan opposed Jesus and sought His life
  - The resurrection conquered Satan's ultimate attempt at stopping Jesus
  - A heavenly battle paralleled the crucifixion; Satan lost and was cast to the earth
  - Jesus gives the faithful a strategy to overcome Satan
  - But Satan's exile will mean trouble for those outside God's kingdom
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12:13-17: THE DRAGON PURSUES THE  
WOMAN

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# THE DRAGON'S ASSAULT ON THE CHURCH

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- “...when the dragon saw that he had been cast to earth, he persecuted the woman”
    - He attacks Jesus indirectly (see Acts 9:4)
  - She is “given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished” — Exodus 19:4
  - Nourished for “time and times and half a time”
  - The serpent “spewed water out of his mouth” — see 17:15
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# THE EARTH HELPED THE WOMAN

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- The earth “opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood” — Exodus 15:12 and Numbers 16:31-32
  - 2 Samuel 22:7, 17-18, “In my distress, I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry entered His ears...[17] He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. [18] He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me; for they were too strong for me.”
  - God works to protect and preserve His people
  - 12:17, “the dragon was enraged with the woman”
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# HE MAKES WAR WITH THE OFFSPRING

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- Offspring = those who “overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.” (Revelation 12:11)
  - Contrasted with...
    - Revelation 9:20-21, “But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. [21] And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.”
    - Revelation 13:8, “All who dwell on the earth will worship [the beast], whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”
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# DANIEL 2 AND 7

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# NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

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- A great image made of four metals and clay — gold, silver, bronze, iron and iron mixed with clay
  - Four kingdoms — Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greece, Rome
  - During the fourth kingdom God would establish another kingdom “which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” (Daniel 2:44)
  - The kingdom of heaven, the church, would emerge in the days of the Roman Empire
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# DANIEL'S FOUR BEASTS

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- The first three beasts are comparable to animals — a lion, a bear, and a leopard
  - The fourth is not compared to any animal and is different than the first three
  - 7:17 - the four beasts are the four kingdoms of Babylon, Medes/Persians, Greece, and Rome
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# THE FOURTH BEAST = ROME

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- Teeth of iron, nails of bronze — a composite of Rome and Greece
  - Ten horns on its head
  - A little horn that speaks pompous words, persecutes and makes war with the saints, attempts to change times and law, prevails for time and times and half of time
  - The beast exists in some form until the Day of Judgment — Daniel 7:9-11
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# REVELATION 13:1-2: THE BEAST

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# A BEAST RISES FROM THE SEA

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- Reminiscent of the four beasts in Daniel 7 who rose out of “the Great Sea”
  - Beast = a kingdom antagonistic to God and His people (Daniel 7:17, 23)
  - The sea = a vast multitude of people (Revelation 17:15, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”)
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# THE BEAST DESCRIBED

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- He has “seven heads” = seven hills or seven kings (see Revelation 17:9-10)
  - “...ten horns” = ten kings (see Daniel 7:24)
  - “...ten crowns” = ten kingdoms established and granted authority by the beast (see Revelation 17:12)
  - “...on his heads a blasphemous name” = speaks evil of that which is high and holy
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# A COMPOSITE

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- “leopard” – Greece
  - “feet were like the bear” – Persia
  - “mouth of a lion” – Babylon
  - Daniel 7:19 — “teeth of iron” (Rome) and “nails of bronze” (Greece)
  - The body of the beast is a composite of these ancient empires.
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# THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST

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- 6 is the number of mankind — Adam and Eve were created on the sixth day
  - The book is written in Greek
  - Greeks used letters to symbolize numbers
  - Irenaeus proposed a solution in the second century when he wrote, “It seems to me very probable; for this is a name of the last of Daniel's four kingdoms; they being Latins that now reign.”
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# IRENÆUS'S SOLUTION

L	A	T	E	I	N	O	S	TOTAL
30	1	300	5	10	50	70	200	666



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# REASONS WHY LATEINOS MAKES SENSE

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- Rome is the last kingdom in Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar's visions
  - The fourth beast in Daniel 7 and the beast in Revelation 13 correspond
    - Both composites
    - Both are "incomparable"
    - Both have 10 horns
  - Revelation 17:10, "There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, **one is**, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time."
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# “SEVEN HEADS”

