

Cyrus the Great

Use with Student Text pages 170–73.

Name _____

A. Mark the correct answer.

1. What two tribes of nomads settled south of the Caspian Sea in the area that is now Iran?
 Medes and Persians
 Chaldeans and Medes
 Chaldeans and Persians
2. After Cyrus defeated Croesus and captured Sardis, how far west did the Persian Empire extend?
 the Aegean Sea
 the Mediterranean Sea
 the Black Sea
3. Who was the last ruler of the Chaldean Empire?
 Belshazzar
 Nebuchadnezzar
 Marduk
4. What is another name for the Chaldean Empire?
 Assyrian Empire
 Mauryan Empire
 New Babylonian Empire
5. Who interpreted the message that the hand wrote on the Chaldean palace wall?
 Ezra
 Daniel
 Isaiah
6. Where was the Persian capital city under Cyrus?
 Persepolis
 Pasargadae
 Babylon
7. Who foretold that God would use Cyrus to free the Israelites from slavery in Babylon?
 Ezra
 Daniel
 Isaiah
8. When God allowed the Cyrus Cylinder to be found, what was it a testimony to?
 the truth of God's Word
 the numbering of days left in the Chaldean kingdom by God
 the tolerant attitude of Cyrus the Great

B. First, plan your essay on your own paper. Then, write it below.

9. Describe four ways that Cyrus showed tolerance toward his subjects. Include at least one way he showed tolerance to the Israelites.

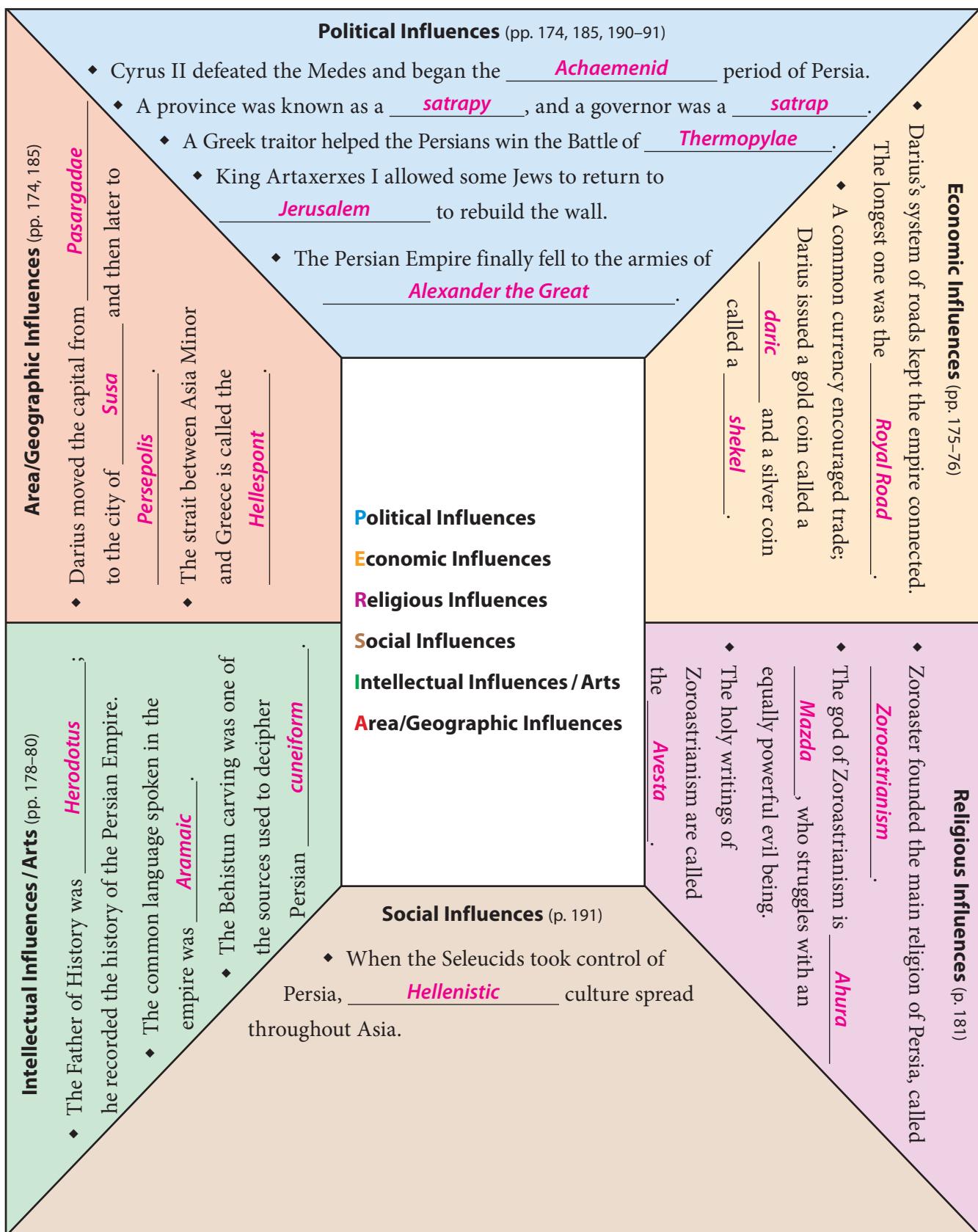
The student's essay should include three of these points: Cyrus let the people help make their own rules. He let them speak their own languages. He let them keep their own customs and religious beliefs. Cyrus freed some of his conquered peoples. He let them return to their homelands and make sanctuaries for their gods. The essay should include one of these points: Cyrus allowed the Israelites to return to Judah and rebuild God's house in Jerusalem. Cyrus returned the temple treasures that the Chaldeans had taken from the Israelites.

