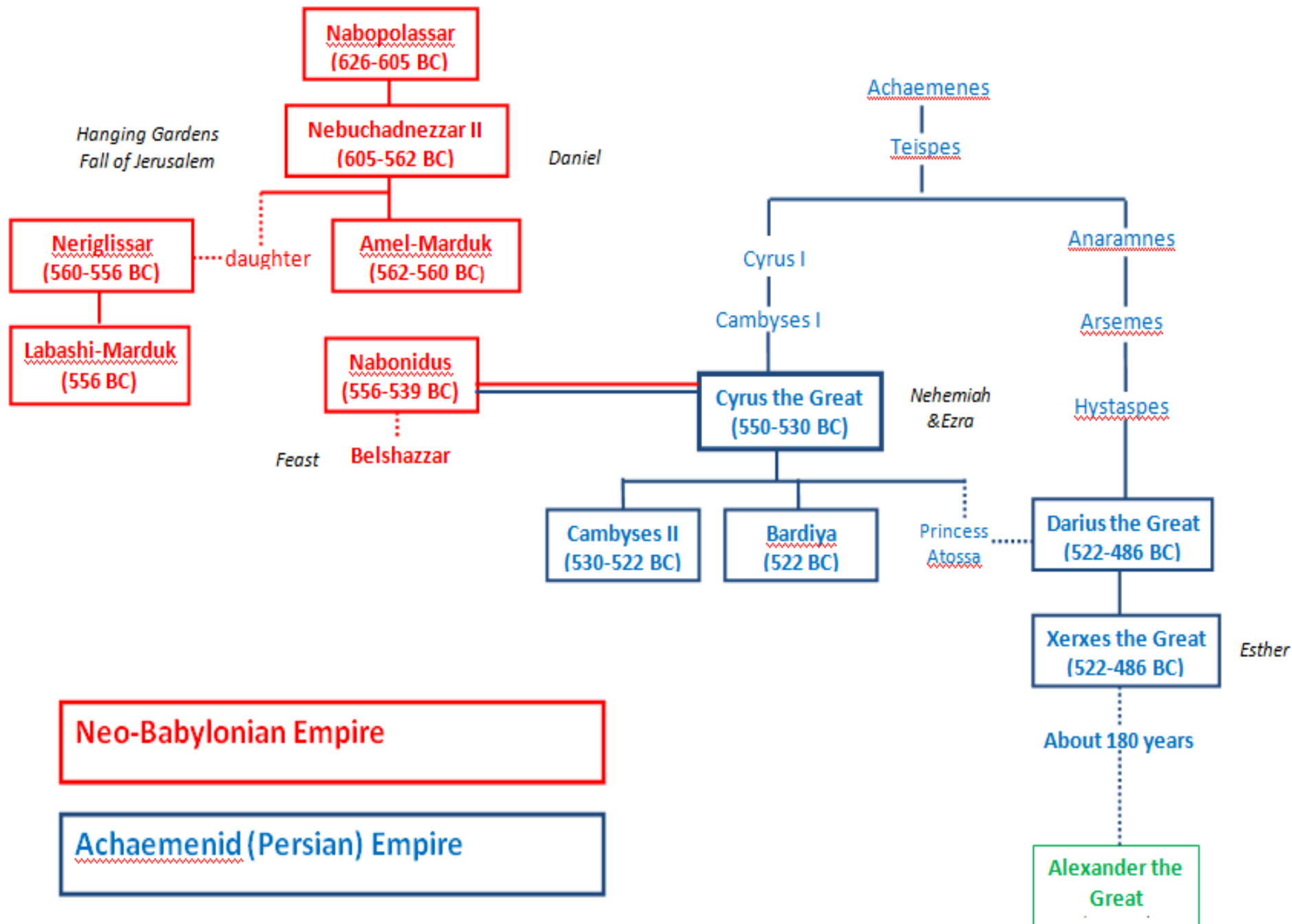




Cyrus the  
Great  
c600-530 BCE



## Bible passage written by the prophet Isaiah 45

<sup>1</sup>“This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armour, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

<sup>2</sup> I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.

