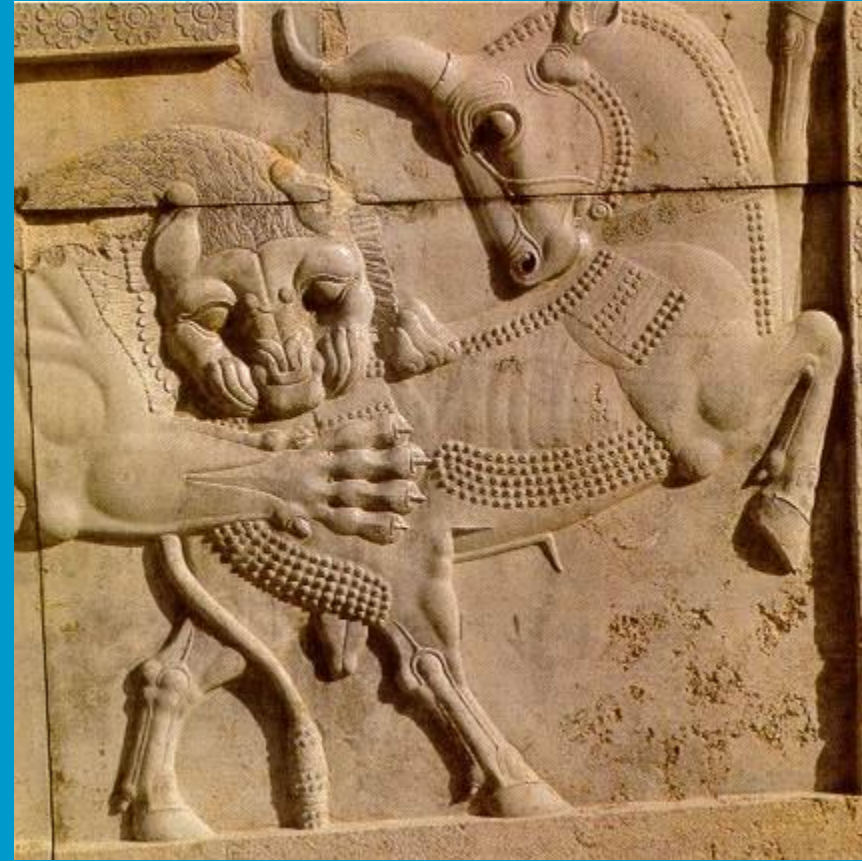
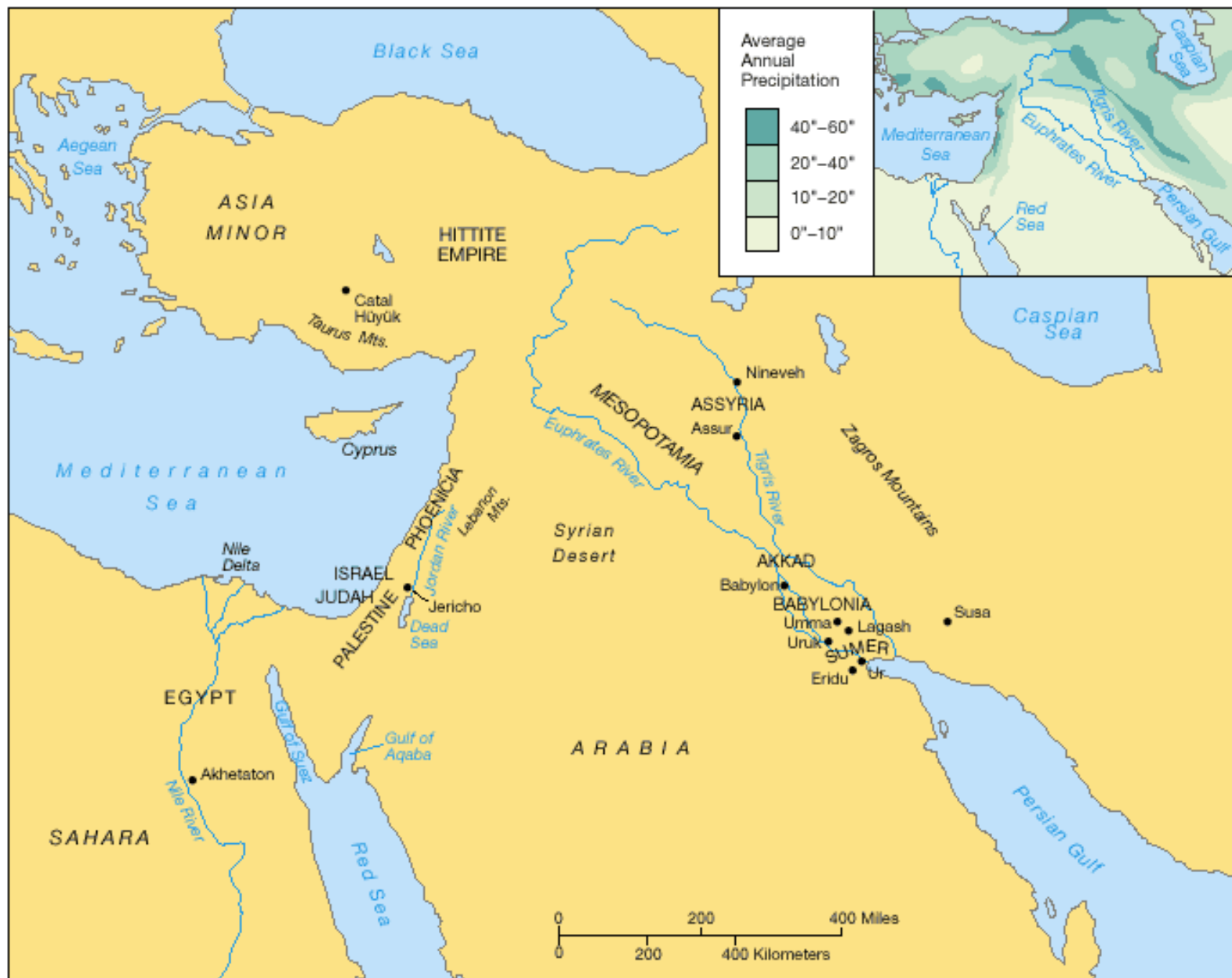