Chapter 7 Organizer

Name _____

Use with Student Text pages 174–91.

Complete the PERSIA organizer as you read the chapter.



Study Guide

Use with Student Text pages 170–78.

Name _____

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. After Cyrus rose to power among the Persians, he led a rebellion against the Medes.
2. Under Cyrus the Persian Empire reached as far as the Aegean Sea in the west.
3. The dynasty that Cyrus II began is known as the Achaemenid period of Persia.
4. The Persian Empire reached its greatest size and power under Darius the Great.
5. Every Persian family lived in a province called a satrapy.
6. Darius named a governor, or satrap, to collect tribute in each province.
7. Darius moved the capital from Pasargadae to the city of Susa and then later to Persepolis.
8. A famous Greek historian named Herodotus described the Royal Road.
9. Darius's image was stamped on a gold coin called a daric.
10. Darius had royal messengers stationed along the Royal Road to carry messages in relay style.
11. The king's own special military force was called the Immortals.

B. Complete the chart.

- 12–14. Explain how Darius solved the problems his large empire faced.

Challenges Darius faced	Solutions Darius used
How to govern the whole empire	<i>He set up a centralized government.</i>
How to keep the empire connected	<i>He built and maintained a good road system.</i>
How to keep control of the empire	<i>He paid soldiers who were professionally trained and kept a well-trained cavalry.</i>



Persian soldiers
on a relief

C. Answer the questions.

15. What two nations did Cyrus II conquer?

- ◆ Lydia
- ◆ Chaldean Empire

16. What was Daniel's interpretation of the handwriting on the Chaldean palace wall? The words

meant that God had numbered the days left in the Chaldean kingdom and it had come to an end.

17. What are two ways that Cyrus showed tolerance to his subjects? possible answers: Cyrus let the people help make their own rules. He let them speak their own languages. He let them keep their own

- ◆ customs and religious beliefs. Cyrus freed some of his conquered peoples. He let them return to their homelands and make sanctuaries for their gods. Cyrus allowed the Israelites to return to Judah and rebuild God's house in Jerusalem. Cyrus returned the temple treasures that the Chaldeans had taken from the Israelites.
- ◆ from the Israelites.

