

# Israel & Middle East King Charts

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## Bible Kings Legend

Chart from *Jealous, Exposing the Queen of Heaven* by Kelly Whitaker

**KEY:**

( ) – duration of reign	(J) – Judah	(E) – Egypt
* – direct contact with king	(I) – Israel	(M) – Media
<i>Italics</i> – allies	(Ar) – Aram (Syria)	(P) – Persia
ALL CAPS – enemies	(As) – Assyria	(S) – Israel Southern Kingdom
	(B) – Babylon	

### Israel Northern Kingdom 975-739 BC

Northern King	Prophets	Concurrent Kings	Worship
<b>Jeroboam I</b> 975 BC (22 yrs) Son of Nebat Family killed by Baasha 1 Ki 11:26-14:20; 2 Chr 10:2-13:20	Ahijah* Iddo	REHOBOAM (J) ABIJAM (J) Asa (J) Ben-Hadad I (Ar) <i>Shishak</i> (E)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Nadab</b> 954 BC (2 yrs) Son of Jeroboam Killed by Baasha 1 Ki 15:25-31	Ahijah Iddo	ASA (J) Ben-Hadad I (Ar)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Baasha</b> 953 BC (24 yrs) Son of Ahijah Family killed by Zimri 1 Ki 15:16-16:13; 2 Chr 16:1-6	Ahijah Iddo Jehu	ASA (J) BEN-HADAD I (Ar)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Zimri</b> 930 BC (7 days) Servant of Baasha Suicide 1 Ki 16:9-20	Jehu	Asa (J) Ben-Hadad I (Ar)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Omri</b> 930 BC (12 yrs) 1 Ki 16:16-28; Mi 6:16	Jehu Elijah	Asa (J) Ben-Hadad I (Ar) Ben-Hadad II (Ar)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Ahab</b> 918 BC (22 yrs) Son of Omri Killed in battle 1 Ki 16:28-22:40; 2 Ki 10:1; 2 Chr 18:1-34; Mi 6:16	Jehu Elijah Micaiah*	Asa (J) Jehoshaphat (J) BEN-HADAD II (Ar) Shalmaneser II (As)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah Astarte

## Israel Northern Kingdom 975-739 BC cont.

Northern King	Prophets	Concurrent Kings	Worship
<b>Ahaziah</b> 897 BC (2 yrs) Son of Ahab Married Athaliah Sickly death 1 Ki 22:40, 49; 2 Ki 1:1-18; 2 Chr 20:35-36	Elijah	Jehoshaphat (J) Ben-Hadad II (Ar)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Jehoram/ Joram</b> 897 BC (11 yrs) Son of Ahab Killed by Jehu 2 Ki 3:1- 9:26; 2 Chr 22:5-8	Elisha* Micaiah	Jehoshaphat (J) Jehoram (J) Ahaziah (J) Athaliah (J) Edom King Ben-Hadad II (Ar) HAZAEI (Ar) MESHA (Moab)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Jehu</b> 884 BC (28 yrs) Anointed by God 2 Ki 9:1-12:1; 2 Chr 22:7-8	Elisha	Athaliah (J) Joash (J) HAZAEI (Ar) Assur-Nazir I(As) Shalmaneser II (As)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Jehoahaz</b> 857 BC (17 yrs) Son of Jehu 2 Ki 10:35, 13:1-9, 22-23	Elisha	Joash (J) HAZAEI (Ar) BEN-HADAD III (Ar) Shalmaneser II (As)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Jehoash/Joash</b> 841 BC (16 yrs) Son of Jehoahaz 2 Ki 13:10-20, 24-25; 14:8-16; 2 Chr 25:17-24	Elisha* Jonah	Joash (J) AMAZIAH (J) Ben-Hadad III (Ar) Shalmaneser II (As)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Jeroboam II</b> 825 BC (41 yrs) Son of Joash Died by the sword 2 Ki 13:13; 14:15-29; Ho 1:1; Am 1:1; 7:7-13	Amos Jonah Hosea	Amaziah (J) Uzziah (J) Ben-Hadad III (Ar) Shalmaneser II (As) Samsi Vul IV (As) Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul (As)	Evil Isi/Hathor Asherah
<b>“Interregnum” 784-773BC</b>			
<b>Zechariah</b> 773 BC (6 mos) Son of Jeroboam II Killed by Shallum 2 Ki 14:29; 15:8-11	Hosea	Uzziah (J) Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul (As)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah

## Israel Northern Kingdom 975-739 BC cont.

Northern King	Prophets	Concurrent Kings	Worship
<b>Shallum</b> 773 BC (1 mo) Son of Jabesh Killed by Menahem 2 Ki 15:10-15	Hosea	Azariah (J) Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul (As)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Menahem</b> 773 BC (10 yrs) Son of Gadi 2 Ki 15:14-22	Hosea	Azariah (J) Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul (As)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Pekahiah</b> 761 BC (2 yrs) Son of Menahem Killed by Pekah 2 Ki 15:22-26	Hosea	Azariah (J) Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul (As) Assur-Daan III	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>Pekah</b> 759 BC (20 yrs) Son of Remaliah Killed by Hoshea 2 Ki 15:25-31; 16:5-6; 2 Chr 28:5-15; Isa 7:1-6	Hosea Isaiah	JOTHAM (J) AHAZ (J) Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul (As) Assur-Daan III (As) Assur-Nirari II (As) Rezin (Ar)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah
<b>"Anarchy" 739-730BC</b>			
<b>Hoshea</b> 730 BC (9 yrs) Son of Elah Made king by Pul Taken captive by Shalmaneser 2 Ki 15:30; 17:1-18:12	Hosea	Jotham (J) Ahaz (J) Hezekiah (J) Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul (As) SHALMANESER IV (As) Assur-Daan III (As) SO (E)	Evil Isis/Hathor Asherah

## Southern Kingdom: Judah & Benjamin 975 – 610 BC

Southern King	Prophets	Concurrent Kings	Worship
<b>Rehoboam</b> 975 BC (17 yrs) Son of Solomon 1 Ki 11:43-14:31; 2 Chr 9:31-12:16; 13:7	Shemaiah*	JEROBOAM (I) Ben-Hadad I (Ar) SHISHAK (E)	Good, later evil Ashtoreth on Mount of Destruction
<b>Abijam/Abijah</b> 958 BC (3 yrs) Son of Rehoboam 1 Ki 14:31-15:8; 2 Chr 11:20, 22; 2:16-4:1	Shemaiah	JEROBOAM (I) <i>Ben-Hadad I (Ar)</i>	Not wholly devoted to God Asherah Ashtoreth