# The Persian Empire



Mr. Mable 2012



 *The Ancient World. The earliest civilizations in the West arose in river valleys of Northern Africa and Western Asia where life depended on control of water.*

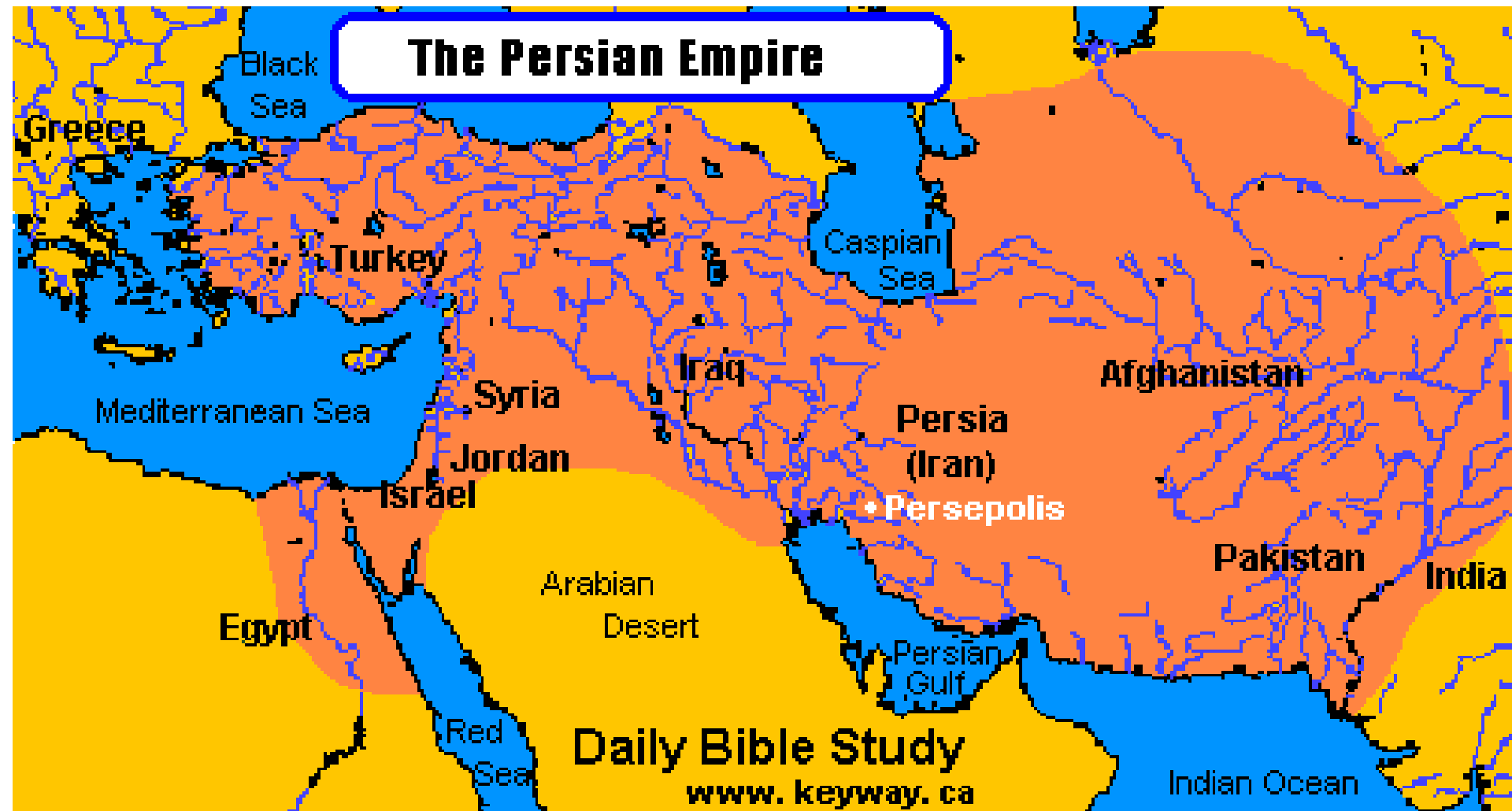
# The Rise of Persia

- The Persians based their empire on tolerance and diplomacy. They relied on a strong military to back up their policies. Ancient Persia is where Iran is today.

# Persia is in Modern Day Iran



# The Extent of the Persian Empire





# Cyrus the Great

# Cyrus's Empire

- 550 BC – Conquered several neighboring kingdoms
- Military genius
- Controlled an empire spanning 2000 miles
- Kindness toward conquered people
- Honored local customs and religions
- 538 BC - Allowed the Jews to return to their homeland, Jerusalem
- Considered by the Jews to be one of God's anointed ones

# Tolerance !!!

- Cyrus use the idea of tolerance to keep the peace and to seem like a liberator.
- He allowed people to keep their local customs and religions.
- He showed kindness toward conquered peoples



# Primary Source

- “This is the word of Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he himself has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. To every man of his people now among you I say, God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord God of Israel, the God whose city is Jerusalem.”
- What type of ruler was Cyrus based on this quote?

# PERSIA and the city of PERSEPOLIS



# PERSEPOLIS



- 518 BCE
- King Darius utilized influences and materials from all over his empire, which included Babylon, Egypt, Mesopotamian and Greece

# PERSEPOLIS

- At the height of the Persian Empire it stretched from India to Africa
- Persia today is known as Iran
- The city included extensive use of columns



# PERSEPOLIS



- Darius was followed by his son, Xerxes (ruled 485-465)
- The Apadana (Audience Hall) features wonderful low relief sculpture

# Zoroastrianism

- Persian Religion
- Monotheism
- Good went to Heaven
- Bad went to Hell



# How did Cyrus and Darius keep control of such a vast empire?

- Broke Empire down into provinces
- Royal Governors = Satraps
- They were loyal to the Emperor and did his bidding.