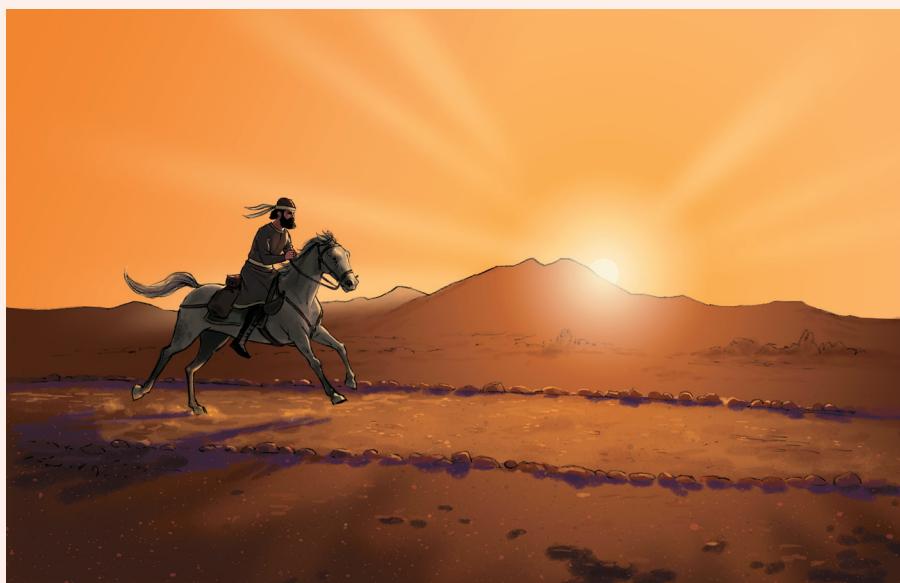
18. How did the Cyrus Cylinder become an important testimony to the truth of God's Word? The cylinder describes how Cyrus allowed the Israelites to return to Judah and rebuild God's house in Jerusalem and also how Cyrus returned the temple treasures that the Chaldeans had taken from the Israelites.

19. What two things encouraged trade during the rule of Darius?

- ◆ the road system
- ◆ a common currency or coin system

20. "Neither snow nor rain
nor heat nor gloom of
night stays these cour-
riers from the swift
completion of their ap-
pointed rounds." Who
wrote this quotation,
which is sometimes used
to describe the United
States Postal Service?

Herodotus



A courier along the Royal Road

Besides having a formidable fleet of ships on the sea, the Persians developed an elite fighting force on land. Herodotus described this army of ten thousand as the Immortals. It seems that Herodotus was the first to come up with this name although many have used it since. If one of the soldiers was killed or sick, then he was immediately replaced with a warrior that was already trained to fill his rank. Therefore, the army was never more or less than ten thousand strong. Herodotus described these soldiers as being a highly trained, dangerous fighting force. During times of peace, these men served as bodyguards to the king.



This group was not only specially trained but also given special equipment. Herodotus explained,

The Persians, who wore on their heads the soft hat called the tiara, and about their bodies, tunics with sleeves of divers colours, having iron scales upon them like the scales of a fish. Their legs were protected by trousers; and they bore wicker shields for bucklers; their quivers hanging at their backs, and their arms being a short spear, a bow of uncommon size, and arrows of reed. They had likewise daggers suspended from their girdles along their right thighs.

The soldier would often wear a brightly colored tunic over a leather vest that was covered with metal plates. These plates were designed to stop arrows shot by the enemy. They were not strong enough, however, to stop a spear or a sword.

This fighting force was key to the Persians' victory in the Battle of Thermopylae and many other battles.

Answer the questions by writing two or more complete sentences. Accept all reasonable answers.

- Why do you think Herodotus named this group of soldiers the Immortals? *possible answer: The number of soldiers was always the same. Whenever one of them became unable to fight, he was immediately replaced. Therefore, it seemed as if the soldiers never died, that they were immortal.*
- Taking into consideration the dress that the Immortals wore, what attack strategies would the Greeks have had to use to defeat them? *possible answer: The Greeks would have needed to use hand-to-hand combat rather than long-range warfare since their arrows would not have been effective. Swords and spears would have been necessary to pass through the metal plating.*
- Why do you think the Immortals were given the job of protecting the king? *possible answer: They were highly trained and were the most qualified for the job. This job would have helped them keep up their skills during times of peace.*

Cliffs of Behistun

Use with Student Text pages 179–82.

Name _____

A. Fill in the blanks with the answers to the clues given.

1. The Persian people spoke a common language called A R A M A I C.
2. Darius built the glorious city of P E R S E P O L I S to display the great wealth of the Persian Empire.
3. Darius had a carving done in B E H I S T U N that told of his rise to power.
4. The main religion of Persia was founded by Z O R O A S T E R.
5. The god of Zoroastrianism is called A H U R A M A Z D A.
6. Zoroastrianism was different from most other ancient religions because it was a form of M O N O T H E I S M.
7. Darius's decree that let the Jews rebuild their temple was upheld by C Y R U S.
8. The Zoroastrians believed that their god was represented by F I R E.
9. The priests in the Persian Empire were called M A G I.

