

up who we find out is the king who destroyed the Persian empire. Well, the fact of the matter is of course that the chapter here is giving us certain vital points and not telling us of what is in between.

So we have here in order to pinpoint ~~a~~ particular points we have mention of just the first four kings. The first of these is Cyrus, and I have the dates 559 there when he became king. 546 when he gained his independence and took over control of the whole Median complex of tribes. 539 when he conquered Babylon. 529 when he died.

Then he was succeeded by his son Cambyses who reigned from 529 to 522. I did not list there the Pseudo Smrydus which is the name given to a servant who held power for just 8 months, but who certainly could be ranked there as a king of Persia.

These three then-- Cyrus, and Cambyses, and Smerdis---- well Cyrus is the first and after Cyrus there is Cambyses, Pseudo Smerdis, and Darius. And the fourth would be Xerxes.

I need to call to your attention a little bit of the history at this point. Cyrus, as you know, ~~x~~ began there in Persia with a small domain. He got control of all the realm of the Medes. Then he went westward and he conquered all of Asia Minor.

You see how large Asia Minor is here on the map. He conquered all of Asia Minor, and then he turned south again and conquered ~~all of~~ the Babylonian empire. Then he went East again, and conquered as far as you can see there on that map, clear into the area of India. He conquered -- he and his son, they conquered -- either he or his son -- conquered north-west India.

His son Cambyses also came down and conquered all of Egypt, so that was the largest empire that the world had seen up to that time. But after Cyrus's death, and after Cambyses' death this Pseudo Smerdes reigned for 8 months and then a cousin of Cambyses, named Darius, got rid of Pseudo Smerdes and proclaimed himself legitimate king, and he might be called the second founder of the Persian empire.

Because Darius organized the empire. Cyrus was conquering and bringing all these regions under him. Darius had rebellions all over the empire the first few years of his reign were occupied with putting down these rebellions, getting the whole empire under his control. But then he organized it in such a way that it continued in great strength for 200 years, and was probably just about as strong at the end of that time as at the beginning.

But Alexander the great was a very great stratigist, a great fighter, and had a wonderful army and he conquered it in a comparatively short space of 12 years. But Darius raised the empire to the highest point at which it had yet been.

So it says a fourth shall be richer than they all. The fourth inheritted greater wealth, and greater power than either of the previous kings had, except it be Darius at the very end of his reign.