# Satraps





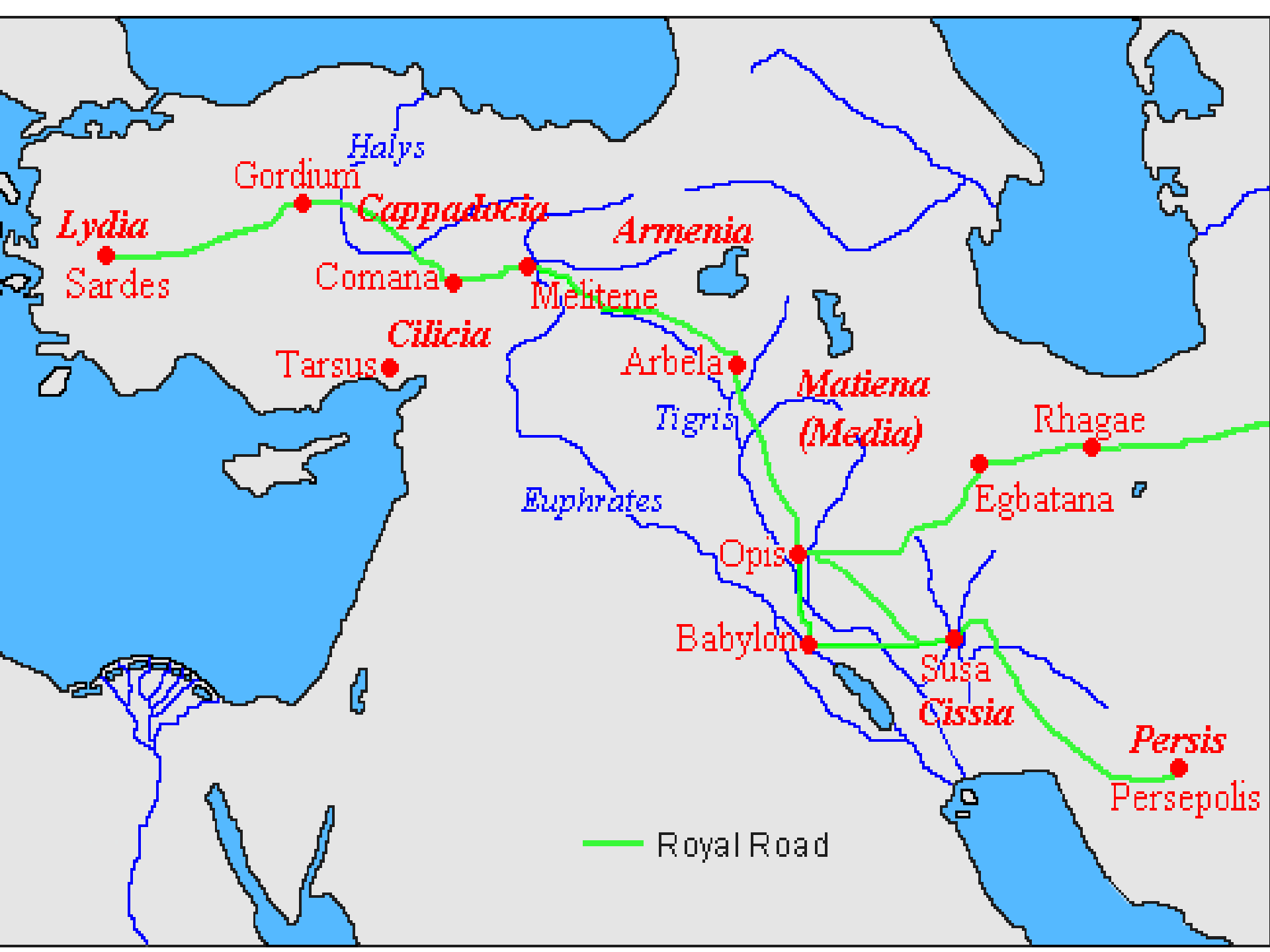
# Royal Spies

- They spied on the citizens and on the governors to make sure they were not going to steal or revolt.



# The Royal Road

- 1,677 miles long with 111 relay stations
- Other smaller roads branched off the royal road
- Relay stations had rest areas and fresh horses.
- The entire royal road could be traveled in a week by a horsemen
- Caravans took about a month