<sup>3</sup> I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.

<sup>5</sup> I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me.

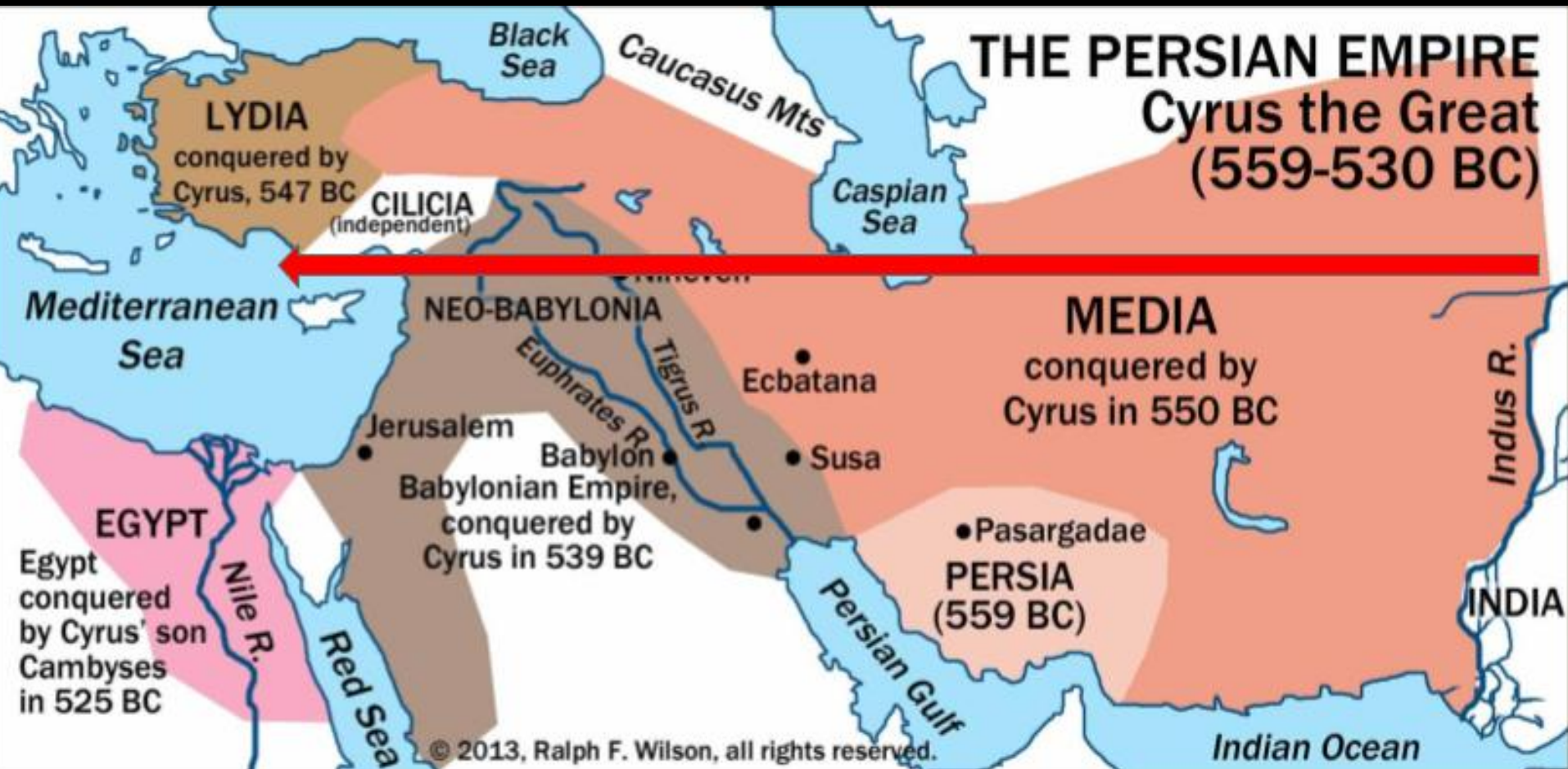
<sup>13</sup> I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the Lord Almighty.' (Isaiah 45)