## Southern Kingdom: Judah & Benjamin 975 – 610 BC cont.

Southern King	Prophets	Concurrent Kings	Worship
<b>Asa</b> 955 BC (41 yrs) Diseased feet in old age 1 Ki; 15:8-24, 32; 2 Chr 14:1-16:14; Je 41:9	Shemaiah Azariah* Hanani*	Jeroboam (I) Nadab (I) BAASHA (I) Elah (I) Zimri (I) Omri (I) Ahab (I) BEN-HADAD I (Ar) Ben-Hadad II (Ar)	Dedicated to God, removed high places and asherim from Judah Asherah (later) Ashtoreth
<b>Jehoshaphat</b> 914 BC (25 yrs) Son of Asa Married into Ahab's family 1 Ki 15:24; 22:2-50; 2 Ki 3:7-27; 8:16; 2 Chr 17:1-21:2	Jahaziel* Eliezer Jehu* Micaiah*	Ahab (I) Ahaziah (I) Jehoram (I) BEN-HADAD II (Ar) EDOM KING MESHA (Moab)	Dedicated to God, removed high places and asherim from Judah, but they were later replaced by the people Ashtoreth
<b>Jehoram/Joram</b> 889 BC (8 yrs) Son of Jehoshaphat Incurable sickness, died in pain 1 Ki 22:50; 2 Ki 8:16-24; 2 Chr 21:1-20	Jahaziel Eliezer Elijah*	Jehoram (I) Ben-Hadad II (Ar) Hazael (Ar) EDOM KING	Evil Walked in the way of Israel Asherah Isis/Hathor Ashtoreth
<b>Ahaziah/Jehoahaz</b> 885 BC (1 yr) Son of Jehoram Killed by Jehu 2 Ki 8:24-9:29; 10:13-14; 2 Chr 21:17; 22:1-9	Jahaziel	Jehoram (I) HAZAEL (Ar)	Evil Same as King Ahab Astarte Isis/Hathor Asherah Ashtoreth
<b>Queen Athaliah</b> 885 BC (6 yrs) Daughter of Ahab Mother of Ahaziah 2 Ki 11:1-16, 20; 2 Chr 22:10-21	Jahaziel Obadiah	Jehu (I) Hazael (Ar)	Evil Astarte Isis/Hathor Asherah Ashtoreth
<b>Joash\Jehoash</b> 878 BC 7yo (40 yrs) Son of Ahaziah Sickly, killed by his servants 2 Ki 11:21-12:21; 2 Chr 22:11-12; 24:27-25:25	Obadiah Joel Zechariah*	Jehu (I) Jehoahaz (I) JOASH (I) HAZAEL (Ar) Ben-Hadad III (Ar) Assur-Nazir (As) Shalmaneser II (As)	Dedicated to God but kept high places, Asherah (later) Ashtoreth

## Southern Kingdom: Judah & Benjamin 975 – 610 BC cont.

Southern King	Prophets	Concurrent Kings	Worship
<b>Amaziah</b> 839 BC (29 yrs) Son of Joash Chased and killed 2 Ki 12:21;13:12;14:1-20;15:1;2 Chr 24:27-25:28	Zechariah*	JEHOASH (I) Jeroboam (I) Ben-Hadad III (Ar) Shalmaneser II (As) Samsi-vul IV (As)	Dedicated to God but kept high places Asherah Ashtoreth
<b>Azariah/Uzziah</b> 810 BC 16 yo (52 yrs) Son of Amaziah Struck with leprosy 2 Ki 14:21-15:7; 2 Chr 26:1-23; Isa 1:1; Hos 1:1; Amos 1:1; Zec 14:5	Amos Hosea Zechariah* Isaiah	Jeroboam II (I) Zachariah (I) Shallum (I) Menahem (I) Pekahiah (I) Pekah (I) Ben-Hadad III (Ar) Samsi-vul IV (As) Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul (As) Assur-Daan II (As)	Dedicated to God but kept high places Ashtoreth
<b>Jotham</b> 758 BC (16 yrs) Son of Azariah 2 Kings 15:5, 7, 30-38; 2 Chr 26:21-27:9; Isa 1:1; Hos 1:1; Mi 1:1	Hosea Isaiah	PEKAH (I) Hoshea (I) REZIN (Ar) Assur-Daan III (As) Assur-Nirari II (As) Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul (As) AMMON KING	Dedicated to God but kept high places Asherah (later) Ashtoreth
<b>Ahaz</b> 742-726 BC (16 yrs) Son of Jotham 2 Ki 15:38, 16:1-17:1;2 Chr 27:9-28:27; 29: 19; Isa 1:1; 7:1-25; 14:28; Ho 1:1; Mi 1:1	Hosea Isaiah* Jothan Micah Obed	PEKAH (I) Hoshea (I) REZIN (Ar) Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul (As) Shalmaneser IV (As)	Evil Walked in ways of Israel Asherah Ashtoreth
<b>Hezekiah</b> 726-697 BC (29 yrs) Son of Ahaz 2 Ki 16:20; 18:1- 20:21; 21:3; 2 Chr 28:27-32:33; 33:3; Pr 25:1; Isa 1:1; 36:1-39:8; Je 26:18-19; Ho 1:1; Mi 1:1	Hosea Isaiah Micah Obed	Hoshea (I) Israel taken captive SHALMANESER IV (As) SENNACHERIB (As) Berodach-baladan (B) Deioces (M) Achaemenes (P)	Dedicated to God, removed queen of heaven from Judah but not the Ashtoreth on Mount of Destruction
<b>Manasseh</b> 698 - 643 BC 12 yo (55 yrs longest reign) Son of Hezekiah Captive by Assyria 2 Ki 20:21-21:18; 2 Chr 32:33-33:23; Je 15:4	Isaiah Nahum	Sennacherib (As) Esarhaddon (As) Assur-Banipal/ Osnappar(As) Phaortes (M)	Most evil king Asherah in God's temple Ashtoreth Later repented
<b>Amon</b> 643-645 BC (2 yrs) Son of Manasseh Killed by servants 2 Ki 21:18-21:25; 2 Chr 33:20-25	Zephania Nahum	Assur-Banipal/ Osnappar(As) Phaortes (M)	Evil Asherah Ashtoreth

