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# **The political position of the Jews in the Achaemenid Empire**

**Proposal for a M.A. Thesis in  
" Ancient History "**

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# **Abstract**

## Abstract

### "The political position of the Jews in the Achaemenid Empire"

In 559 BC, Cyrus Achaemenid (Persian) appeared and founded the Achaemenid Empire, And since the occupation of Cyrus to Babylon in 539 BC the relationship between Jews and Cyrus, began And stretched with his successors until the fall of the Achaemenid Empire by Alexander the Great. This is what prompted me to select the subject of this study, In addition to several reasons, the most important:

١- Trying to understand the reality of deportation (captivity) Assyrian and Babylonian.

٢- Knowing of the political position of the Jewish groups and the extent of their influence in the Achaemenid Empire.

٣- Trying to understand the relationship between the Jewish groups and Persian and their results of the two parties and the effect of this relationship on the countries which Jewish groups stay in.

٤- Trying to understand the reality of the alleged temple in Palestine.

٥- Reconsider in some historical issues such as the story of Esther.

The study is divided into five chapters. It is preceded by an introduction Then it's followed by a conclusion, and appendixes and a list of sources and references, as the following:

The first chapter: "**Bani Israel historically**" I dealt with Bani Israel, (from the Exodus from Egypt to the property), Then splitting the kingdom into two kingdoms, Kingdom in the north of Palestine (Northern Kingdom (Samaria)) until its end by the controlling of the Assyrians and the deportation of a number of its inhabitants known as: "the Assyrian deportation", And the Kingdom of Palestine in the south (the southern kingdom (Judah)) until its end by the controlling of the Babylonians and the deportation of a number of its inhabitants known as: the Babylonian deportation, Turning to the existing Jewish groups in Babylon and Judah in Palestine, and Egypt especially in Elephantine Island.

The second chapter: "**Cyrus and the Jews**" I dealt with a brief about the King "Cyrus II," And the role of Jews in the occupation of the Achaemenids to Babylon, As I mentioned a statement for Cyrus, also I reviewed the deportation of Jewish groups from Babylon to Palestine, and the numbers of those displaced, and the goals of the Achaemenids from that.

The third chapter: "**The Jews in the reign of Cambyses**" I dealt with a brief about the King, "Cambyses", And the role of Jews in the occupation of Cambyses in Egypt, How was the treatment of Cambyses to the Egyptians, and the position of the Jewish groups in Egypt.

The fourth chapter: "**The political position of the Jews during the reign of Darius I and Xerxes I**". I dealt with a brief about the King, Darius I, Also I dealt the position of the Jews in the reign of Darius I, It also reviewed the position of Jews

in the reign of King "Xerxes I," through the Book of Esther, Also I mentioned the most important Criticisms to it on Esther.

*The fifth chapter: "The Jews and the end of the Achaemenid Empire"*. It is the last chapter, And it offered the position of Jews in the reign of King "Artaxerxes I ", As I mentioned the position of Jews in the reign of King "Darius II", It Also reviewed the position of the Jews in the reign of King "Artaxerxes II ", I also commented on the district of "Alexander the Great" on the Achaemenid Empire during the reign of the last rulers King, "Darius III", and The position of the Jewish groups of Alexander the Great.

**Finally, I found many results during my search in this study including(The most important):**

- Jewish groups helped King "Cyrus" Achaemenid (Persian) in his occupation of Babylon.
- the policy of the Achaemenid Empire in the deportation of Jewish groups from Babylon to Palestine multipurpose was: reward, Ensure border security, The destruction of the social structure in the occupied territories, Foil revolutions, creating groups and entities and sincere Achaemenid Empire.
- Persian Empire did not allow Jewish groups in Palestine in any way by The establishment of political forces or independent organizations, in order to dysfunctional it later to the formation of independent kingdoms.
- Jewish groups (outside of Palestine under the Achaemenid Empire), supported and maintained a political presence to Judah.
- Jewish groups tended to Persian power since their occupation of Egypt, and joined them and Help them in the occupation of Egypt, As shown solidarity with them and come near them, and were transporting them News Egyptian nationalists.
- Jewish groups were not the cause of the Achaemenid Empire weakness, They even took advantage of the weakness was in the state to achieve their goals, When the weakness of the Achaemenids and The Greeks appeared(emerged) as a force would have at that time, We found the Jews have tended to their policy treaty with the Persians, and They called for the support of the Greek king Alexander the Great.
- the story of the invention of the Second Temple was In Hellenistic period as one of the tools that was used to fabricate a national history of the Jews.