*Lydia*

Sardes

Gordium

Halys

*Cappadocia*

Comana

Melitene

*Armenia*

Tarsus

*Cilicia*

Arbela

Tigris

*Matiena  
(Media)*

Rhagae

Egbatana

Euphrates

Opis

Babylon

Susa  
*Cissia*

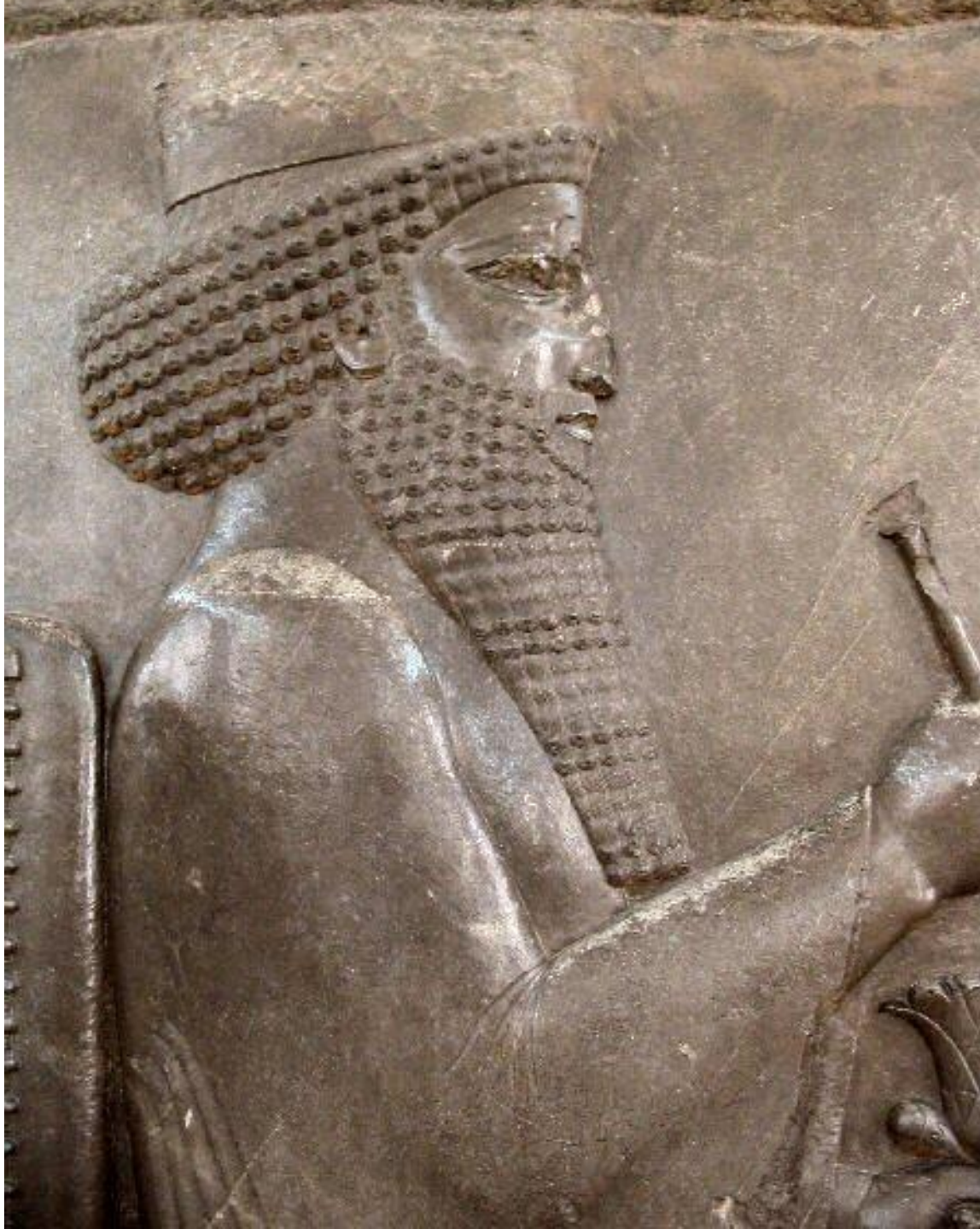
*Persis*

Persepolis

— Royal Road

How would the royal road enable a ruler to maintain power in the empire?





