

Appendix 2D

CALENDAR YEAR COMPARISON TIMELINE From the Post-David Kingdom Division to the Death of Alexander the Great

I. Introduction.

It has been impossible for scholars to compile a verified chronology from ancient tablets. The writings of four ancient historians--Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon and Ctesias, all of whom did live as early as the time of the Persian empire--were assimilated into the extant chronology, which, as it stands, embraces a good deal of guesswork. In some instances the primary sources contradict one another. Calendaring the period of decomposition of the greater Assyrian empire rests largely on a "canon" compiled by one Ptolemy, some six centuries after the events.¹ Further, some Assyrian royal annals are thought 'edited' by successive monarchs for their own glorification, and thus are not fully reliable. Comparison of major uncertainties and differences posed in derivations are noted in the Timeline, sub-part III.

Column A - "Dates per Text Calculations" calendars the terms of the kings of Judah and Israel calculated strictly from the biblical texts.²

Column B - "Average Common Dates Given" are as found in *Timeline, Asimov* and otherwise as footnoted in that column.

Column C - "Dates per Classic Sources" are as given in the *Cambridge Ancient History* unless otherwise noted. *Cambridge* references are denoted "v" = volume; "T" = Synchronistic Table; "KL" = Synchronized Kings List. The *Cambridge* text indicates uncertainties with a "?."

Columns B and C, at Judah king Jotham, diverge widely from column A's text-derivation (691 v. 757/754 b.c., about 63 years); and some continuing divergence could be attributable to uncertain co-reigns.³ Overall, the incremental differences of B and C largely tally with their lesser total than column A for resulting cumulative period years.

¹ One of its apparent sources, Berossus, is believed to have been a Babylonian priest who, c. the third century b.c., wrote a Babylon history in Greek based partially on cuneiform records.

² Refer to Appendix 2C, II, "Table of Kings."

³ Not detailed is a slight difference between *Timeline* and *Asimov* of seven years for the first four kings, which corresponds with *Asimov's* commencing the period of kings at 933 b.c. *Timeline* and *Asimov* agree (Athaliah/Joash) at 843 b.c., but then differ one to 10 years for the remainder of the period.

II. Total Years of the Period of Kings per Sources Outlined:

	-----A----- Per Table 2C.II	-----B----- <i>Timeline</i>	<i>Asimov</i>	-----C----- <i>Cambridge</i>	<i>Aid</i> ⁴
Date used for beginning of period ⁵	926	926	933	937	997
Date yielded or taken as fall of Babylon	<u>522</u>	<u>586</u>	<u>586</u>	<u>586</u>	<u>607</u>
Resulting cumulative Period years	404	340	347	351	390

III. Timeline.

Events	Palestine Rulers		A. Dates per Text Calculations	B. Avg. Common Dates Given	C. Dates per Classic Sources
	Judah	Israel			
Beginning of divided kingdoms. Shishak I ruler of Egypt	Rehoboam	Jeroboam	b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
				926	?937; ?932 v.III, T.
	Abijah		908	925	
	Asa		906	910	
				908	c. 914 v.III, T.
Asshurnasirpal II ruler of Assyria.		Nadab	904	907	
		Baasha	903	906	
				883	
		Elah	880	883	
		Zimri	879	882	c. 887 v.III, T.
Jezebel's father, Ethbaal/Ithobaal, King of Tyre and Sidon.		Omri/Tibni contention	879	882	" " "
		Omri/sole reign	875		
				873 (to 842)	
		Ahab	868	871	c. 876 v.III, T.
		Jehoshaphat	865/864	868	c. 874 " " "
Shalmaneser III ruler of Assyria.				858 (to 824)	
		Ahaziah-N	847/846	852	

⁴ *Aid's* calendaring of the period commences with 997 b.c., based on premises set forth in that volume. Its chronology roughly parallels column A's king's tenures down to king Uzziah with a constant difference of 70-74 years; subsequently, an 84- to 86-year difference is constant through Zedekiah, excepting a 94-year difference at Hoshea. (Although this appendix does not compare the *Aid* calendar in detail, it is noted that certain of its estimates may meet the chronology of some events, e.g. the year assigned to the fall of Nineveh (see Appendix 2C, V, "Tobit," fn. 16).

⁵ This uncertain date of period commencement more recently was fixed by Kenneth A. Kitchen, professor of Egyptology, University of Liverpool, as 931/930 b.c., based on his calculations of the tenure of king Shoshenq of Egypt--*BAR*, "How We Know When Solomon Ruled," vol. 27, no. 4, p. 32.