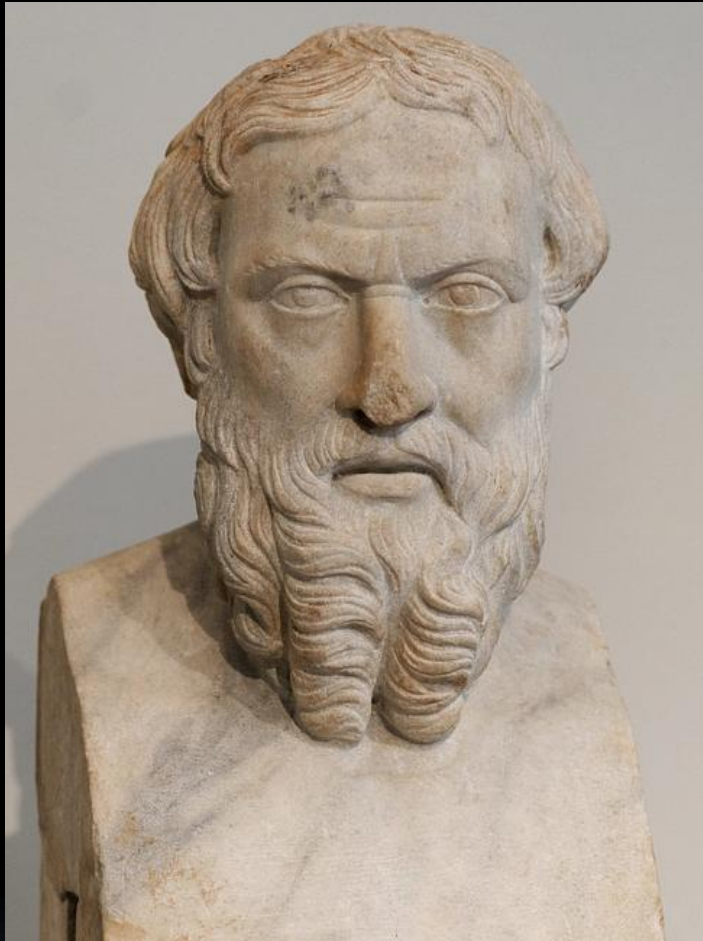
Isaiah was prophet during the reign of kings Uzziah and Hezekiah, 150 years before Cyrus was born.

- a) Miraculous prophecy.
- b) Added to book of Isaiah later as tribute to Cyrus.
- c) Josephus, the Jewish historian says that it was this circumstance that motivated the ruler “to fulfil what was written” (Antiquities of the Jews 11.1.2), and thus to issue his edict permitting Israel’s return to her homeland.