Darius

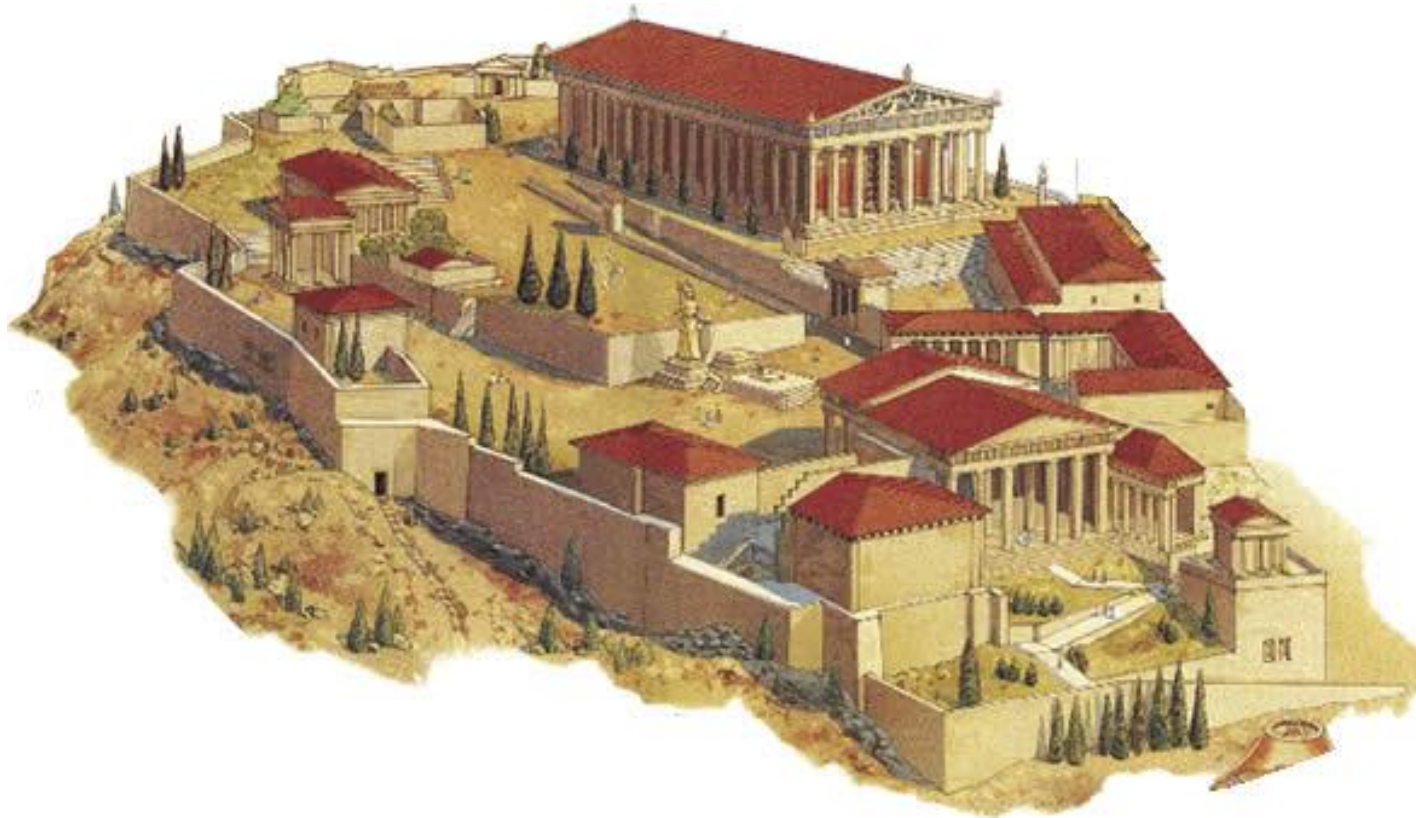
# Darius the Great

- Member of the king's body guard
- Overthrew the king in 522 BC
- Took power and created a well-organized efficient government
- Brought peace and stability
- Expanded the empire by 500 miles
- But could not conquer Greece

First  
Persian  
War

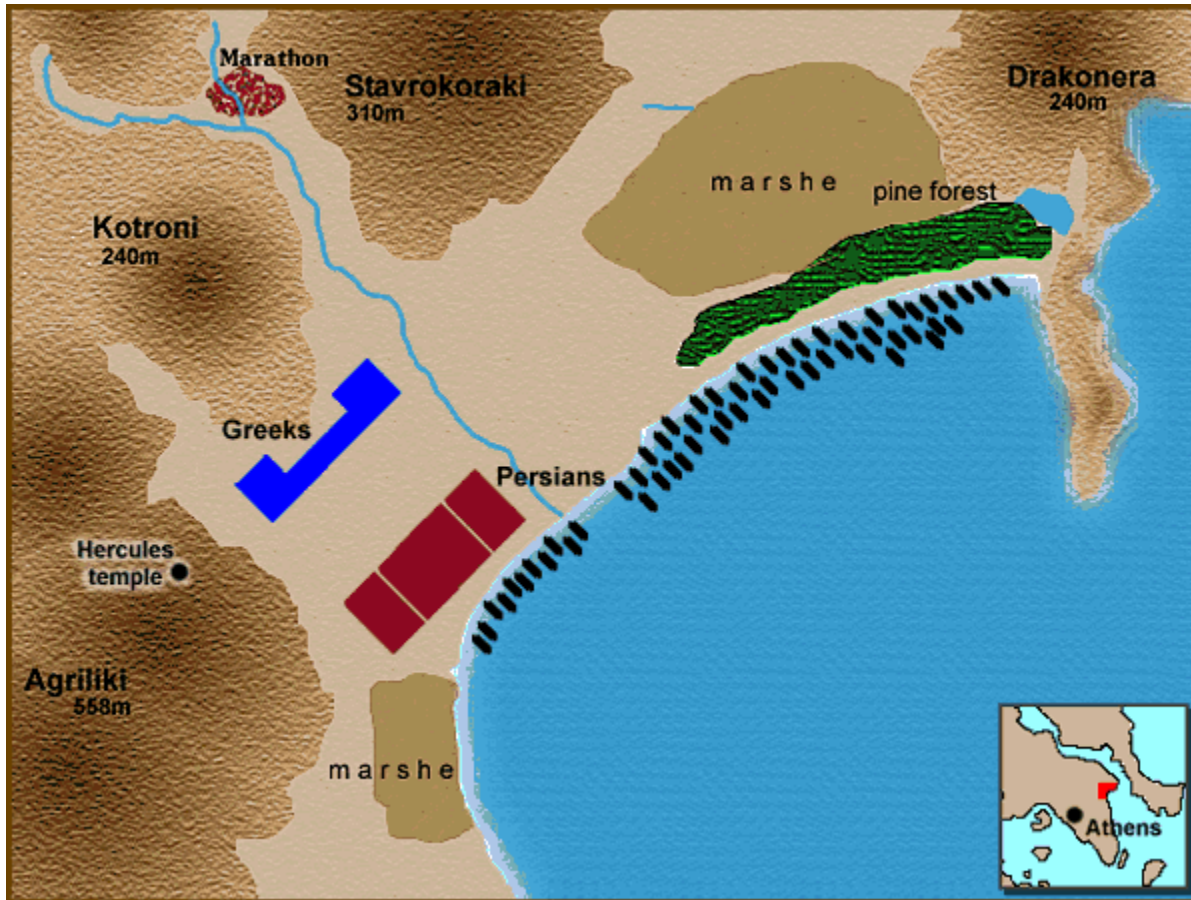
# Battle of Marathon

The Athenians had won at Marathon but they certainly had not destroyed the Persian army. They had made plans before the battle that if they won, they would get word back to Athens as soon as possible because they knew that the Persian fleet was sure to sail around Attica and attempt to take the city while it was undefended. The citizens were to man the walls and make it appear that Athens was strongly defended.