Events	Palestine Rulers		A.	B.	C.
	Judah	Israel	Dates per Text Calculations	Avg. Common Dates Given	Dates per Classic Sources
			b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
		Jehoram-N	846	851	
	Jehoram-S		841 ⁶	847	
	Ahaziah-S		835	844	
		Jehu	834-833	843	
	Athaliah		833	843	
Shalmaneser III occupations in upper Mesopotamia and regions east of the Euphrates; deportations of Medes and Persians to other areas dominated by Assyria.				837	
	Joash-S		826	837	
		Jehoahaz-N	803	816	
		Joash-N	789	801	c. 800 v.III, T.
	Amaziah		787	800	
Shalmaneser IV ruler of Assyria.				782 (to 772)	
		Jeroboam II	772	785	c. 785?" v.III, T.
	Uzziah		745	770	c. 780 " " "
750 - 600 b.c.e., Greek colonies planted in Asia Minor.		Zechariah ⁷	707	747-746	
		Shallum	706	746	
		Menahem	706	746	c. 745 v. III, T.
Tiglath Pileser III ⁸ ruler of Assyria.				746/744 (to 727)	
[Camb.: Menahem paid tribute to Assyria in "738." <i>Camb.</i> v. III, p. 378.]		Pekahiah	695	737	
		Pekah	693	735	c. 735 v. III, T.
	Jotham		691	757 ⁹	754 " " "

⁶ or 840/839; see Table 2C, II, "Table of Kings," fn. 2.

⁷ See Table 2C, II, fn. 7.

⁸ One notable divergence of datings involves this Assyrian monarch, commonly taken as reigning to 727 b.c. Per *2 Kings* 15:29, it was in the "days of Pekah" of Israel that "Tiglath-pileser" took, among other areas, "Gilead, and Galilee, and all the land of Naphtali, and removed them to Assyria." Further, *2 Kings* 16:7 relates that Ahaz sought aid from "Tiglath-pileser." *1 Chronicles* 5:26 can be read to imply two separate Assyrian kings and possibly two captivities--when there was stirred up "the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgath-Pileser king of Assyria, and he exiled them" (the tribes named being east-Jordaners). Yet *2 Kings* 15:19 describes how "Pul the king of Assyria" extracted tribute from Menahem. The name Pul/Pulu was found on a dynastic tablet known as the "Babylonian King List A," while "Tiglath-pileser (Tukultiapilesharra)" appears in what is deemed a corresponding site on a second tablet chronicle. (See also fn. 14.)

Events	Palestine Rulers		A.	B.	C.
	Judah	Israel	Dates per Text Calculations	Avg. Common Dates Given	Dates per Classic Sources
			b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
Assyria took Damascus; Assyria ruler of Syria/Aram.	Ahaz		676	734	735 v. III, T.
Shalmaneser V ruler of Assyria.		Hoshea	664	c. 732	c. 732 “ “ “
Shalmaneser began sieges of Samaria region.				726 (to 722)	
Samaria fell.				725	
Per biblical texts, however, the North's capital of Samaria fell to Assyria “9th year of Hoshea,” “6th year of Hezekiah”			655?	722	722 v.III, KL.
Sargon II ruler of Assyria; deportations.				? ¹⁰	
“Rise of Elam.”				721 (to 705)	720-710 v.III, T.
Elamites sustained defeats by Sargon II. ¹¹				721/710	
Assyria, in occupation of Samaria, advanced to Egypt's border.				720	
	Hezekiah ¹²		661/660	716	
Sennacherib ruled Assyria.				705-704 (to 681)	705 v. III, T.
(Sennacherib campaigned against Elam.)					
Merodach/Berodach-baladan, a “Chaldean,” ¹³ rebelled against Assyria with Elamite backing, and proclaimed himself king of Babylon.				703	
Merodach-baladan sent envoys to Hezekiah for support against Assyria. ¹⁴				?	?

⁹ Jotham co-regent with Uzziah, 757 b.c.; Ahaz co-regent with Jotham, 742 b.c.. (Jotham, alone, c. 740--*Camb.* v. III, T.)

¹⁰ Josephus, *AJ* X.IX.7, states that the “two [southern] tribes [were] carried away by Nebuchadnezzar 136 years, 6 months and 10 days after the fall of Hoshea.” If the date of the south's exile is taken at 586 b.c., this date would be (586 + 136-1/2 =) 722. If the “6th year of Hezekiah” includes the three years' co-regency with Ahaz (see fn. 13), that date would be (719 - 6 =) 713 b.c. and (713 - 136-1/2 =) 577/576 b.c., or a difference of 9-10 years. *En fin*, the relative dating of the north and south falls is open to question.

