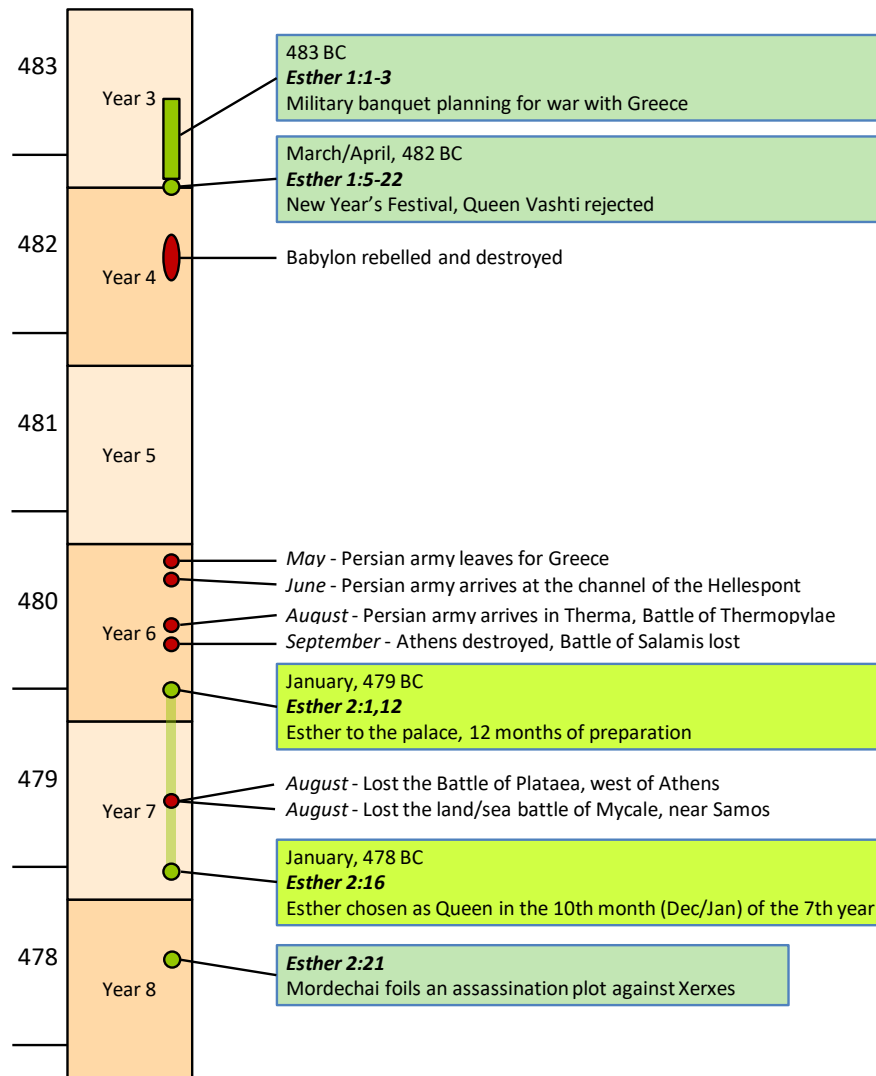


## Esther's Rise as Queen of Persia



### Noteworthy observations

- Both the Hebrew and Persian calendars were lunar-based, and their New Year began in about March/April in the Julian calendar (the exact time fluctuated from year to year, as the date for Easter does today).
- Xerxes's main military campaign against Greece commenced in the spring of his 6<sup>th</sup> year, 480 BC. The first season ended with the defeat of the Persian fleet at Salamis. Apparently the main Persian military force wintered over in Greece, while Xerxes himself returned to Susa.
- Esther was chosen as queen in the 10<sup>th</sup> month of the seventh year of Xerxes (Esth 2:16), which equates to December 479 or January 478. However, this was preceded by a period of 12 months of preparation (Esth 2:12), indicating that the search for a new queen began in the previous winter.
- During that year of preparation, between the start of the search for a new queen and the pronouncement of Esther as queen, Xerxes's military units met with disastrous defeat in Greece. In August of 479, his land forces were defeated at Plataea, and his naval forces were defeated at

the Battle of Mycale. This effectively marked the last gasp of the Persian drive to take over Greece.