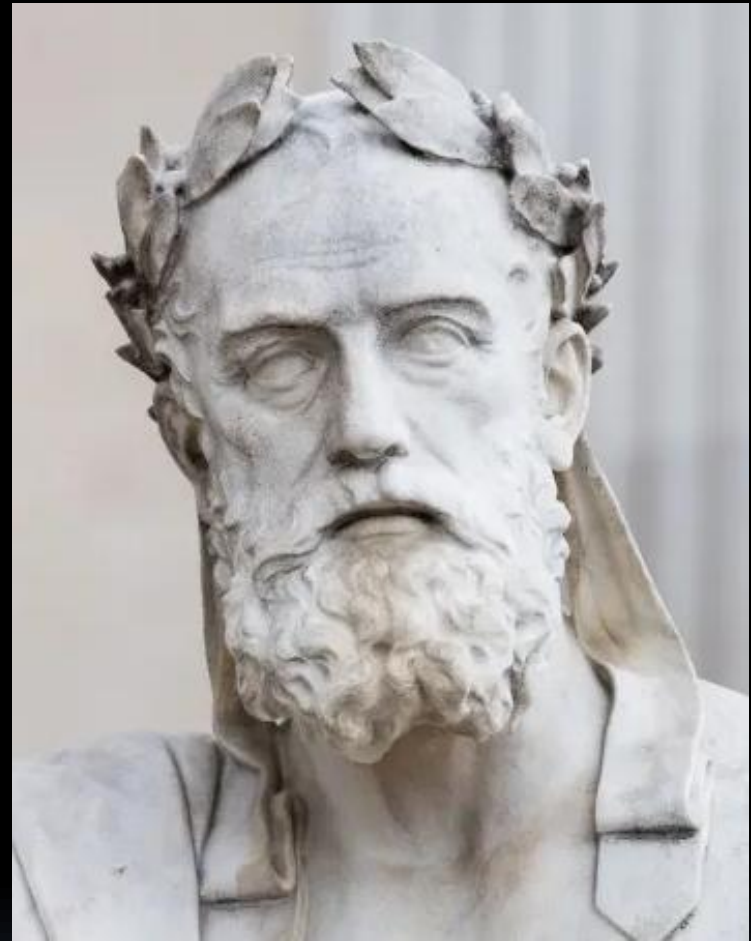
One of very few good kings in the bible, only non Jewish king to get good press.

The Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great was the largest ever seen stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indus River