¹¹ *New Century Cyclopedia*, p. 1418.

¹² Per *Camb.* v. III, T., Hezekiah co-regent with Ahaz 719-716.

¹³ See Appendix 1F, *Chaldea, etc.* (and particularly, *Ur*, in that appendix), concerning difficulties in exact defining of this term.

¹⁴ A Tiglath-pileser III inscription refers to Merodach-baladan, who ruled a Chaldean tribe put under tribute during a campaign in Babylonia and is taken to have stayed in power in Babylon approximately 12 years. (There is a discrepancy in deriving Hezekiah's term; the texts report that Ahaz was a king at 20, ruled 16 years, yet had 25-year-old “son,” Hezekiah, who succeeded him.)

Events	Palestine Rulers		A.	B.	C.
	Judah	Israel	Dates per Text Calculations	Avg. Common Dates Given	Dates per Classic Sources
			b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
Deioces established as king in Media. ¹⁵ (53-year reign; to 647).				700	
Sennacherib won a major battle on the Tigris against Elam.				691 ¹⁶	
Babylon taken by Sennacherib; he crowned himself king of Babylon.				689	
	Manasseh		632	689	c. 692 v. III, T.
Sennacherib was slain by two of his sons. They in turn were defeated by a third son, Esar-haddon.					
Assyria ruled by Esar-haddon.				680 (to 669)	681 " " "
Assyria's empire, which included Egypt, Syria/Aram, Palestine, Arabia and parts of Turkey and Persia, decayed gradually between 680 and 630, as all frontiers became more difficult to hold.					
With the death of Esar-haddon, strife between his two sons resulted in a divide-of rule--Asshurbanipal in Assyria and Shamash-shum-ukin in Babylon.					
Assyria evacuated Egypt in 651; Egypt embarked on independent growth.					" " "
"Assyria" ruled by Assurbanipal.				668 (to 627)	669 " " "
Civil war in Elam.					650-630 " " "
Phraortes II (to 625) succeeded Deioces in Media.					
Asshurbanipal defeated Susa/Elam.				647/645 ¹⁷	
Egypt dominated by Ethiopia.				To 663	
Cyaxares I reign of 40 years began over Media.					634 ¹⁸
	Amon		577	642	c. 638 " " "
	Josiah		575	640	c. 637 " " "
Last record of reign of Asshurbanipal					639 " " "

¹⁵ Refer to Appendix 3A, III, "Narrative, *Herodotus* and *Xenophon*," which commences at this point. (700 b.c. as the date of commencement of Deioces commonly has been derived loosely, by subtracting "520 years" of Assyrian domination over the Medes, as reported by Herodotus, from 1275 b.c., the date commonly taken as the beginning of Assyrian regional control. Some 55 appear unaccountable. "By Herodotus' own calculations, Assyrian rule of Upper (i.e. east of the Halys) Asia would have begun c. 1220." *Herodotus*, deSelincourt trans., page 556, fn. 45 to Book One.

¹⁶ *New Century Cyclopaedia*, p. 1418.

¹⁷ These dates, respectively, from *Persians: Masters of Empire*, Time-Life Books, Alexandria, VA 1995, and *New Century Cyclopaedia*, p. 1418.

¹⁸ *Xenophon Cyropaedia*, Loeb Ed., Appendix II. (A period of Scythian control over Media between 652 and 625 apparently was included by Herodotus in the regnal years of Phraortes; *Herodotus*, deSelincourt trans., Chronology, 2. Median Kings, unnumbered page following page xxxviii.)