## Southern Kingdom: Judah & Benjamin 975 – 610 BC cont.

Southern King	Prophets	Concurrent Kings	Worship
<p><b>Josiah</b> 641 – 610 BC 8 yo (31 yrs) Son of Amon 2 Ki 21:24-23:30; 1 Chr 3:15; 2 Chr 33:25-35:27; Je 1:1-2; 3:6; 25:3 Killed by Pharaoh Necho II who was on his way to the battle of Carchemish</p>	<p>Jeremiah Zephaniah Huldah Nahum Habakkuk</p>	<p>Assur-Banipal/ Osnappar(As) Nineveh destroyed NECO (E) Phraortes (M) Cyaxares (M) Teispes (P)</p>	<p>Dedicated to God, cleansed queen of heaven from Judah and Israel, destroyed Ashtoreth on Mount of Destruction</p>
<p><b>Jehoahaz II/ Shallum/Joahaz</b> 610 BC (3 mos) Josiah's fourth son Imprisoned in Egypt 2 Ki 23:30-23:34; 2 Chr 36:1-4; Je 22:11-17</p>	<p>Jeremiah Huldah</p>	<p>NECO (E) Cyaxares (M) Teispes (P)</p>	<p>Evil queen of heaven</p>
<p><b>Eliakim/Jehoiakim</b> 610 - 599 BC (11yrs) Josiah's second son Made king by Neco, captive to Babylon 2 Ki 23:24-24:6; 2 Chr 36:4-8; Je 1:3; 22:18-23; 25:1, 26:20-23; 36:1-32; Dan 1:1 607 BC Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem 605 BC Battle of Charchemish occurred – all four concurrent kings fought in. End of Assyrian empire where northern tribes were exiled since 739 BC</p>	<p>Jeremiah Daniel Uriah* Zechariah</p>	<p>NECO (E) NEBUCHADNEZZAR (B) Cyaxares (M) Teispes (P)</p>	<p>Evil queen of heaven</p>
<p><b>Jehoiachin/Coniah/ Jeconiah</b> 599 BC 18 yo (3 mos) Son of Eliakim Captive to Babylon 2 Ki 24:6-24:17; 25:27-30; 2 Chr 36:8-10; Je 22:24-30; 24:1; 28:4</p>	<p>Jeremiah Daniel Ezekiel</p>	<p>NEBUCHADNEZZAR (B) Cyaxares (M) Teispes (P)</p>	<p>Evil queen of heaven</p>
<p><b>Mattaniah/Zedekiah</b> 599-588 BC (11 yrs) Made king by Nebuchadnezzar Sons killed in front of him, tortured, captive to Babylon, died in prison 2 Ki 24:17-25:7; 2 Chr 36:10-20; Je 1:3; 21:1-22:10; 37:1-39:8; 24:8-10; 27:1-15; 28:1; 29:1, 15-20; 32:1-5; 34:2-11, 21; 37:1-39:8; 49:33; 52:1-11; Ez 17:11-21</p>	<p>Jeremiah Ezekiel Daniel</p>	<p>NEBUCHADNEZZAR (B) Cyaxares (M) Teispes (P)</p>	<p>Evil queen of heaven</p>