**Herodotus**  
(c 484 BC – c 425 BC)



**Xenophon**  
(c 430 BC – before 350 BC)

## Achaemenid Dynasty

### Median Empire

Astyages  
585-550 BC

Mandane

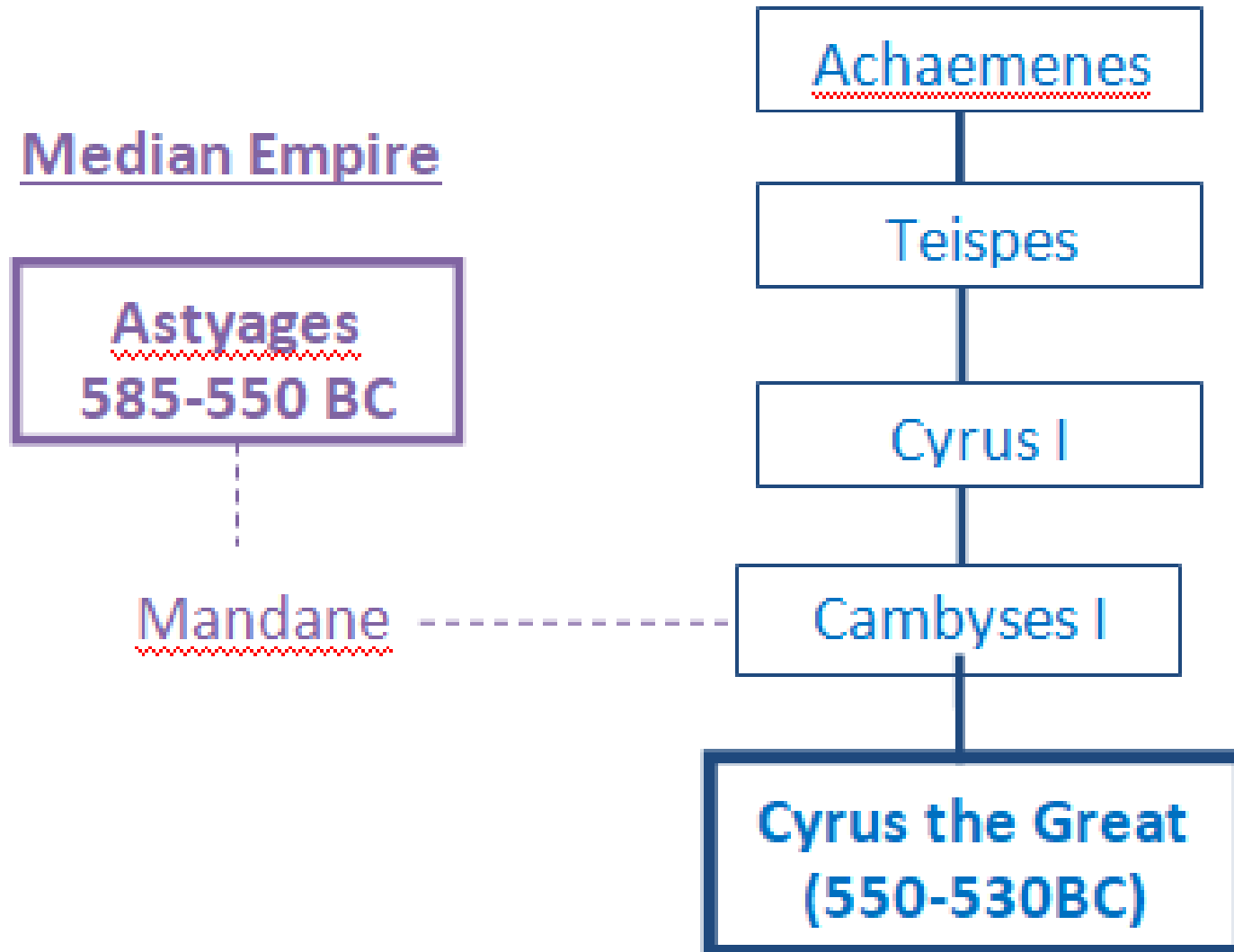
Achaemenes

Teispes

Cyrus I

Cambyses I

**Cyrus the Great**  
**(550-530BC)**



Childhood of  
King Cyrus  
by  
Sebastian Ricci

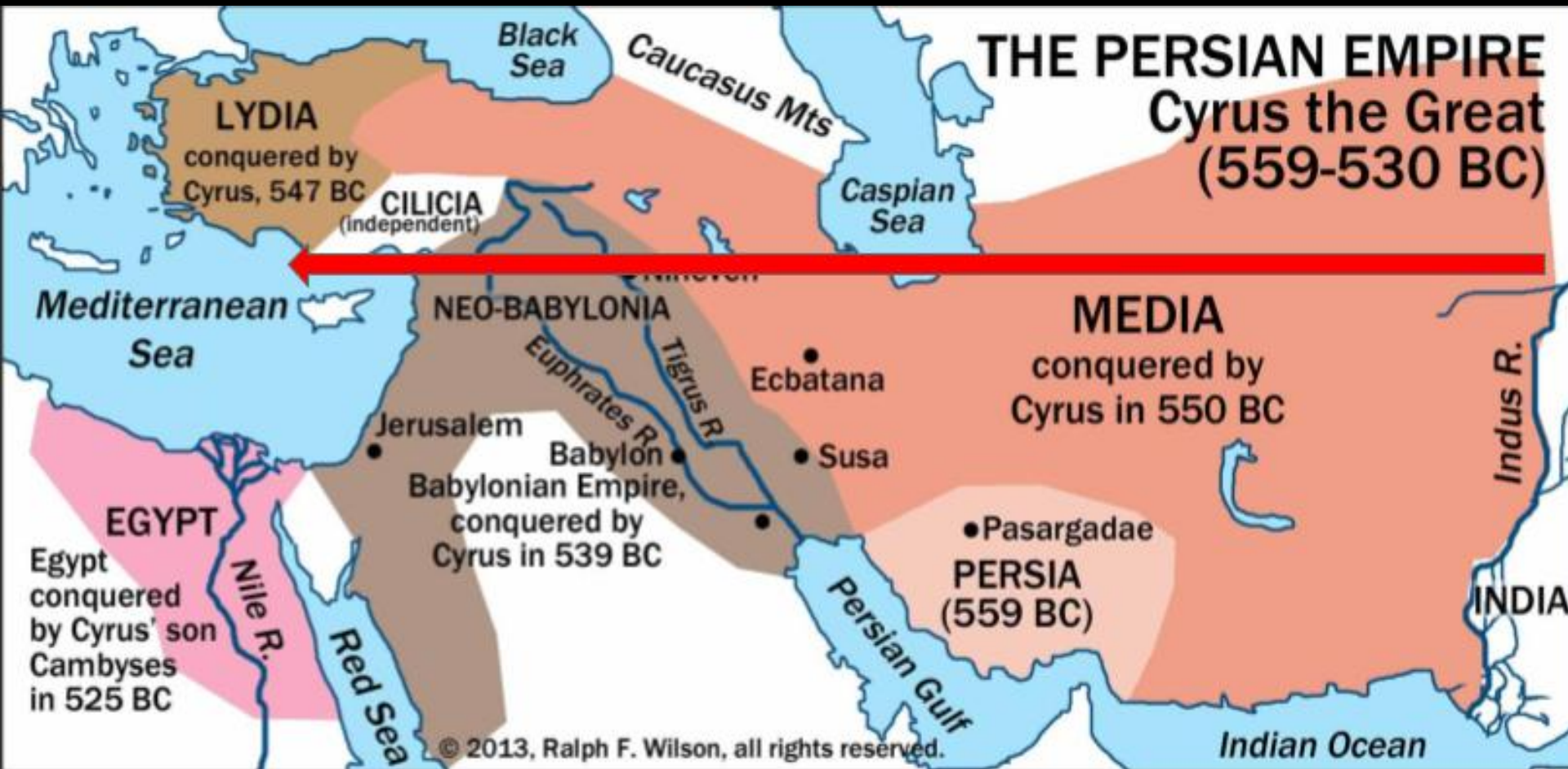




## Nabonidus Chronicle (British Museum)

# THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

## Cyrus the Great (559-530 BC)

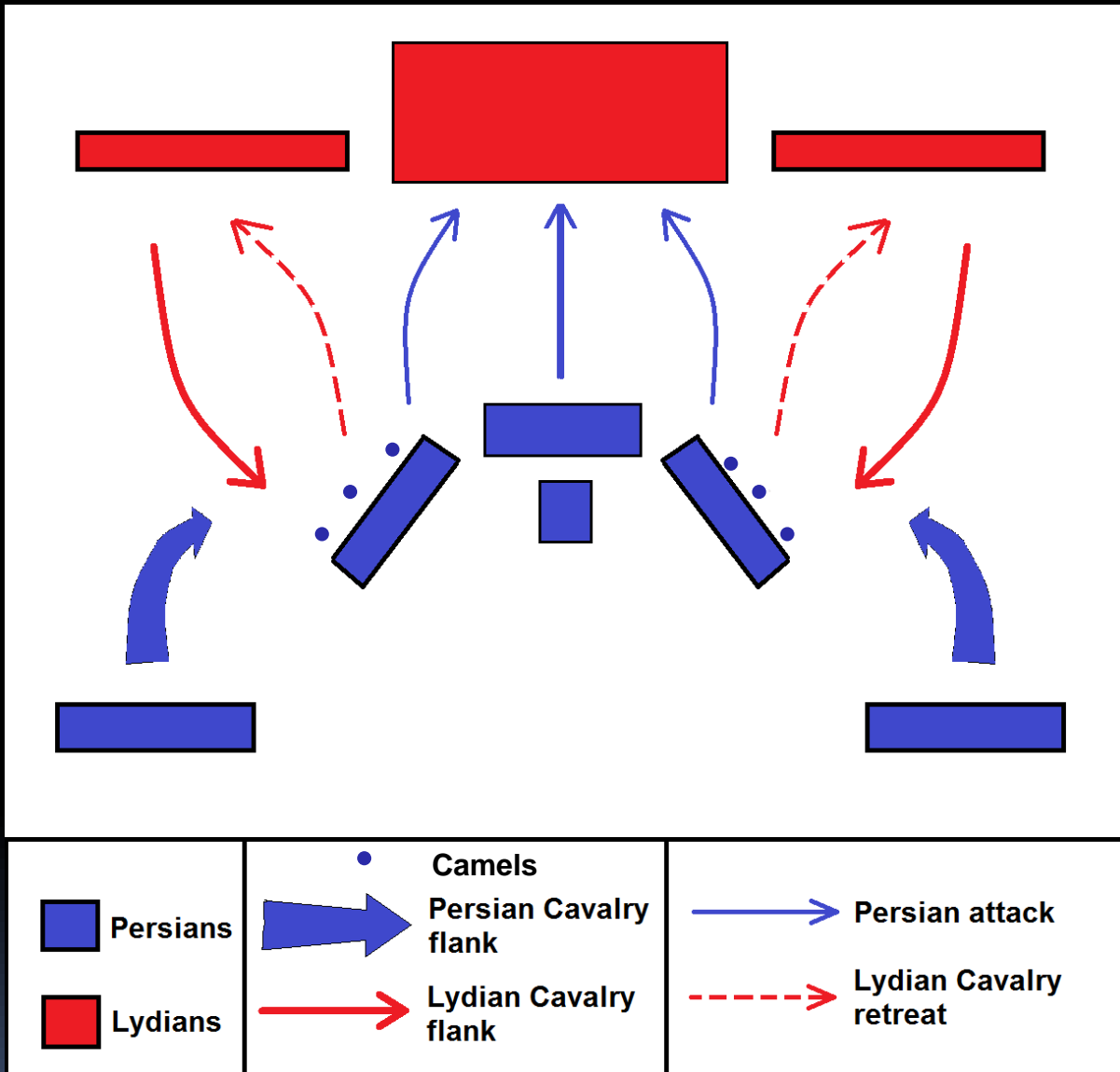




Lydia coinage (Turkey)



Cappadocia (Turkey)



Battle of Thymbra



Battle of Thymbra



Croesus on the Pyre (500-490 BC), Louvre



Babylonian Empire meets Persian Empire



Babylon – Ishtar Gate



Belshazzar's Feast - Rembrandt



Cyrus Cylinder – British Museum



Cyrus Cylinder – British Museum



Hormuzd Rassam 1826-1910 (Archaeologist)

## About Nabonidus

first few lines missing or only in part

Line 3 'his (first) born (Belshazzar), a low person, was put in charge of his country'

