

EZRA & ESTHER - LESSON 1

King David (died 970)
Divided Kingdom (931)
Israel exiled to Assyria (722)
Isaiah preaches to Judah (died 680)

THE FOUR EARTHLY KINGDOMS OF DANIEL 2

Josiah
(640-609)
Jehoahaz
(609)
Jehoiakim
(609-598)
Jehoiachin
(598-597)
Zedekiah
(597-586)

Babylon...	
Nabopolassar (626-605)	Babylon defeats Assyria in 610. Jeremiah preaches in 608.
Nebuchadnezzar (605-562) Daniel 1-4 Lived like an ox (582-575)	Battle of Carchemish in 605. Daniel taken captive in 605. Ezekiel taken captive in 597. Jerusalem destroyed in 587. Obadiah preaches in 586. Ezekiel's vision in 573. <i>Buddha is born in 563.</i>
Amel-Marduk (562-560) 2 Kings 25:27-30	
Neriglissar (560-556)	
Labashi-Marduk (556)	
Nabonidus (556-539)	
Belshazzar (553-539) Daniel 5:1, 7:1, 8:1	

Persia...	
Cyrus the Great (559-530) Isaiah 44:28; 45:1; 45:13 & Ezra 4:5 Daniel 10:1	Cyrus the Great conquers Babylon in 539. <i>First Return under Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel in 539-538.</i>
Cambyses II (530-522)	Cambyses conquers Egypt in 525.
Pseudo-Smerdis (522)	
Darius I (522-486) (Darius the Great Darius Hystaspes) Ezra 4:5	Babylonian revolts in 522-521. Haggai & Zechariah preach in 520. Egyptian revolt in 519-518. Temple completed in 515. <i>Roman Republic founded in 509.</i> Greeks defeat Persians at Marathon in 490. Egyptian rebellion in 486.
Xerxes I (486-465) (Ahasuerus) Queen Esther Ezra 4:6 & Esther 1:1	Battle of Thermopylae in 480. Xerxes captures Athens in 480. Battle of Salamis in 480. Esther becomes Queen in 479. <i>Confucius dies in 479.</i>
Artaxerxes I (464-424) (Longimanus) Ezra 4:7; 7:1 Nehemiah 2:1; 5:14	<i>Second Return under Ezra in 458. Third Return under Nehemiah in 445. Parthenon is built in 440.</i> Malachi preaches in 433. <i>Plato is born in 427. Herodotus dies in 425.</i>
Darius II (423-404)	
Artaxerxes II (404-359)	<i>Socrates dies in 399. Aristotle is born in 384</i>
Artaxerxes III (359-338)	Alexander the Great is born in 356.
Arsas (338-336)	
Darius III (336-331)	Persia falls to Alexander the Great in 331.

Coregency
See Daniel 5:16

(1) BABYLON
Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 1:1)
Amel-Marduk (2 Kings 25:27-30)
Belshazzar (Daniel 5:1)

(2) PERSIA
Cyrus the Great
(Is. 44:28, 45:13, Ezra 4:5)
Darius I (Ezra 4:5, Zech. 1:1)
Xerxes I (Ezra 4:6, Esther 1:1)
Artaxerxes (Ezra 4:7, 7:1)

(3) GREECE
Alexander the Great (Zech. 9:1-8)
Cassander
Lysimachus
Ptolemy (Daniel 11)
Seleucus (Daniel 11)

(4) ROME
Julio-Claudian Dynasty
Augustus (Luke 2:1)
Tiberius (Luke 3:1)
Caligula
Claudius (Acts 11:28)
Nero (died AD 68)

Civil War Emperors
Galba
Otho
Vitellius

Flavian Dynasty
Vespasian
Titus
Domitian (died AD 96)

And in the days of **these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed. (Daniel 2:44, Acts 2)

The Three Decrees & The Three Returns

The decree of Cyrus in **Ezra 1:2-4** preceded the **first return** in 539-538 BC. The leaders of this return were Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel, and Jeshua. After their return, work on the temple was begun, sacrifices were made, and the Feast of the Tabernacles was celebrated. The Samaritans caused the work on the temple to stop for 19 years until 520 BC. The temple was completed in 515 BC.

The decree of Artaxerxes in **Ezra 7:11-13** preceded the **second return** in 458 BC. Ezra led 1500 men with their families to Jerusalem. He read the law to the people and commanded that the mixed marriages be dissolved and that the walls be rebuilt. The Samaritans again caused trouble, and the wall was torn down.

The decree of Artaxerxes in **Nehemiah 2:2-6** preceded the **third return** in 445 BC. Nehemiah asked the king to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The Samaritans ridiculed their efforts and spread rumors that Nehemiah planned an insurrection. The wall was rebuilt in 52 days.