B. Unscramble the letters in the circles to find the answer to the last clue.

10. The Persians' wedge-shaped symbols look similar to the ancient Sumerians'
C U N E I F O R M.

C. Pretend you are Henry Rawlinson. Describe one of your days climbing on the cliffs at Behistun.



Behistun cliff-face inscription

Answers will vary.

Study Guide

Use with Student Text pages 179–86.

Name _____

A. Write a second sentence that illustrates the first sentence and clearly shows your understanding of the bolded word. Possible answers are given.

1. The Persian put the **rhyton** to his lips. *He took a drink from the vessel.*
2. The Persian read from the **Avesta**. *He studied the holy writings of Zoroastrianism.*
3. The **magi** kept a fire burning on the altar in the temple. *The priests in the Persian Empire believed that Ahura Mazda was represented by fire.*
4. My mother entered the **marathon**. *She ran a race of 26.2 miles.*

B. Answer the questions.

5. How did God use two kings who did not worship Him as part of His plan to rebuild the temple?
Cyrus allowed the Israelites to return to Judah to rebuild the temple. Darius ordered that the Jews be allowed to continue rebuilding, that help be given with their expenses, and that anyone that changed his orders would die.
6. What events led to the Persian Wars? *The Greek city-states in Asia Minor rebelled against the Persians. Athens and a few other city-states on the Greek mainland sent an army to help the Greeks in Asia Minor. Darius was angry that the Greeks had banded together and rebelled against him.*

C. Identify the nation that won each battle of the Persian Wars.

7. Marathon *Greece*
8. Thermopylae *Persia*
9. Salamis *Greece*

D. First, plan your essay on your own paper. Then, write it below.

10. Compare and contrast Zoroastrianism with biblical truth.

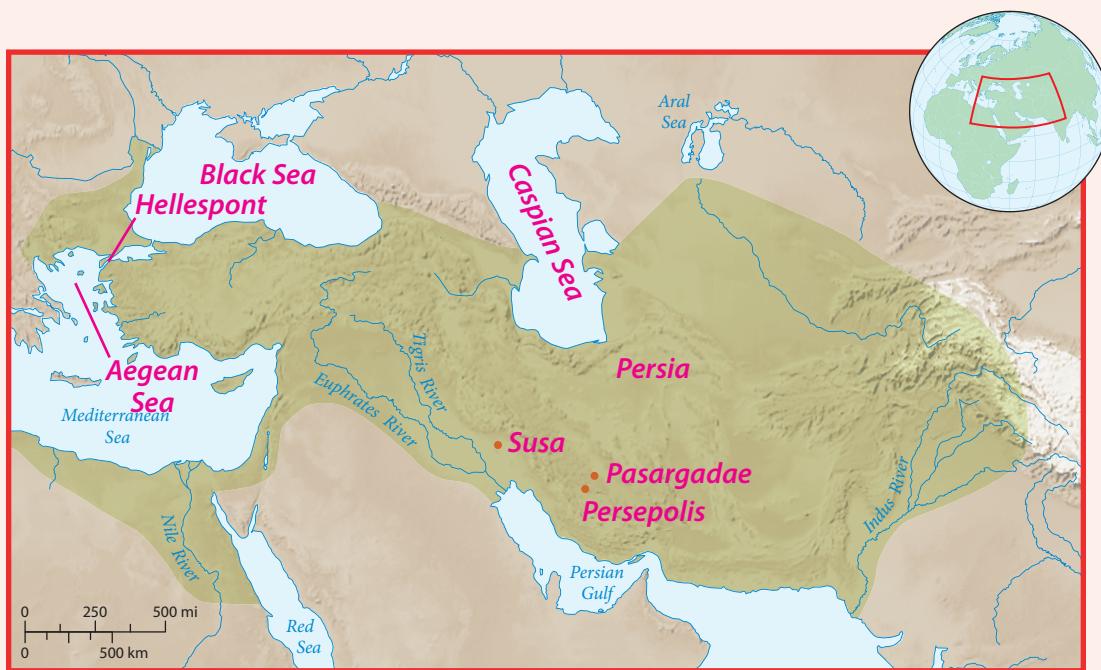
The student's essay should include the following points: Zoroastrianism recognizes only one god, but not the God of the Bible. Zoroastrianism's god is equal with the evil being he battles against. The true God rules over all. Satan is a rebellious angel who can do nothing unless God permits it. Zoroastrianism teaches that what man does in this life determines what his eternity will be like. The Bible teaches that where man spends eternity depends on his relationship with Jesus Christ. Zoroastrianism teaches that a battle rages between good and evil. People must choose which side they are on. The Bible teaches that all people are born sinful and need God to save them from their sins. Salvation is only through Jesus Christ, Who paid the penalty for sin through His death and resurrection.