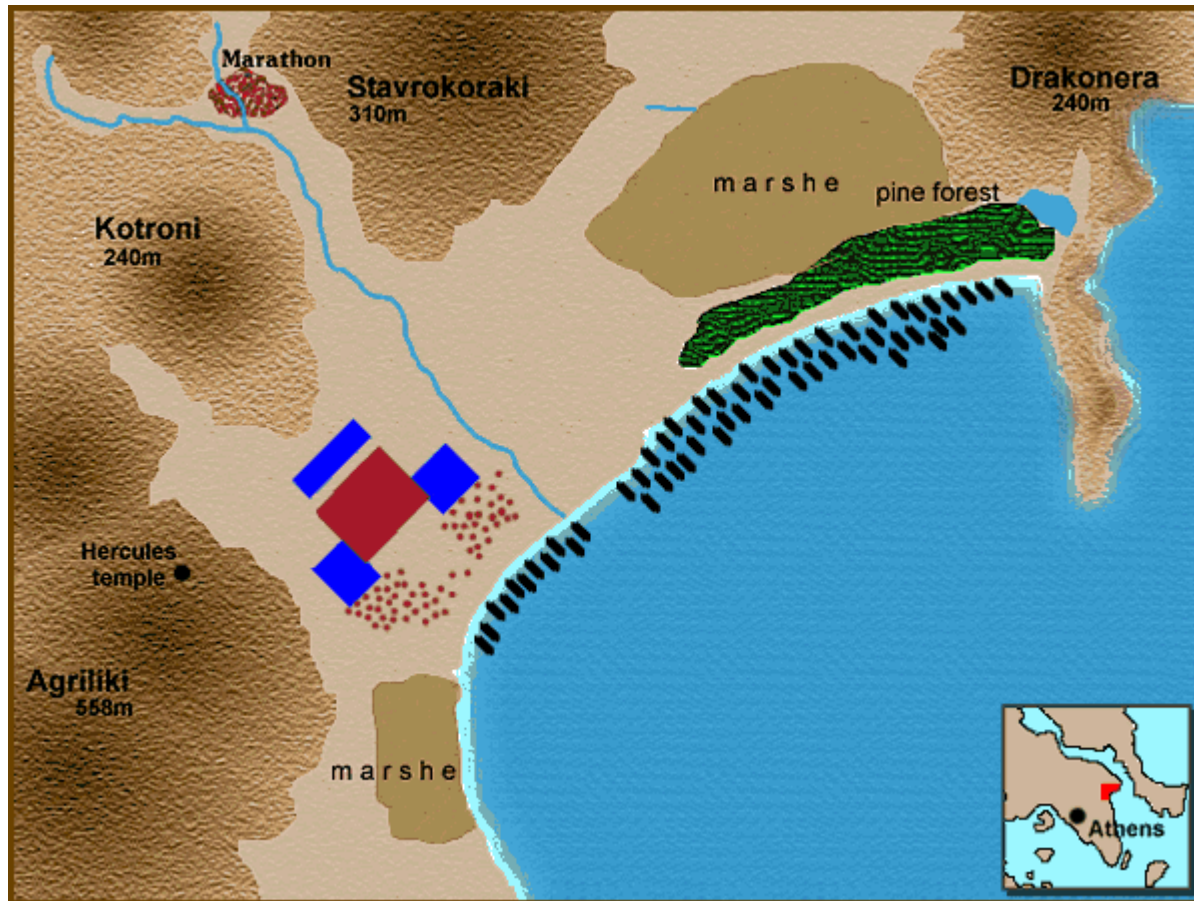




# Marathon part 1



# Marathon part 2



# Marathon



Phaedippas

Miltiades sent a young soldier (probably Phaedippas) to take word back to Athens. **He ran the entire distance, 42.192 kms, shouted "We have won!" and fell dead of exhaustion.** In memory of this event the Marathon Run was included among the contests since the first contemporary Olympic Games.

Result of the 1<sup>st</sup> Persian War

Darius Lost!

Persia Continued to  
lose its power to  
expand

# Xerxes

- Became a Dictator
- Did not follow Darius or Cyrus and was not tolerant
- Wanted to conquer Greece at all cost