Events	Palestine Rulers		A.	B.	C.
	Judah	Israel	Dates per Text Calculations	Avg. Common Dates Given	Dates per Classic Sources
[630-625, Assyrian power weakened by invasions; Scyths invaded Syria, captured Askalon; <i>Camb.</i> v. III, T.]			b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
Revolt in Assyria of Chaldaean Nabopolassar.					626 v. III, T.
Nabopolassar "Chaldaean" dynasty established.				626	626 " " "
"Assyrian"/"Babylonian" hostilities commenced; anarchy in Assyria.					625 " " "
Egypt allied with Assyria.					625 " " "
Cyaxares I ruled Media (40-year reign).			625 (to 585)		634 (to 584) ¹⁹
Nabopolassar/Babylon and Cyaxares/Media both oppose Assyria.					616 v.III, T.
Jewish military colony at <i>Elephantine</i> .					615 " " "
Media sacked Asshur, long-time capital of the Assyrian empire.					614 " " "
Media (Cyaxares I) and Babylon (Nabopolassar) united and took Nineveh in Nabopolassar's "14th year." ²¹				612	612 " " "
[612-610 b.c., Assyrian government, under Ashur-uballit, removed itself to Harran in north Syria.]					
Cyaxares I and Nabopolassar marched on Harran.					610 " " "
The Assyrians evacuated, falling back to Carchemish.					
Harran was occupied by Babylonians and Scyths, and Nabopolassar left a garrison there.					610/609 " " "
Egypt ruled by Necho II.				609 (to 593)	609 " " "
Necho II, advancing to form a juncture to aid the Assyrians, entered Palestine and captured Gaza. At Megiddo, he defeated the opposing force of Judaeen king Josiah; Josiah was killed.				609/608	
"The people of the land" made Jehoahaz/Shallum, Josiah's son, king. ²³ He reigned three months.	Jehoahaz/Shallum		544	609/608	c. 610 " " "
Necho II imprisoned Jehoahaz, placed Judah under tribute, and made Josiah's son, Eliakim, king, "and changed his name to Jehoiakim." ²⁴	Jehoiakim		544	609/608	c. 607 v. III, KL

¹⁹ *Loc. cit.*

²⁰ Refer to Appendix 3B, I, *Elephantine*.

²¹ Per *Babylonian Chronicles*. "The fall of Nineveh closes the history of Assyria proper, completing the downfall of the Assyrian empire and the rise of the *Chaldeans*." *Camb.*, v.III, pp. 190; 129; 206, italics supplied. The Scythians, whose leader joined Cyaxares I and Nabopolassar in the final assault on Nineveh, subsequently were driven out of Assyria by the Medes.

²² "Came Necho to fight against Carchemish on the Euphrates and went out to meet him Josiah." *2 Chronicles* 35:20.

²³ *2 Kings* 23:29.

Events	Palestine Rulers		A.	B.	C.
	Judah	Israel	Dates per Text Calculations	Avg. Common Dates Given	Dates per Classic Sources
Nabopolassar by his 19th year had an army contingent under his crown prince-son, Nebuchadnezzar, who warred in the territories. Although Nabopolassar had advanced to relieve his outposts, he "was growing old and seems to have met with little success.... [He] entrusted the [full] command of his army to his son." (<i>Camb.</i> , v. III, p. 210). [-----Judith events?-----]			b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
A decisive victory at Carchemish sealed Assyria's total collapse, with Egypt and Babylonia the chief protagonists. Nebuchadnezzar drove Egypt back to its border but apparently did not then invade, in that he learned of his father's death and returned to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar now ruled Babylon, and Syria and Palestine were under his dominion. After being "a servant to Nebuchadnezzar three years," Jehoiakim rebelled.				605	607 v. III, T. c. 605 " " "
Victorious Babylonian forces swept over 'Hatti-country' (taken to be Syria and Palestine), "in the fourth year of king Jehoiakim." Media was on a westward move while Lydia held sway over Greek colonies in far west Asia minor (Lydia's cultural center was Sardes).				605/604	600 " " "
"In the seventh year...the king of Akkad mustered his troops, marched to the Hatti-land, and encamped against the city of Judah and... he seized the city and captured the king (<i>Babylonian Chronicles</i>)." "[[I]n year the seventh..."3,023" Judaeans were exiled" (<i>Jeremiah</i> 52:28)				598/597 ³⁰	"First exile" 597 " " "

²⁴ 2 Kings 23:33-34.

²⁵ Per cuneiform inscriptions (*Aid*, p. 1212).

²⁶ Refer to Appendix 2C, VI.

²⁷ The Egyptian army with Necho is reported at Carchemish, "which Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had struck in the 4th year of Jehoiakim;" *Jeremiah* 46:2.

²⁸ *Jeremiah* 46:2. Per *Daniel* 1:1 Nebuchadnezzar circled Jerusalem "the third year of Jehoiakim;" 1:2 does not specify captives taken then--see next footnote.

²⁹ "Since Jehoiakim's revolt against Babylon led to his downfall after about 11 years on the throne, the beginning of his vassalage to Babylon [*i.e.* in place of Egypt] must have begun toward the end of his eighth year of rule." *Aid*, p. 879. *Daniel* 1:6 reports Daniel among Nebuchadnezzar's captives; but the year remains uncertain.

³⁰ If Nebuchadnezzar's seventh year from Nabopolassar's death.