E. Write the correct answer.

- B** 11. What was the common language in the Persian Empire?
A. Greek
B. Aramaic
C. Hebrew
- A** 12. What was the architecture and art like in the Persian Empire?
A. splendid palaces, ornate carvings, elaborate headdresses
B. ornate carvings, large ziggurats, perfumed cones
C. splendid palaces, bronze tings, Great Wall
- B** 13. What is the importance of the Behistun cliff inscription?
A. Henry Rawlinson risked his life to climb the cliffs and copy the script.
B. Interpreting the script resulted in understanding ancient civilizations and reading other cuneiform scripts.
C. The Old Persian language was written in cuneiform similar to that of the Sumerians and was solved with the Rosetta stone.
- C** 14. Who founded the main religion of ancient Persia?
A. Darius
B. Xerxes
C. Zoroaster
- C** 15. What made Zoroastrianism different from most other religions in the ancient world?
A. It was the worship of idols.
B. It had temples.
C. It was monotheistic.
- A** 16. What did Zoroaster teach was the way to eternal happiness?
A. to do more good than evil in this life
B. to read the Avesta, the holy writings
C. to believe in a good god, Ahura Mazda
- B** 17. Who ordered his soldiers to beat the waters of the Hellespont?
A. Pheidippides
B. Xerxes
C. Themistocles

F. Label the map.

18. Aegean Sea
19. Black Sea
20. Caspian Sea
21. Hellespont
22. Pasargadae
23. Persepolis
24. Persia
25. Susa



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Persia and the Israelites

Name _____

Use the Bible to complete the chart.

Reference	Israelite	Persian	Situation	Outcome
Esther 5:9–14 Esther 7:9–10	Mordecai	Haman	<i>Haman built gallows for Mordecai and was invited to the feast with Esther.</i>	<i>Haman was hanged on the gallows that he had built for Mordecai.</i>
Esther 7:1–6 Esther 8:9–11	Esther	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haman• Ahasuerus	<i>Esther pleaded for the lives of the Israelites.</i>	<i>Ahasuerus signed a decree that allowed the Israelites to fight back when the Persians came to kill them.</i>
Nehemiah 2:1–8	Nehemiah	Artaxerxes	<i>Nehemiah wanted to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls.</i>	<i>Artaxerxes allowed him to go and gave him letters for safe passage.</i>
Ezra 1	The Israelites	Cyrus	<i>Cyrus made a decree that the Israelites could go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and take all the vessels that Nebuchadnezzar removed from the temple with them.</i>	<i>The Israelites returned to Jerusalem and began rebuilding the temple and brought with them the vessels that Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple.</i>
Ezra 5:9–17 Ezra 6:1–12	The Israelites	Darius	<i>There was a question as to whether the Israelites were supposed to rebuild the temple.</i>	<i>Darius found the decree that Cyrus had given and gave the Israelites provisions to help them finish.</i>

The study of Persian history repeatedly overlaps that of Israelite history. Many of the Persians were a part of God's plan for the Israelites. God is not limited to using believers to complete His work. He can use whomever He chooses to accomplish His plan.



Zoroastrianism

Name _____

Use your Bible and Student Text pages 181–82 to complete the chart.



Zoroastrian religious beliefs	Biblical truth
Zoroastrianism teaches that _____ Ahura Mazda _____ is the creator and the only god.	The Bible teaches that there is one God, Whose name is Jehovah/Yahweh/Lord (Ps. 83:18).
Zoroastrianism teaches that the good god, _____ Ahura Mazda _____, struggles with an equally powerful evil being, _____ Ahriman _____.	The Bible teaches that the true God rules over all. Satan is an evil spirit who is the enemy/adversary of God and all Christians (1 Pet. 5:8). God is greater than Satan (1 John 4:4).
Zoroastrianism teaches that what man does in this life determines what his eternity will be like.	The Bible teaches that where man spends eternity depends on his relationship with Jesus Christ (Titus 3:5–6). God requires that a person be born again to go to heaven (John 3:3).
Zoroastrianism teaches that a battle rages between good and evil . People must choose which side they are on.	The Bible teaches that all people have sinned (Rom. 3:23) and that those who call on Jesus shall be saved (Rom. 10:13). Salvation is only through Jesus Christ, Who died for sin, was buried , and “ was raised/rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:1–4).
The Zoroastrian holy writings are called the Avesta .	The Bible is the Word of God. It was written by holy men who were led by the Holy Spirit/Holy Ghost (2 Pet. 1:21).