Chart dates derived from the Bible and *Adam's Chart of Synchronological Chart Map of History*

## Kings of Babylon 626-549 BC

King	Reign	Father	
<b>Nabopolassar</b>	626-605 BC	Assyrian descent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restored Babylon in 620 BC</li> <li>▪ 609 BC Pharaoh Necho II was delayed in a battle with Judah and killed King Josiah before getting defeated at Carchemish while helping to defend Assyria.</li> <li>▪ <b>607 BC – Nebuchadnezzar first siege of Jerusalem (Dan 1:1 – coregent of his Dad))</b></li> <li>▪ <b>605 BC Battle of Carchemish</b> (end of Assyrian Empire where Israel’s northern kingdom was exiled since 739 BC) - with help from Media King Cyaxares and Persian King Teispes, crown prince Nebuchadnezzar II destroyed Assyria</li> <li>▪ <b>588 BC Israel Southern kingdom taken by Babylon</b></li> </ul>
<b>Nebuchadnezzar II</b>	605-562 BC  Jer 25:1	Nabopolassar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Daniel</b> exiled to Babylon (620-536 BC) – Daniel’s prophetic ministry in Babylon begins. Jeremiah is the only true prophet during this time. (2 Kings 24:1-7, Dan 1:1-6, Jer 1:9,10)</li> <li>▪ <b>King Jehoiakim</b> of Judah paid tribute for three years before he died (2 Ki 24:1-6)</li> <li>▪ “On the fifth of the month in the fifth year of <b>King Jehoiachin's</b> exile, the word of the LORD came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar” (Eze 1:2-3).</li> <li>▪ Conquered Egypt all the way to the river Euphrates (2 Ki 24:7-8)</li> <li>▪ 597 BC. Second siege of Jerusalem by Babylon, <b>King Jehoiachin/Jeconiah, Ezekiel, Mordecai,</b> and 10,000 Jews exiled to Babylon (2 Kings 24:10-16, Eze 1:2, Es 2:5-6)</li> <li>▪ 588 BC. <b>Final siege of Jerusalem,</b> 40,000 Jews exiled 2 Kings 25:1-21, Ezek 24:2</li> <li>▪ 575 BC.Rebuilds Babylon and constructs the Ishtar Gate</li> </ul>
<b>Amel-Marduk</b>	562-560 BC	Nebuchadnezzar II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Daniel in Babylon</li> </ul>
<b>Neriglissar</b>	560-556 BC	Son in law of Amel-Marduk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Daniel in Babylon</li> </ul>
<b>Labashi-Marduk</b>	556 BC	Neriglissar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Daniel in Babylon</li> </ul>
<b>Nabonidus</b> Evil-merodach	556-539 BC	last native king of Babylon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In 1<sup>st</sup> yr released Jehoiachin from prison in 37<sup>th</sup> yr of exile (2 Ki 25:27-30)</li> <li>▪ <b>539 BC Conquered by Cyrus the Great – Daniel 81 yo</b></li> </ul>
<b>Belshazzar</b> (coregent w/his father)	549-539 BC	Nabonidus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Vashti</b> is his daughter (Stateira/Amestris)</li> <li>▪ Daniel in Babylon</li> <li>▪ <b>Conquered by Cyrus the Great and Vashti taken</b></li> </ul>