Events	Palestine Rulers		A.	B.	C.
	Judah	Israel	Dates per Text Calculations	Avg. Common Dates Given	Dates per Classic Sources
Jehoiachin, Eliakim/Jehoiakim's son, reigned for 3 months (+10 days)	Jehoiachin		b.c. 533	b.c. 598/597	b.c.
"[W]ent up the servants of Nebuchadnezzar...to Jerusalem...and besieged it." (2 Kings 24:10). Jehoiachin and queen mother Nehushta surrendered. ³¹ Nebuchadnezzar "appointed there a king of his own choice, received...heavy tribute and sent to Babylon (Babylonian Chronicles)."	[Mattaniah/] Zedekiah		533	598/597	
9th year of Zedekiah, Nebuchadnezzar again camped against Jerusalem and built a siege mound around it (Jeremiah 52:4 and 39:1; 2 Kings 25:1).			524	589/588	
10th year of Zedekiah, "which the 18th year of Nebuchadnezzar, he exiled 832." ³²			523	588/587	
11th year of Zedekiah, the city was breached; Zedekiah's sons were killed and he, blinded and bound, was taken to Babylon--fall of Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar "laid [the] temple desolate" "in the 18th year of his reign." Josephus, <i>Against Apion</i> , I.1.21. Uncertainty remains as to year sequencing of the Nebuchadnezzar conquest and "Nebuzaradan" destruction--next item.			522	587/586	586 v.III, KL
In the "19th year of Nebuchadnezzar," his captain Nebuzaradan sacked Jerusalem, took a captivity and exiled an unstated number, leaving "the poorest of the land." ³³			522	586	
<u>For the high priest continuity during ensuing years, refer to Appendix 3B, II, sub-part II, C.</u>					
Astyages (35-year reign) succeeded as king of Media. Prolonged struggles between Lydia under king Alyattes and Media				585	584 ³⁴

³¹ Nebuchadnezzar exiled, together with Jehoiachin, Nehushta, and all of the king's harem, "all the officers, and all the mighty men of valor, even 10,000 captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths; none remained except the poorest people...." 2 Kings 24:12-16.

³² Jeremiah 52:29 and 32:1-2; refer to next footnote.

³³ 2 Kings 25:11. According to Jeremiah 52:30, it was in Nebuchadnezzar's "23rd" year [which would have been 582] that Nebuzaradan exiled 745 persons (see below at year 582). Jeremiah also states that "all the souls [of the three exiles there mentioned, were] 4,600." 3,023 (fn. 28) and 832 (fn. 32) plus this 745 = 4,600, which does not include the 10,000 mentioned in fn. 31.

³⁴ Xenophon *Cyropaedia*, Appendix II.

Events	A. Dates per Text Calculations	B. Avg. Common Dates Given	C. Dates per Classic Sources
	b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
under Cyaxares I, over some five years c. 590, ended with a negotiated peace treaty between Alyattes and Cyaxares I's successor, king Astyages of Media. (<i>This date is fixed "with fair certainty to 585 b.c. by the mention of an eclipse."</i>)		585	585 v. III, KL ³⁵
23rd year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan exiled 745 (<i>Jeremiah 52:28</i>).		582	
Cambyzes I of Anshan married Astyages' daughter, Mandane.			<i>Between 574-570</i> v. III, T.
Tyre (under its king Ithobaal/Ethbaal III) fell to Nebuchadnezzar after a long siege.			573 " " "
Accession of Amasis in Egypt.			569 v. IV, p.16
Unrest on Babylon's eastern frontiers.			
Nebuchadnezzar died.		562/561	562 v III, p 217
Amel/Awil-Marduk/ Evil Merodach ruled Babylon. ³⁶		562	562 v. III, T; IV, p16
Amel-Marduk at his court lifted Jehoiachin to royal status in Jehoiachin's 37th year of captivity.		561-560	562-561 v. III, T.
Amel-Marduk assassinated.		560	
Nergalsher-usur/Neriglissar ruled Babylon. ³⁷			559 v. III, T.
Neriglissar's end is not specified. ³⁷			
Labashi-Marduk succeeded in Babylon but was killed in his accession year in a conspiracy.		556	556 " " "
Nabonidus ruled Babylon.		556/555	556 " " "
Cyrus II, "king of Anshan," deposed his grandfather, Media's king Astyages. [Cyaxares II succeeded in Media, but Cyrus II quickly became <i>de facto</i> leader and combined Median and Persian forces. ³⁸]		550	550 " " "
Nabonidus of Babylon "left government in his son's hands;" ³⁹ conquered Arabian township of Teima (of most ancient Midian territory) and installed himself there by:			549 v. III, p.222
Cyrus II advanced on Lydia, whose king Croesus (who had succeeded Alyattes), looked (according to <i>Herodotus</i>) to Babylonian king			

³⁵ *Also Camb.* v. III, pp. 215 and 512.