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- Seven heads, single body: see Daniel 7:6
  - 17:10, “five have fallen”: 5 phases of Roman power had passed
    - Tacitus: kings, consuls, dictators, decemvirs (council of 10), military tribunes
  - 17:10, “one is”: contemporaneous with John, the pagan emperors from Augustus - Aurelian
  - 17:10, “one has not yet come”: the governmental reforms of Diocletian and Constantine
  - 17:10, the seventh will only “continue a short time”: approximately 150 years
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# A BLASPHEMOUS NAME

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Roman emperors were often deified by the public, “As early as 36 B.C. some Italian cities had given Octavian (Caesar Augustus) a place in their pantheon; by 27 B.C. his name was added to those of the gods in official hymns at Rome; his birthday became a holy-day as well as a holiday; and after his death the Senate decreed that his genius, or soul, was thereafter to be worshiped as one of the official divinities.” – Durant, *Caesar and Christ*, p. 226

Diocletian “developed the cult of the Emperor's genius into a personal worship of himself as the earthly embodiment of Jupiter...wisdom and force had come down from heaven to restore order and peace on earth...” — Durant, *Caesar and Christ*, pp. 640-641

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# SEVEN HEADS SUMMARY

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- Five have fallen (listed by Tacitus): Kings, Consuls, Dictators, Decemvirs, and Military tribunes.
  - One is: the Roman Emperors from Augustus to Aurelian
  - One is yet to come: the reorganized empire started by Diocletian and completed by Constantine.
  - Blasphemous names: integration of religion and state first under the pagan religion of Rome.
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# TEN HORNS = TEN KINGDOMS

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- Daniel 7:24, “The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom.”
  - Revelation 17:12-14, “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. (13) These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. (14) These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”
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# CONCLUSIONS

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- The 10 horns will arise out of the Roman Empire.
  - They were not in power in John's day – “who have received no kingdom yet”.
  - They will rule separately from the beast for a short while, but will eventually surrender their authority to the beast – “but they receive authority for one hour with the beast...and they will give their power and authority to the beast”
  - They will make war with Jesus by persecuting His saints – we will consider this further in 13:7
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# THE RISE OF THE EUROPEAN POWERS

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“If one were writing the history of Western Europe in the period from about 330-700 AD, there would, inevitably be two major themes. The first would tell of the late Roman empire and its fate after the reorganization by the Emperors Diocletian and Constantine, until most of its Western provinces were superseded by barbarian kingdoms. The second theme would be the story of these new nations, the Germanic kingdoms whose foundations were laid during the years from about 400-600 AD.” - *The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity*, p. 62

“Historically, the conquest destroyed the outward form of what had already inwardly decayed; it cleared away with regrettable brutality and thoroughness a system of life which, with all its gifts of order, culture, and law, had worn itself into senile debility, and had lost the powers of regeneration and growth. A new beginning was now possible: the Empire of the West faded, but the states of modern Europe were born.” - Durant, *The Age of Faith*, p. 43

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# A SUCCESSION OF KINGDOMS

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- Babylon: the head of gold and the lion
  - Persia: the arms and chest of silver, the bear, and the ram
  - Greece: the leopard, the thighs of bronze, and the male goat
  - Rome: the legs and feet mixed of iron and clay, the fourth indescribable beast
  - Each nation became, “spoil for their servants” (Zechariah 2:9): each empire fell victim to the one which followed.
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**HITTITES**

Carchemish ●

● Haran

**ASSYRIA**

Nineveh ●

Ashur ●

Tigris River

**ARAM**

● Harmath

Euphrates River

**MEDES**

Mediterranean Sea

**PHOENECIA**

● Byblos

● Tyre

● Damascus

**SYRIA**

**KEDAR**

**ARABU (ARABS)**

**BABYLON**

● Babylon

● Susa

**ELAM**

**PHILISTIA**

● Samaria

● Jerusalem

● Lachish

● Ashkelon

● Raphia

**JUDAH**

**MOAB**

**EDOM**

● On

● Elath





**Neo-Babylonian Empire**  
Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar II,  
Nabonidus, Belshazzar (625-539 BC)

