

539	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nabonidus flees Babylon and goes 11 miles south to Borsippa (the site of the famous ziggurat which still stands today and is identified in the Talmud as the actual Tower of Babel.) September, Cyrus defeats Babylon at Opis and Sippara. Only the double wall of the city of Babylon remains. October 12, Belshazzar is having a drunken feast when the Lord writes on the plaster of the banquet hall wall: “Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin” Belshazzar’s mother Nitocris (Nebuchadnezzar’s daughter) hears the noise and enters the banquet hall and suggests that Belshazzar send for a man named Daniel. Daniel interprets the writing to mean: God has numbered your days, you have been weighed on the scales and your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and the Persians. The Persian military under the leadership of Darius the Mede enter Babylon that night, kill Belshazzar and take over the city of Babylon. October 29, Cyrus enters Babylon himself. Cyrus is presented as a gracious liberator. Cyrus reverses the policies of the Assyrians and the Babylonians by sending the captured cultures back to their homelands. Daniel is 84 years old if he was taken captive at the age of 18 in 605 BC. Daniel prays the prayer in Daniel chapter 9 and receives a visit from Gabriel explaining the “seventy ‘sevens’ ” (9:24) Daniel may have shown Cyrus Isaiah 41:2-7, 25; 44:28; 45:1 along with Jeremiah 25:11, 12. Josephus says Cyrus read these prophecies and an “earnest desire and ambition seized upon him to fulfill what was written.” Thus, 2 Chronicles 36:22, 23 says, “In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word spoken by Jeremiah the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus, king of Persia, to make a proclamation throughout his realm . . .” The people were sent back to Jerusalem. Read Ezra 1:1-3 	<p>Daniel 5</p> <p>Babylon Falls to Darius</p> <p>Cyrus Arrives</p> <p>Daniel 9</p> <p>Jews sent back to their land.</p>
PERSIAN-MEDE EMPIRE		
538	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darius appoints 120 satraps to rule the kingdom with three administrators over them. One of the administrators was Daniel. Darius planned on putting Daniel over the whole kingdom (Dan.6:3). King Darius is tricked into putting Daniel, age 85, into the lions den. Cyrus allows any Jews to return and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem 	<p>Daniel in the Lion’s Den</p> <p>Daniel 6</p> <p>Ezra 1:2</p>
537	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darius the Mede dies and Cyrus takes the title of King of Persia A remnant of the Jews return to Jerusalem. It has been 70 years since the first captivity in 605 counting both the year 605 and 537 and the 68 years between 800 mile journey from the Chebar River to Jerusalem Cyrus provided money, orders for people to assist Jews and the temples sacred vessels. The returning Jews left in Mar/Apr and arrived in Jerusalem in Jun/July 	<p>Ezra 2</p> <p>Jews Return 70 Years After First Captivity</p>
536	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An angel comes to Daniel after he fasted for 3 weeks. Daniel receives his final revelation in Daniel 10, 11 and 12. Chapter 11 will cover the history from the time of Cyrus (536) up through the Macabbean Revolt against 	<p>Daniel 10, 11, 12</p> <p>Ezra 3</p>