³⁶ Historian Alexander Polyhistor and *Xenophon* appendix both show 561; *Josephus* gives Merodach an 18-year reign as opposed to 2 years.

³⁷ Refer to Appendix 3A for details of this and the ensuing period and familial relationships.

³⁸ 550 is the common date given for Cyrus II "taking over Media," however, *Xenophon* shows Cyaxares II as Media's titled ruler, with Cyrus II over the "Persian" forces, until after the fall of Babylon; see Appendix 3A, III, Herodotus/Xenophon narrative.

³⁹ Refer to Appendix 3A, II, "Descendancy Chart, Neo-Babylonians"—specifically, part C (2) (b), for details on Belshazzar, Daniel, etc.

Events	A. Dates per Text Calculations	B. Avg. Common Dates Given	C. Dates per Classic Sources
<p>[Labynetus]/Nabonidus⁴⁰ for aid. Croesus had marshalled a force to confront Cyrus II. Cyrus II pushed Croesus back to Sardes. Egypt, Babylonia, Lydia, Sparta, etc. were united against the Persians, who had seized the south Babylonian coast. (<i>Camb.</i> v. III, T.) Fall of Sardes to Cyrus II's combined Medo/Persian forces and their allies.</p>	b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
<p>Battle of Opis. "[B]y 540 b.c.," all Anatolia and Asia Minor's Greek colonies "obeyed...and paid duties of Cyrus" (<i>Camb.</i> v.III T; p. 526). Cyrus II prepared for a seige of Babylon.</p>			c. 546 v. IV, T.
<p>"Belshazzar"⁴¹ was sitting at Babylon city's court.</p>		539/538	
<p>Cyrus II took Babylon but preserved the city.⁴²</p>		538	539/538
<p>"In the first year of Cyrus the King of Babylon" Cyrus numbered "to Sheshbazzar the leader of Judah" 5400 vessels of gold and silver taken by Nebuchadnezzar, which items were brought up by Sheshbazzar to Jerusalem "when were led up [some of] the exiled from Babylon to Jerusalem." (<i>Ezra</i> 1:7, 11) Cyrus gave the vessels "to Sheshbazzar whose name whom governor [<i>sic.</i>] he [Cyrus] made. ... Then Sheshbazzar that came laid the foundations of the house...." (<i>Ezra</i> 5:14-16)</p>	538-537		
<p><u><i>Refer to Appendix 3A, IV, "Explorative Timeline, High Priests Jeshua to Jaddua, Including Ezra/Mehemiah Involvements," for repatriation returns and other events between 538 and 433 b.c.</i></u></p>			
<p>Cyrus II died.</p>		530-529	⁴³ 529
<p>(Cyrus II-) Cambyses II ruled the greater Persia empire (7-1/2 year reign⁴⁴).</p>		529-522	
<p>Persians defeated the Egyptians at Pelusium. Cambyses led his army by the coast route from Gaza to Egypt, where he won a battle against the Egyptian army, which included Ionian and Carion mercenaries. The Egyptian forces retreated to Memphis.</p>			525 v. III, T.

⁴⁰ Uncertainties exist in "Labynetus/Nabonidus" identities-- refer to parts noted in the foregoing footnote.

⁴¹ Belshazzar as the ruling prince name is used only by *Daniel*; refer to Appendix 3A, II, "Descendancy Chart, Neo-Babylonians."

⁴² Cuneiform tablets give Cyrus II a rule of nine years over Babylon.

⁴³ *Xenophon Cyropaedia*, Appendix II.

⁴⁴ The first five years of Cambyses II may be off three years, if certain inscriptions count from his Egyptian conquest rather than his succession.