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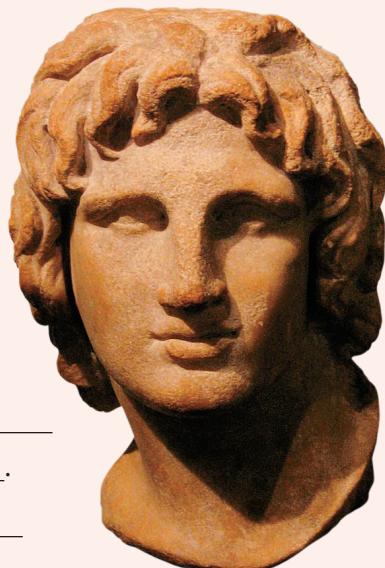
Study Guide

Use with Student Text pages 188–94.

Name _____

Fill in the blanks.

1. An artist painted his interpretation of how the scene looked in his rendering of Noah and the ark.
2. The book of Esther uses the Hebrew name for the Persian king Xerxes, which is Ahasuerus.
3. The Persian official who plotted to destroy all the Jews was Haman.
4. The historian Josephus claimed no one approached Xerxes without a summons from him because he was guarded by men with axes.
5. God gave the queen favor with Xerxes, and He brought about deliverance for His people through Esther.
6. The expenses for Ezra's journey to Jerusalem were paid by Artaxerxes I.
7. Artaxerxes I supplied the wood needed to build the city gates and sent letters to guarantee safety for Nehemiah as he traveled.
8. After Artaxerxes, the Persians became discontent with the high taxes and with their rulers.
9. The city of Persepolis was burned by Alexander the Great.
10. Alexander continued the Persian form of centralized government, placed the Persian cavalry in his own army, and blended some Persian customs with Greek culture.
11. After Alexander's death, Persia came under the control of a family called the Seleucids.
12. After Alexander's conquests, Greek culture that made its way into other lands was called Hellenistic.
13. Art and coins that survived show that the Parthians had close contact with the Greeks.
14. The Parthians lacked a strong central government.
15. The Sassanid kings wanted to rid the culture of Greek influences and bring back all that was truly Persian.
16. Persia achieved its greatest wealth during the Sassanid period.



A marble sculpture of Alexander the Great

Chapter 7 Summary

Name _____

Define these terms

Avesta	rendering
daric	rhyton
Hellenistic	satrap
magi	satrapy
marathon	

Locate these places

Aegean Sea	Pasargadae
Black Sea	Persepolis
Caspian Sea	Persia
Hellespont	Susa

Tell about these people

Ahasuerus/	Cyrus II
Xerxes	Darius the Great
Alexander the Great	Herodotus
Artaxerxes I	Zoroaster

Explain what happened

at the three major battles of the Persian Wars



A Zoroastrian fire temple

Be able to . . .

Write an essay comparing and contrasting Zoroastrianism with biblical truth

Identify the two nations that Cyrus II conquered

Describe the writing that Daniel interpreted for Belshazzar

Explain how the Cyrus Cylinder became an important testimony to the truth of God's Word

Identify the Persian period that Cyrus II began

Describe the three challenges that faced Darius with his large empire and how he solved them

Identify the purpose of the Royal Road and the two cities it connected

Identify the source of the popular quotation that the United States Postal Service uses

Identify two things that encouraged trade during the rule of Darius

Identify the special military force of Darius

Describe the language, writing, and art of the Persians

Explain the importance of the inscription on the Behistun cliff face

Explain how God used two kings who did not worship Him to help rebuild the temple

Describe the events that led to the Persian Wars

Explain how through Esther God brought about deliverance for His people

Describe the kindness that Artaxerxes I showed to the Israelites

Explain why the Persians became discontented with the Achaemenid rulers after Artaxerxes I

Describe the reigns of Alexander the Great, the Parthians, and the Sassanids