	<p>Antiochus Epiphanies (168). The prophecy then continues with the rise of the anti-Christ (11:36)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zerubbabel goes to rebuild the temple • The altar is built and the foundation for the temple is laid. • Samaritan's begin to oppose the Jew's efforts to rebuild the temple (Ez. 4:1-5) 	<p>Zerubbabel</p> <p>Altar Rebuilt Ezra 4:1-5</p> <p>Jews Opposed</p>
534	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyrus gives his son Cambyses the task of preparing for an expedition against Egypt which will finally be unleashed in 525 BC 	<p>Cambyses</p>
530	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 26, at the New Years festival Cyrus appoints his son, Cambyses, as his co-regent and successor. Cambyses is given title "King of Babylon" and Cyrus maintains the title "King of Kings." 	
529	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyrus dies on the battle field versus nomadic barbarians • Cyrus was buried in Pasargadae one of the five capital cities (Babylon, Ecbatana, Persepolis, Pasargadae and Susa) • Cyrus had built an enormous empire with roads, postal system and legal codes. • Cambyses secures the throne by murdering his brother Smerdis 	
525	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambyses totally defeats Egypt in the eastern delta of the Nile and captures Memphis. • Cambyses desired to capture the Oasis of Ammon further west in the desert and to march on to Carthage but his 50,000 troops perished in the desert and the Phoenician ships refused to land ships carrying Persian soldiers to attack the Phoenician colony of Carthage. 	<p>Cambyses Defeats Egypt</p>
522	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaumata, a pseudo-Smerdis, claims the throne back in Babylon • Cambyses disappears from history near Mt. Carmel on his return to Babylon 	
521	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darius Hystaspes executes Gaumata and takes the throne of the Persian empire • Darius Hystaspes searches the royal archives in Babylon and finds that Cyrus had ordered the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. Opposition stops. • Within two years Darius Hystaspes stabilizes the empire. 	<p>Darius Hystaspes</p>
520	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, minister in Jerusalem. • August 29, the word of the Lord comes to Haggai and the book of Haggai begins. • October 17, Haggai 2:1-9 the word of the Lord is a message for Zerubbabel, the governor, Joshua, the high priest, and the remnant of people • Oct/Nov Zechariah records his first message from the Lord in Zechariah 1:1-6 • Darius Hystaspes searches the royal archives in Babylon and finds that Cyrus had ordered the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. Opposition stops. • Rebuilding of the temple resumes after opposition had stopped it 16 years earlier. (Ezra 5-6) • December 18, 520, Haggai prophesies blessings on the remnant (Hag. 2:10-23) 	<p>Haggai</p> <p>Zechariah</p> <p>Haggai 1:1-15 Haggai 2:1-9 Zechariah 1:1-6 Ezra 5-6 Haggai 2:10-23</p>

519	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 15, in one night Zechariah is given a series of eight night visions in one night: 	Zechariah 1:7-6:8
518	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 7, Zechariah receives the word of the Lord in the fourth year of Darius Hystaspes (Zech. 7) 	Zechariah 7
516	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The temple is completed by Zerubbabel. It has been 70 years since the temple was destroyed in 586. 	Ezra 6:13-18 Temple Rebuilt 70 Years After It Was Destroyed
490	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darius attacks Athens by sailing across the Aegean Sea and land 20 miles from Athens on the plains of Marathon. The Persians had 600 ships with 20,000 men; Athenians had 10,000 men A Greek runner ran 150 miles in 36 hours to Sparta for help but Sparta didn't come Miltiades, an Athenian general, launched an attack by charging down the hill in formation with thin middle ranks. Persia broke through the middle line but found themselves trapped and rushed back to their ships The Persians headed for the bay of Athens but the Athenians out ran them there and Persia returned home. Athenians captured 7 Persian ships. Casualties suffered: Persia-6,400 Athens-192 	Battle of Marathon
485	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerxes begins to reign Samaritans take this chance to file a complaint (Ezra 4:6) Xerxes says stop rebuilding the rebellious city Jerusalem 	Xerxes Ezra 4:6
483	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerxes displays his vast wealth and military power at a banquet in preparation for his invasion of Greece. 	Esther 1
481 480 479	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerxes goes to war against Greece. Persia fights the battles of: Thermopylae – The movie “300” with Spartan king Leonidas with his 300 men fight Xerxes Salamis – Persians occupied Athens and burned the temple. The Persians move their ships into a strait through a bottle neck thinking the beached Greek trireme ships were trapped. Xerxes watched from his ivory throne placed on a hill in disbelief as his ships were rammed, congested and unable to maneuver while Persians ships continued to sail into the bottle neck. Xerxes headed back to Persia leaving behind 1/3 of his troops that burnt Athens to the ground. Plataea – In what looked like a rout of the Greeks, the Persians failed to stay organized and are driven from Greece These Greek battles fulfill Daniel 11:2 “a fourth Persian king, who will be far richer. . .will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.” This sets the stage for the rise of Alexander the Great who will seek deliverance and revenge for the burning of Athens in 336 BC. 	Battles of: Thermopylae Salamis Plataea Daniel 11:2