Events	A. Dates per Text Calculations	B. Avg. Common Dates Given	C. Dates per Classic Sources
Cambyses II's successful Egyptian expedition reached Memphis, ⁴⁵ which was conquered after a siege "of some duration." "By the end of May 525 b.c. Cambyses II was recognized as king of Egypt."	b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
Cambyses II died at Harran enroute home, having heard of palace takeover. ⁴⁶ A purported imposter, "Smerdis"/(Bardiya/Gaumata) ruled Persia.	516 513	525 522	525 v. IV p. 20 522 ? 522-521 v. III, T.
Darius I ruler of Persia. Darius I led a successful coup for the Persian throne, but had to spend the first year quelling revolts in many parts of the empire, including Susa and Babylon. Babylon was subdued after a 19-month siege, in which Darius had the assistance of "his father, Hystaspes," and ultimately took Ecbatana. <i>Camb.</i> pp. 176-177. "Palestine was not named among rebellious provinces;" <i>Camb.</i> v. III, p. 411.	513 (to 478)	522/521 (to 486)	
Darius I established satrapies, "the fifth, known as Abar-Nahara, i.e. Beyond-the-River, consisted of Syria, Phoenicia, Palestine and Cyprus." ⁴⁷ Egypt, which temporarily had shed Persia's yoke, was reconquered by Darius I, <i>circa</i> : Persia under Darius I invaded and captured northern Greece and Macedonia. Darius I's construction of a 125-mile canal between the Nile and Suez opened sea commerce between Mediterranean and Red Sea.	512-510		517 v. IV, T.
Persia under Darius I invaded Greece mainland but was turned back at Marathon. Darius I died; Persia ruled by Xerxes I. "By the time of Xerxes," the Nabataeans (whose occupation of Edom, after the Babylonian captivity of the Jews a century before, enabled the Edomites to move westward into the Negeb and Judaea) were established at Petra, "where they controlled the crossing trade routes from the Gulf of Akaba to Syria and from Egypt to Babylonia." <i>Camb.</i> VI, p. 138.	478 (to 457)	500 491/490 486 (to 465)	491/490 " " "
Persia continued its attempt to conquer Greece and briefly captured Athens, but then Xerxes I retreated to Salamis where the Greeks demolished Persia's fleet.		480	480 " " "

⁴⁵ Enroute, Cambyses II spared the temple of Judaeen colonists at Elephantine.

⁴⁶ There are two different historical versions of his death--refer to Appendix 3A, III, Herodotus/Xenophon Narrative.

⁴⁷ "At times the same governor was placed in charge of two or more complete satrapies; for example, in the third year of Darius, Ushtanni (as a Babylonian contract-tablet attests) was the "satrap" of Beyond-the-River and Babylon, i.e. satrapies V and VI....cf. *Ezra* 5:3." "[A satrap] had to maintain good relations within his own province, and... questions often arose which required reference to the king, such as made by Tattenai (?Ushtanni), the satrap of Beyond-the-River, in the matter of rebuilding of the Jewish Temple which had been associated with disputes between the Jews and Samaritans." "Within certain satrapies, older or local forms of government were in a measure and with modifications perpetuated, such as...the Jews under high-priestly government and the law-book of Ezra (to which was given the force of state-law for the Jews by Artaxerxes, in the satrapy Beyond-the-River)." *Camb.* IV, pp. 195-197. (Connected events are covered in volume three.)

Events	A. Dates per Text Calculations	B. Avg. Common Dates Given	C. Dates per Classic Sources
<p>Meanwhile, revolts broke out against Persian rule in Egypt and Babylonia. Xerxes I returned from Salamis and suppressed a revolt of Babylon led by one Shamash-erba, who had assumed a full title of "King of Babylon and King of the Lands." (A revolt of Masistes, satrap of Bactria, also failed at the same time.) Xerxes I reduced Babylon from any notable position in the empire and built a new palace at Persepolis, which seems never to have been completed. Xerxes I spent the rest of his reign at Susa. <i>Camb.</i> VI pp. 2-3.</p>	b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
<p>Xerxes I was murdered in his 21st year. Persia ruled by Artaxerxes I "Longimanus."⁴⁸ (<i>Camb.</i> v.VI, pp.138 and pp. 2-3.)</p>	457 (to 416)	465 (to 424)	
<p>Artaxerxes I died after a 40-year reign.</p>			424 ⁴⁹ v. VI, p. 3.
<p>Persia ruled by Ochus/Darius II, son of Artaxerxes I.⁵⁰</p>	416	423	
<p>Artaxerxes II succeeded after the death of Darius II.⁵¹</p>	397	404 ⁵²	
<p>Cyrus III, with aid that included 10,000 Greeks, sought to overthrow Artaxerxes II (the "battle of Cunaxa") but perished in the fight.⁵³</p>		c. 401	
<p>In Artaxerxes II's reign, Persia's control of Asia Minor entered a seesaw of varying alliances involving both Greece proper and Asiatic Greek satrapies, as Greek civil warring was accompanied by revolts against Persia.</p>			
<p>Athens abandoned the Asiatic Greek cities and Cyprus to Persia.</p>			386 v. VI, pp. 19-21.
<p>Artaxerxes II attacked Egypt and failed.</p>			385-383 " " "
<p>Artaxerxes II overcame a major rebellion of his Greek coastal Asia Minor satrapies.</p>			

⁴⁸ There is a major difference between sources as to the end of Xerxes I and beginning of Artaxerxes I. Persian inscriptions do not give length of rulerships, a problem compounded by possible identical kings' names.

