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PERSIAN EMPIRE

BY THE 5TH CENTURY B.C.E., IT WAS THE LARGEST EMPIRE THE WORLD HAD EVER SEEN, SURPASSING THE SIZE OF THEIR ASSYRIAN PREDECESSORS.- USHISTORY.ORG



WRITING

Persian writing rose to power in mid 6th Century BCE
Writing was mostly used in Mesopotamia as it was formed
"Cuneiform" was the word used for ancient writing
There was 36 symbols in Persian cuneiform
King Darius I called the alphabet "the Aryan Script"

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

King and royal family at the top of the social classes
Family was the basic social unit, fathers were in charge and treated their children as slaves.
Slaves are at the bottom of the social pyramid and possessed zero rights.
Priests were second in the hierarchy order.
Traders and craftsmen were middle class people



ART

Architecture, painting, sculpture, and gold smithing were the main forms of art in Persia.
Persian culture was influenced by Mesopotamian, Sumerian, greek, and Chinese art. (example- the silk road)
Skilled gold and silver metal working was common
Used many languages in their art which showed diversity
Rugs were commonly made and are one of the most expensive and high quality type of rug to this day.

CITIES

- Persepolis:
 - The capital of the Persian Kingdom
 - Supposedly Darius Hystaspes was the creator
- Susa:
 - Was originally owned by Babylonians but was taken by Cyrus when he captured their land.
 - Since Darius (founder) rebuilt some of the Jew's structures they named the temple he rebuilt after the city Shusha.
- Ecbatana:
 - Was when the Medes and the Persians united which helped the kings.
 - Also proved to the king that Cyrus (another founder of Persian Empire) had ordered the Jews to build their temple.



Position in Society	Power in Government
Prophet	90%
Officials	10%
Leaders	0%
Peasants	0%
Slaves	0%

GOVERNMENT

- It was a monarchy which mean the kings made all of the decisions
- Wars, economic disputes and other conflicts were challenged by the king or prophet.
- The citizens followed their orders of the prophets
- There wasn't a democracy like we have in today's society, so the citizens did not have a say in what decisions were being made.
- The king also got to decide which men could be government officials.

RELIGION

- It was called Zoroastrianism
- One of the first religions to have only one god
- Achaemenian kings worshiped this religion
- Named after prophet named Zoroaster
- Cyrus did not force his people to believe in this religion



QUESTIONS:

WHERE DID PRIESTS BELONG ON THE ANCIENT PERSIAN SOCIAL HIERARCHY?

- A. AFTER TRADERS AND CRAFTSMEN
- B. AFTER THE KING AND THE ROYAL FAMILY
- C. ABOVE THE SLAVES AND PEASANTS

HOW MANY SYMBOLS WERE THERE IN THE PERSIAN CUNEIFORM ALPHABET?

- A. 30
- B. 18
- C. 37
- D. 36

WHAT DOES BELIEVING IN ONE GOD CALLED?

- A. UNOTHEISM
- B. MONO GOD
- C. MONOTHEISM
- D. GOD