## Kings of Mede 700-539 BC

Media King	Reign	Father	
<b>Deioces</b>	700-647 BC		First Iranian Empire
<b>Phraortes</b>	647-625 BC	Deioces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Died in battle against Assyria</li> </ul>
<b>Cyaxares</b>	624-585 BC	Phraortes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 612 BC. Destroyed Nineveh, the Assyrian capital.</li> <li>▪ Formed Median Empire</li> <li>▪ “At its height the Median Empire stretched from Asia Minor to the Hindu Kush, and south to the Persian Gulf, ruling the Persians as vassals.” (History of Iran)</li> <li>▪ 620 BC Daniel born</li> </ul>
<b>Astyages Ahasuerus</b>	585-549 BC	Cyaxares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overlord of Persia</li> <li>▪ Gave his daughter to Cambyses son. Cyrus the Great’s maternal grandfather</li> <li>▪ <b>585 BC Daniel</b> (35 yo) exiled by Nebuchadnezzar</li> <li>▪ Cambyses I son married his daughter</li> </ul>
<b>Cyaxares II Darius the Mede</b> King of Babylon  Haran Stele	549 – 539 BC	Astyages  Daughter was wife of Cyrus II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Median descent (Da 9:1). Cyrus the Great’s uncle</li> <li>▪ 539 BC Conquered Babylon at 62yo (Da 5:31) – born @600 BC. With Cyrus the Great.</li> <li>▪ 539 BC. <b>Daniel</b> is 71 yo - appointed commissioner &amp; successful (Dan 6:1,28) Daniel assisted the king (Dan 11:1).</li> <li>▪ Daniel’s vision of Persian kings occurs (Dan 11:2-4), therefor next “three kings” start after Cyaxares II.</li> <li>▪ End of Media as a sovereign nation, but it still existed as a country under the Achaemenid Empire</li> </ul>

## Kings of Persia 700 – 539 BC

King	Reign	Father	
<b>Achaemenes</b>	~705 BC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ruled same time as Israel’s southern king Manasseh</li> </ul>
<b>Teispes</b> King of Anshan	~640 BC	Achaemenes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 605 BC Battle of Carchemish</li> </ul>
<b>Cyrus I</b> King of Anshan King of Persia	? - 600 BC	Teispes	
<b>Cambyses I Ahasuerus</b> King of Anshan King of Persia	600-559 BC	Cyrus I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Son married Astyges daughter</li> <li>▪ <b>King #1</b> in Dan 11:2</li> <li>▪ Ruled same as Babylon kings: Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar II</li> </ul>

