

EZRA & ESTHER - LESSON 1

The Chronology of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

BABYLON	
Nabopolassar (626-605)	
Nebuchadnezzar (605-562) Daniel 1:1	
Amel-Marduk (562-560) 2 Kings 25:27-30	
Nergal-Shar-Usur (560-556)	
Labashi-Marduk (556)	
Nabonidus (556-539)	
Belshazzar ¹ (539) Daniel 5:1	



The Cyrus Cylinder is an ancient Persian clay cylinder dating from the 6th century BC. It was discovered in 1879.

Babylon defeats Assyria in 610.
Jeremiah preaches in 608.
Daniel taken captive in 605.
Ezekiel taken captive in 597.
Jerusalem destroyed in 587.
Obadiah preaches in 586.
Ezekiel's vision in 573.
Buddha is born in 563.



Persian gold coin showing Darius the Great (circa 490 BC)

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PERSIA	
Cyrus the Great ² (559-530) Isaiah 44:28;45:1;45:13 & Ezra 4:5	
Cambyses II (530-522) ³	
Smerdis (522) ⁴	
Darius I (522-486) (Darius the Great, Darius Hystaspes) Ezra 4:5	
Xerxes I (486-465) (Ahasuerus) Queen Esther Ezra 4:6 & Esther 1:1	
Artaxerxes I (464-424) (Longimanus) Ezra 4:7;7:1 & Neh. 2:1;5:14	
Darius II (423-404)	
Artaxerxes II (404-359)	
Artaxerxes III (359-338)	
Arsas (338-336)	
Darius III (336-331)	

Cyrus the Great conquers Babylon in 539.
First Return under Sheshbazzar in 538.

Cambyses conquers Egypt in 525.

Haggai & Zechariah preach in 520.
Temple completed in 515.
Roman Republic founded in 509.
Greeks defeat Persians at Marathon in 490.

Xerxes captures Athens in 480.
Esther becomes Queen in 479.
Confucius dies in 479.

Second Return under Ezra in 458.
Third Return under Nehemiah in 445.
Parthenon is built in 440.
Malachi preaches in 433.
Plato is born in 427.
Herodotus dies in 425.

Socrates dies in 399.
Aristotle is born in 384.
Alexander the Great is born in 356.

Persia falls to Alexander the Great in 331.

¹ Belshazzar ruled as Co-Regent with his father, Nabonidus.

² Darius the Mede in Daniel 5 was likely a local governor of Babylon under Cyrus the Great.

³ Some argue that "Ahasuerus" in Ezra 4:6 refers to Cambyses II instead of Xerxes I.

⁴ Some argue that "Artaxerxes" in Ezra 4:7 refers to Smerdis instead of Artaxerxes I.