478	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Esther goes to Xerxes and becomes Queen in Dec/Jan 	Esther 2
474	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Esther's fifth year as queen. April 17 is the date set to meet to determine fate of Jews 	Esther 3:7 Haman Esther Mordecai
473	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to Haman's plans and Xerxes order the Jews are to be killed in Persia on March 7 March 7, the Jews defend themselves. The Jews kill 500 men in Susa and 10 of Haman's sons. 	Esther 3:12-14
465	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerxes is inside his bedchamber when he is assassinated by 3 conspirators. They convince Artaxerxes, Xerxes's son, to slay his older brother. They then try to kill Artaxerxes who is only wounded but kills his attacker. Artaxerxes becomes Persian Emperor and will reign for 41 years Esther would be about 38 years old if she became queen when she was 25. 	Artaxerxes
464	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artaxerxes says to stop rebuilding the rebellious city Artaxerxes says "this city will not be rebuilt until I so order." 	Ezra 4:7-23 Ezra 4:21 Daniel 9:25
458	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Artaxerxes' seventh year he issues the decree to rebuild and restore Jerusalem April 8, Ezra leaves Babylon and arrives in Jerusalem on August 4 December 19 the people assemble and the investigation of intermarriage begins 	Decree to Rebuild Ezra Ezra 7: 8-9, 12-26 Daniel 9:25 Ezra 10:9-16
457	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ezra committee ends their three month long investigation into intermarriage by Mar/Apr 	Ezra 10:17
446	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov/Dec, Nehemiah is in Susa and hears a report from a Jew from Jerusalem that the walls of Jerusalem have not been rebuilt 	Nehemiah Nehemiah 1
445	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artaxerxes 20th year Mar/Apr, Nehemiah, Artaxerxes cup bearer, speaks to Artaxerxes about Jerusalem's ruined wall system (Neh. 2:1) August 10, Nehemiah begins to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem Opposition to building the walls (Neh. 4, 6) October 2, The walls of Jerusalem are completed in 52 days (Neh. 6:15) October 8, Ezra reads the Law to public for first time in thirteen years (8:2) October 9, the people of Jerusalem celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles (8:13) October 30, Israel confesses their sin (Neh. 9) If Esther was 25 when she married Xerxes she is now 58. 	Nehemiah 2:1 Nehemiah 4 Nehemiah 6:15 Nehemiah 8:2 Nehemiah 8:13 Nehemiah 9
433	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nehemiah is recalled to Artaxerxes after a 12 year absence Artaxerxes is in his 32 year as the king of the Persian Empire 	Nehemiah 5:14; 13:6

Zechariah's Eight Visions on February 15, 519 BC

Zechariah 1-6

1. **Man among the myrtle trees** – God is watching and controlling history
2. **Four horns and four horn cutters** – God will remove the oppressive nations
3. **Measuring line** – Jerusalem will have a population explosion
4. **Garments for the High Priest** – God is reinstalling the priesthood of Aaron
5. **Golden lamp stand and two olive trees** – Joshua and Zerubbabel are anointed and are providing the oil for Israel's lamp
6. **Flying scroll** – There is a curse hanging over the land. Violators of the covenant will be removed from history
7. **Woman in a basket** – the system of evil will be returned to the pagan land of Babylonia but it will not be part of Israel's new nation.
8. **Four chariots** – God ultimate victory over the oppressive nations is won and judgment is brought to those nations

The Sequence of Salvation:

1. Grace - 12:10
2. Conscience of Sin - 12:10b
3. Mourning - 12:11-14
4. Salvation; Cleansing - 13:1
5. Consecration, the Righteous Lifestyle - 13:2-6