

So it truly says, The fourth will be richer than they all. Then the verse goes on and says, By his strength, through his riches he will stir up all against the realm of Greece.

Any of you who have studied ancient history-- in ancient history it used to be at least they _____ attention _____ to the oriental background, but they paid a very considerable amount of attention to the history of Greece. Any one who reads much about ancient Greece is familiar with the Persian war.

The Greeks had built cities and colonies along the shore of Asia Minor. These were great prosperous Greek cities. They were all conquered by Cyrus. They were part of the Persian empire. But they did not want to be part of the Persian empire, and they tried to gain their freedom. Cyrus could hold them in subjection fairly easily with his great army. And Darius could hold them in subjection fairly easily with his great army, and his wonderful organization, if it were not for the fact that the cities of Greece were constantly sending help to these cities in Asia Minor, and trying to help their fellow Greeks to gain their independence in their cities on the ~~xxx~~ coast of Asia Minor.

So Darius said, I will put a stop to this; I will conquer Greece too. He sent a great army to attack Greece, and tried to conquer Greece, but partly through bad weather, partly through mistakes in strategy by his generals he failed. And the Greeks were very proud of having fought back Darius' attempt to conquer them.

But Darius said we must conquer Greece; we can't have them constantly raising rebellions against us in Asia Minor this way. So Darius set to work to gather the greatest army the world had ever seen. Ten years were devoted to gathering this great army, and in preparing tremendous amounts of material. But before it was all ready Darius died.

So the fourth who was richer than they all--Xerxes--when this great army was ready, started out to conquer the Greeks. They say it took a whole week for the armies to walk across the bridges they built across the Hellespont near Constantinople from Asia into Europe. It was a tremendous army and tremendous navy.

The Greeks facing this would ordinarily have had little hope of defeating it. As it worked out there was a combination of circumstances, and the fact that this contained people with so many different languages it was difficult for them to communicate and to direct them as they should.

Some bad storms injured many of their ships, and the Greeks were able to maneuver their ships into a place where they were at a great disadvantage. We haven't time to go into the details of it but it was a very remarkable event in history that the Greeks succeeded in defeating this tremendous attempt to destroy the Greeks.