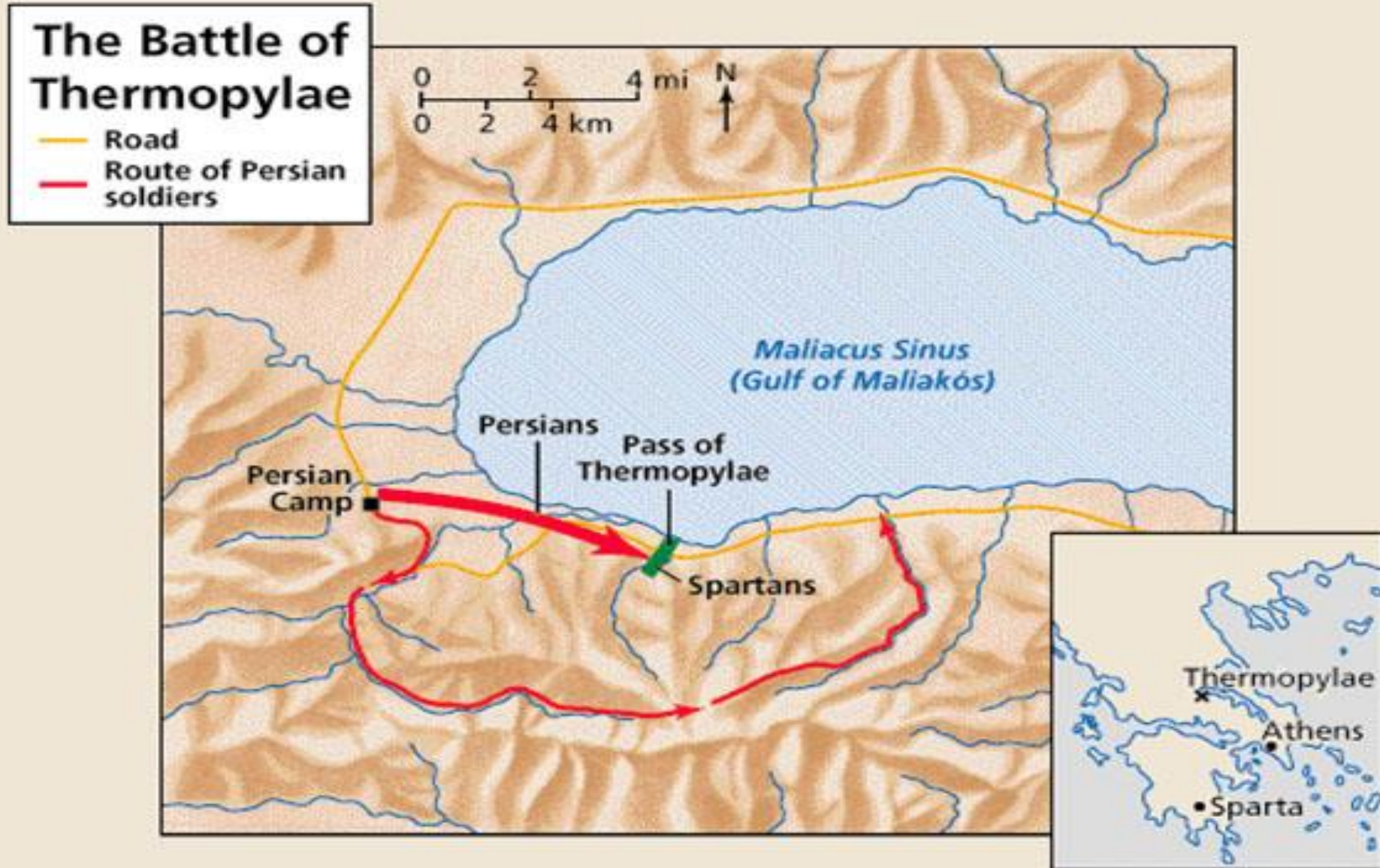


Second  
Persian  
War

# Battle of Thermopylae

- It means the “HOT GATES”
- 300 Spartans held off 1 million troops of the Persian Empire
- Was really a delaying action to stall the Persians so that Athens could be evacuated.
- Tactical advantage because of choke point in the terrain.

# Thermopylae









# The Immortals

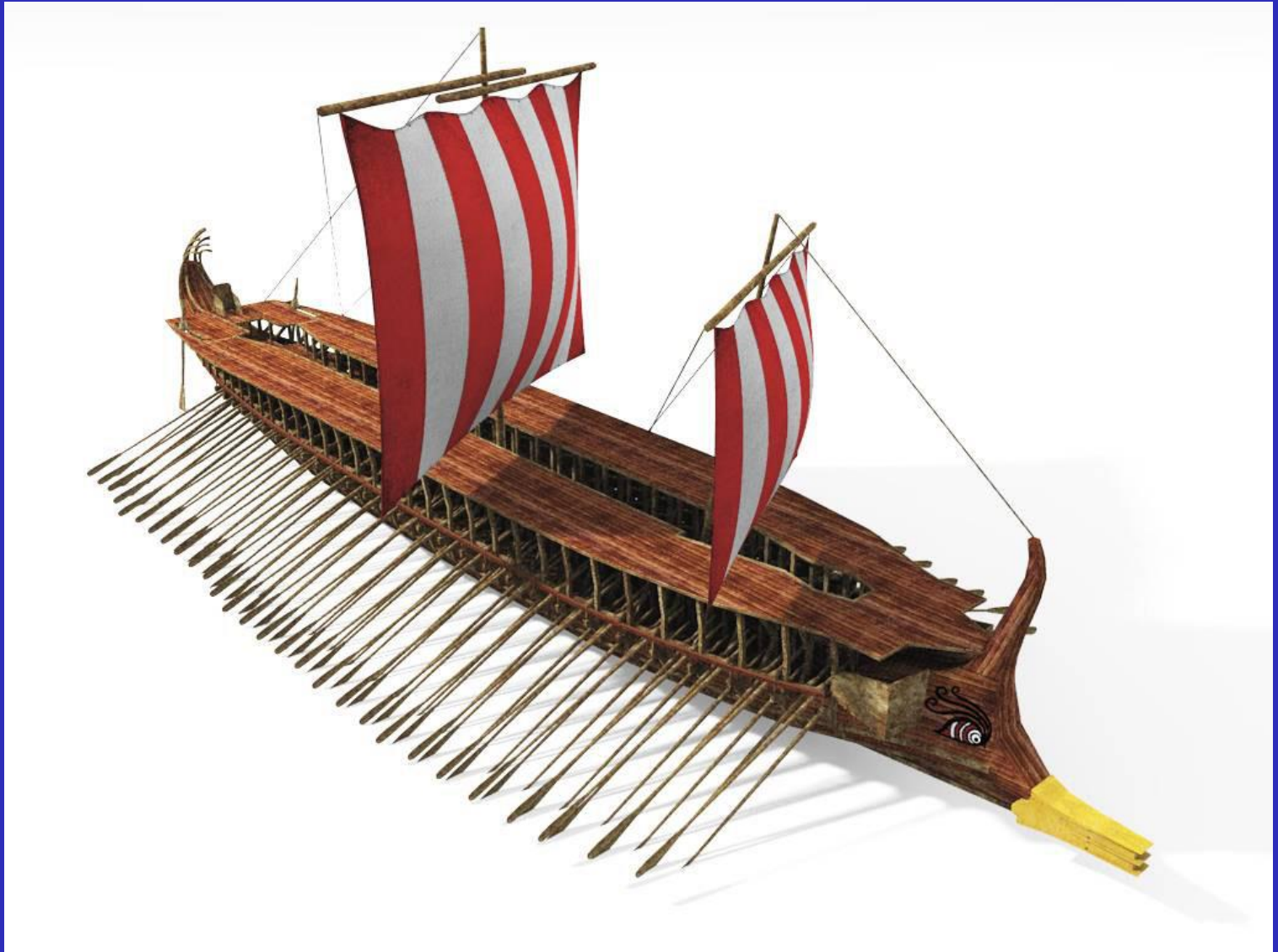
- Xerxes's best troops in the Persian army.
- Supposed to be invincible.
- Spartans proved otherwise.