Line 5 'he ma(de) a counterfeit of Esagil (temple of god Mardok)

Line 7 'he brought the daily offerings to a halt.... reverential fear of Murduk king of the gods, came to an end'

line 8 'did yet more evil in his city every day, he brought ruin on them without relief'

line 9 about other shrines and idols 'the gods who lived within them left their shrines, angry that he had made them enter Shuanna' (Babylon)

## About Cyrus

Lines 20-21 I am Cyrus, king of the universe, the great king, the powerful king, king of Babylon, king of Sumer and Akkad, king of the four quarters of the world,

Lines 24 -27 My vast troops were marching peaceably in Babylon, and the whole of [Sumer] and Akkad had nothing to fear. As for the population of Babylon... I soothed their weariness; I freed them from their bonds(?). Marduk, the great lord, rejoiced at [my good] deeds, and he pronounced a sweet blessing over me.

## About Cyrus Reign

Line 28-30 At his exalted command, all kings who sit on thrones, from every quarter, from the Upper Sea to the Lower Sea, those who inhabit [remote distric]ts (and) the kings of the land of Amurru who live in tents, all of them, brought their weighty tribute into Shuanna, and kissed my feet. From [Shuanna] I sent back to their places to the city of Ashur and Susa, Akkad, the land of Eshnunna, the city of Zamban, the city of Meturnu, Der, as far as the border of the land of Guti - the sanctuaries across the river Tigris - whose shrines had earlier become dilapidated, the gods who lived therein, and made permanent sanctuaries for them. I collected together all of their people and returned them to their settlements,

## Ezra Chapter 1v1:4

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

“This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

“The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.’

# Persian Empire

1. Satrap System
2. Tolerance of other cultures
3. Good communications
4. Paying of tributes





Tomyris receiving the  
Head of Cyrus

*Mattia Preti (1670-72)*



Tomb of Cyrus to Great at Pasargadae