⁴⁹ Per *Asimov*, 450; per *Aid*, 443/442.

⁵⁰ Artaxerxes I initially was succeeded by son Xerxes II, who almost immediately was killed by his half-brother, Sogdianus. Sogdianus reigned some months until half-brother, Ochus, supervened and "took the crown very early in 423 as Darius II" (whom "the Greeks nicknamed *Nothos*, 'the bastard'). *Cambridge*, v. VI, p. 3.

⁵¹ Cyrus III, Darius II's son and governor in Asia Minor, had been passed over in the succession. He became a dedicated enemy of Artaxerxes II, who on his succession had Cyrus imprisoned as a conspirator. Cyrus was saved through the influence of his mother (Parsyatis) and returned to govern his satrapy.

⁵² *Blank*.

⁵³ *Xeno Anabasis*, Miller Trans., Volume 1; *Cambridge*, vol. VI, pp. 4ff.

Events	A. Dates per Text Calculations b.c.	B. Avg. Common Dates Given b.c.	C. Dates per Classic Sources b.c.
Artaxerxes II died within the year. 359, Macedonia under Philip II overtook Greece, defeating Athens and Thebes.			359 v. VI, pp. 19-21.
Artaxerxes III (another Ochus) succeeded after the death of Artaxerxes II. Artaxerxes III invaded Egypt (c. 351) and failed; faced new uprisings in Asia Minor; took Sidon (c. 345); re-allied with Thebes.			358 v. VI, p. 3.
Artaxerxes III finally succeeded in mastering Egypt. Mentor (commander of Egypt's mercenaries for former pharaoh Nectanebo), together with fellow-general Bagoas (the "Chiliarch"), became "most important forces in Persia—Bagoas really became Grand Vizier."			c. 343 v. VI, p. 21ff. " " "
Artaxerxes III refused support to Athens against the campaigning of Philip II of Macedonia. 342, Philip II with combined Macedonian and Greek forces, was determined to invade Persia.			
Artaxerxes III was poisoned by Bagoas, who installed (Artaxerxes III-) Arses/Artaxerxes IV as king. Bagoas poisoned Arses within two years and installed Darius III Codomannus. ⁵⁴			338 " " " 336 v. VI, p. 23.
Philip of Macedonia was assassinated and was succeeded by his son, Alexander (the Great). By 335 b.c. every Greek state except Sparta had submitted to Alexander. Alexander, as commander-in-chief of Macedonia and the League of Corinth, began his invasion of Persia.			336 ⁵⁵
Alexander routed the Persians in the first battle, at Issus in north Syria. "Darius offered to give up all Asia west of the Euphrates and pay 1000 talents, but Alexander demanded unconditional surrender. All Phoenicia, except Tyre, submitted." ⁵⁶		333	334

⁵⁴ Who in turn poisoned Bagoas. (There is no known cuneiform evidence for the dating of these events.)

⁵⁵ Alexander-related details are given in Appendix 3A, III ("Narrative, *Herodotus* and *Xenophon*") commencing at fn. 51, and in Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 4.

⁵⁶ *Ency.*, p. 65.

Events	A. Dates per Text Calculations	B. Avg. Common Dates Given	C. Dates per Classic Sources
<p>Darius III retreated. Alexander did not pursue Darius immediately. Instead, making for Egypt, he proceeded to capture Tyre in a seven-month siege. The Samaria region opposed Alexander, who made it a Macedonian colony. Alexander then advanced on Egypt "by the immemorial route through Palestine," first overcoming two months of resistance by Gaza. Alexander was welcomed by chief priest Jaddua at Jerusalem. Egypt's Persian satrap submitted to Alexander on his arrival in Egypt in November, 332. Alexander founded Alexandria, Egypt, <i>circa</i>. By the summer of 331 Alexander had crossed the Euphrates again resuming pursuit of Darius III. After a decisive October battle at Gaugamela (from which Darius III again fled), Alexander moved on to Babylon, which welcomed him. He next secured Persis, taking Susa, Persepolis and Pasargadae. In the spring he entered Media and occupied Ecbatana, to which Darius III had retreated. Death of Darius III⁵⁷ and the commencement of Alexander the Great's reign as "King of the Lands."</p>	b.c.	b.c.	b.c.
			332
		332-331	332
		331	
		330	

⁵⁷ Alexander's tenacious pursuit ended midsummer when two of Darius' co-fugitive officers stabbed Darius as Alexander was descending on them.