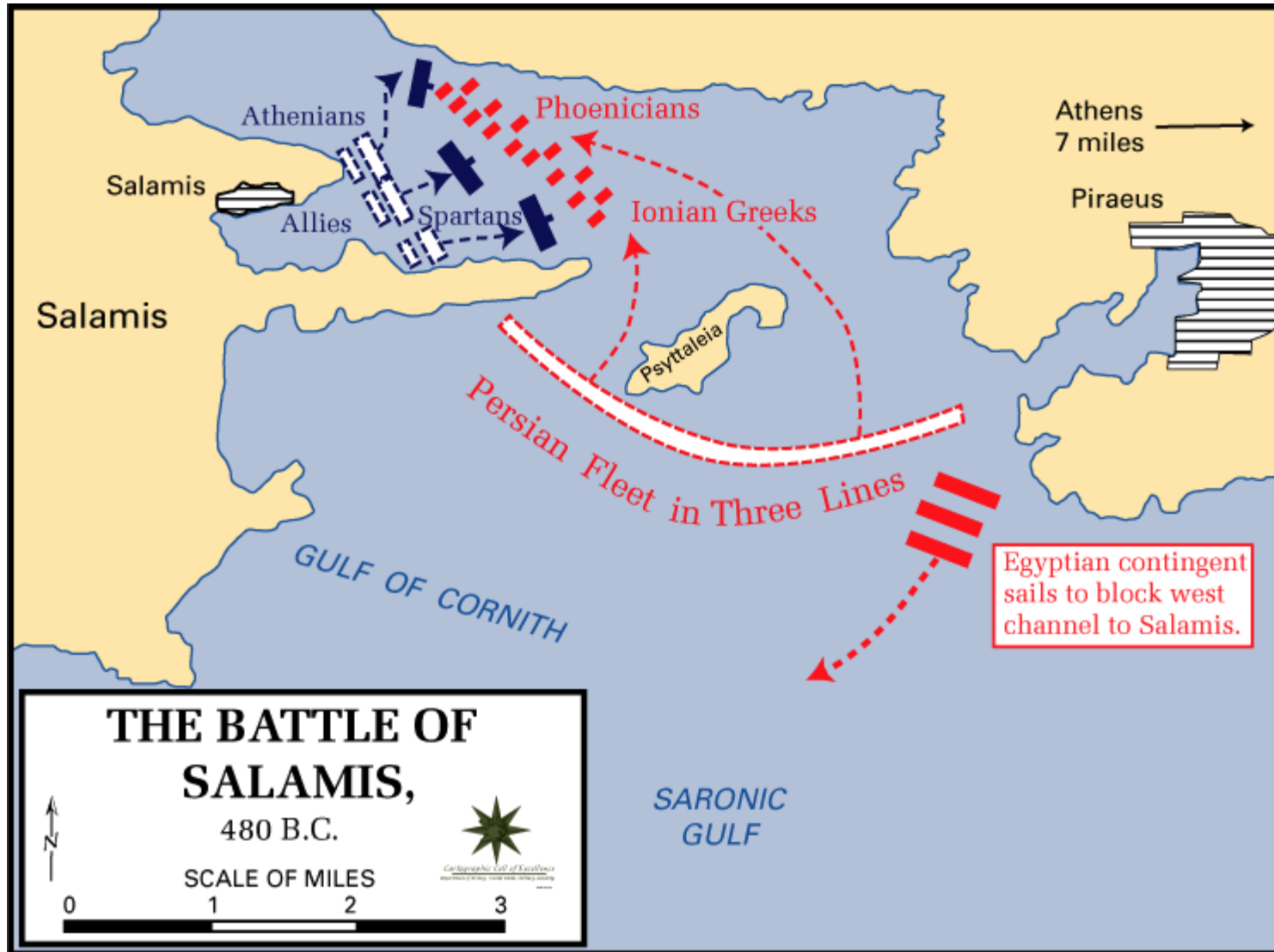
# The Persians eventually Broke Through

- After killing the 300 Spartans the Persians Marched on Athens
- Athens was deserted; evacuated to the Island of Salamis
- The Athenians forced a naval battle in the Bay of Salamis

# Greek Trireme



# Battle of Salamis



# Battle of Salamis

- Persians were bottlenecked in the small bay of Salamis
- They could not maneuver
- The smaller Greek Ships destroyed the Persian fleet.

Result of the 2nd Persian War

**Xerxes Lost!**

Persia had to retreat home  
in failure. Never again did  
Persia expand.



# Alexander the Great

- Macedonian (Greek) King that laid the final death blow to the Persian Empire and conquered it.



# Decline of the Empire

- Military Problems...
  - Was conquered by Alexander the Great in 330 BC
  - Persia's defenses were smashed by Alexander's army
  - Even though Persian soldiers outnumbered them, Alexander's army was able to take them by surprise and break through a weak point in Persian lines.
- Leader Darius fled for fear of being killed
- Darius tried to negotiate a peace settlement, but Alexander did not accept and went on to conquer the remainder of Persia's empire.



**In November 333, Alexander the Great and his trusted general Parmenion defeated the Persian king Darius III Codomannus on the uneven coastal plain south of Issus.**

# Decline of the Empire

- Social Problems...
  - For the most part, they were very tolerant of their citizen's religions, languages, laws and ideas. However, when faced with rebellion, they did not hesitate to take extreme military measures.
- People revolted over heavy tax burdens
- Social structure started to break down when there was no longer a strong leader. The people below the upper class started organizing riots and revolt.

# Decline of the Empire

- Leadership Problems...
  - Persia was ruled successfully for many years under leaders like Cyrus the Great and Darius I.
- After the death of Darius, his son Xerxes ruled. He was a cruel and weak King. The empire weakened gradually under his rule due to conspiracies, assassinations, and revolts by the people who were burdened with heavy taxes
- Kings became greedy and began stealing from the supply of riches rather than giving it to the people.

# Decline of the Empire

- Economic Problems...
  - Persian taxes became heavier and more oppressive
  - This led to economic depression and revolts
- Persian kings started hoarding gold and silver rather than recirculating it.
  - This meant not enough gold and silver for business and made the economy even worse
- When local leaders (Satraps) decided to become more independent and rule their section like they were kings themselves instead of subjects of the king, this caused economic problems.