Persian Gulf

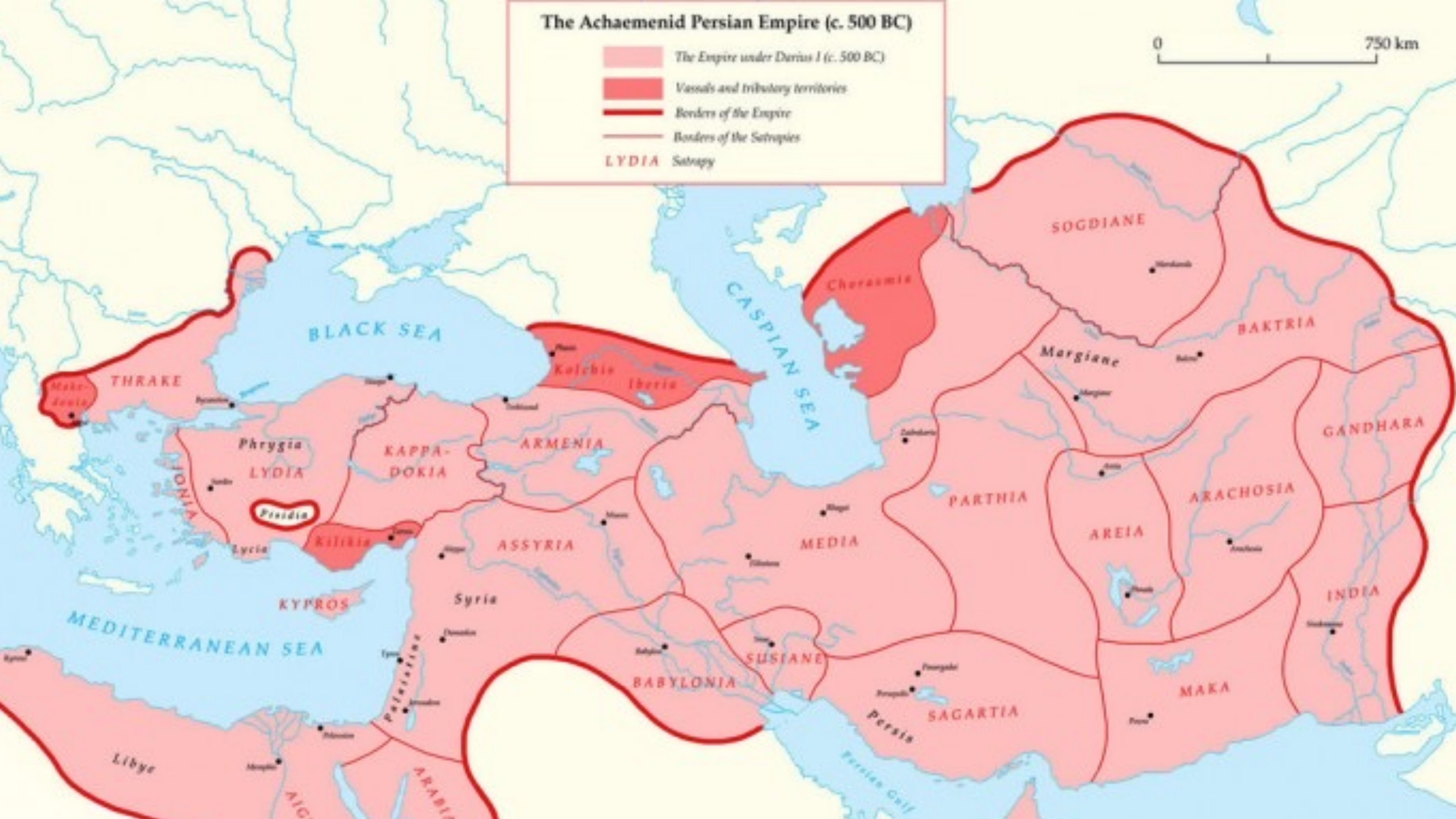
**EGYPT**

Nile River

# The Achaemenid Persian Empire (c. 500 BC)

-  The Empire under Darius I (c. 500 BC)
-  Vassals and tributary territories
-  Borders of the Empire
-  Borders of the Satrapies
- LYDIA** Satrapy

0 750 km





# The Empire of Alexander the Great

and his conquest course from Greece to India to Babylon (334-323 B.C.)



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# CIVILIZATION MIGRATES

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- “Civilization does not die, it migrates; it changes its habitat and its dress, but it lives on. The decay of one civilization, as of one individual, makes room for the growth of another; life sheds the old skin, and surprises death with fresh youth.” – Durant, *The Life of Greece*, p. 670
  - Babylon influenced Persia who influenced Greece who influenced Rome
  - 13:2, “the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion”
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# SUMMARY OF 12:13-13:2

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- Satan, the dragon, will make war against the church using all means at his disposal.
  - Rome was a manifestation of Satan's power and was Satan's tool to use in persecution of the church.
  - Rome itself was a composite of earlier kingdoms having conquered and assimilated the nations and cultures of those more ancient empires.
  - Out of the fall of the Roman Empire would emerge the kingdoms of Europe.
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