## Kings of Achaemenid Empire 559 - 522 BC

<p><b>Cyrus II</b> 559-530 BC</p> <p>Cyrus the Great King of Persia (Ez 4:3) King of Media, Lydia, Babylon, Assyria, Egypt</p> <p>Son of Cambyses I &amp; Princess Mandane of Media (Asytages daughter)</p> <p>Married Darius the Mede's daughter (knew Daniel?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Persian king who ruled along side the Mede kings Astyges and Cyaxerexes II until 550 BC</li> <li>▪ <b>Founded the Achaemenian Empire</b> which was the largest ancient empire with capitol in Susa.</li> <li>▪ Cyrus' religion was Zoroastrianism and believed in only one god, Ahura Mazda, who was the one uncreated god, eternal source of all that is good and true, and promoted free will. Compare this with Ezra 1:2 "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to rebuild for Him a house in Jerusalem." Did Daniel convince Cyrus that this uncreated god was the One True God?</li> <li>▪ <b>King #2</b> in Dan 11:2 prophecy</li> <li>▪ 559 BC 1<sup>st</sup> yr reign as king of Persia. <b>Proclamation to rebuild temple</b> (2 Chr 36:22-23, Ezr 1, 5:13, Isa 44:28-45:7 &amp; Cyrus Cylinder). <b>Zerubbabel</b> (@28yo), would-be-king of Israel (1 Chr 3:15-19, Mt 1:12) and <b>Jeshua/Joshua</b>, high priest, led 42,360 Jews from Judah and Benjamin southern tribes back to Jerusalem (Ez 2:2, 64, Neh 7:7, 12:1, Hag 1:14). For Cyrus to decree the return of Hebrews temple treasures that were in Babylon proves that Cyrus and Astyges were united.</li> <li>▪ 559 BC – 536 BC. <b>Daniel</b> enjoyed success under Cyrus II for 23 yrs (Dan 6:28)</li> <li>▪ <b>People of land try to stop temple construction</b> (Ezr 4:5)</li> <li>▪ 557 BC. <b>Temple work began</b> second year after exiles return (Ez 3:8). Assyrian captives (10 tribes of northern Israel whose kings were evil and the people worshiped other gods along with the Lord, included Samaria) want to help rebuild temple. <b>Zerubbabel</b> and <b>Jeshua</b> refuse their help (Ezr 4:13). <b>Zerubbabel completes temple foundation</b> (Zech 4:8-10).</li> <li>▪ 556 BC 3<sup>rd</sup> yr reign <b>Daniel's</b> vision about great conflict. Angel Michael visits him (Dan 10)</li> <li>▪ 549 BC. Medes capture Babylon (the end of the great city and Mesopotamian Empire), Daniel commissioned by Darius the Mede.</li> <li>▪ 549 BC (Conquered Media and king, his maternal grandfather Astyges – according to Herodotus which conflicts with earlier resources)</li> <li>▪ 547 BC Conquered Lydia and king Croesus</li> <li>▪ 539 BC Conquered Babylon (along with Darius the Mede) and king Nabonidas/coregent Belshazzar along with Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine. All exiled Israel tribes now under Achaemenian rule.</li> <li>▪ ?? BC Conquered Sumer &amp; Akkad</li> <li>▪ 536 BC <b>Daniel</b> died</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cambyses II</b> 530-522 BC King of Persia, Media, Lydia, Babylon, Egypt 1<sup>st</sup> son of Cyrus II</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best fit for Ezra's Ahasuerus - "Now in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem" (Ezr 4:6). He did not react.</li> <li>▪ Coruler with Cyrus II in 530 BC</li> <li>▪ Lived in Egypt for a long time.</li> <li>▪ <b>King #3</b> in Dan 11:2</li> <li>▪ 522 BC Died of gangrene without any children</li> </ul>

## Kings of Achaemenid Empire 522 BC

<p><b>Bardiya/Smerdis</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Son of Cyrus II</p> <p><b>Guamata</b> (imposter) 522 BC (7 mos) King of Persia, Babylon, Egypt</p> <p>Assassinated by Darius?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is strong evidence that Baridya was assassinated in secret by Cambyses II and this king was an imposter named Guamata who pretended to be Baridya. He seized royal power without opposition and was liked by the people for ending taxes. He also destroyed sanctuaries. Guamata was a “magian” (priest of Zoroastrian monotheistic religion). It makes sense that he would decree work to be stopped on the Jewish temple if he didn’t believe Ahura Mazda and the One True God were one and the same (as Cyrus did).</li> <li>▪ This makes him the best fit for the Ezra’s Artaxerxes - “In the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam...and the rest of his colleagues wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the text of <b>the letter was written in Aramaic and translated from Aramaic</b>” (Ezr 4:7). Same letter was also from Rehum the commander &amp; Shimshai the scribe (Ez 4:8-11).</li> <li>▪ More evidence of the imposter – “the Aramaic language gained prominence in many regions of the Persian Empire, influencing the language and writing system.” Since the imposter was a Mede, is this why the letter had to be translated from Aramaic?</li> <li>▪ <b>Guamata was a Mede</b> – did he have direct access to the records of Darius the Mede who conquered Babylon that others did not have (see Dan 5:30)? Does this fact also explain why the next king, Darius I, made such a big deal about being from the line of old Persian kings?</li> <li>▪ He found the Babylonian records about Judah and <b>decreed to stop work on the temple</b> (Ez 4:14-24).</li> <li>▪ <b>Work on the temple stopped</b> until the second yr of Darius I (Ez 4:24). During these two years the Jews built grand homes for themselves in Jerusalem. Because they stopped working on the temple, God caused a famine, their money to run out quickly, and nothing they did came to fruition (see Hag 1:1-11).</li> <li>▪ <b>King #4</b> - This prophecy best fits Bardiya because his reign was only months long and the next king was not his son. “Then a fourth [king] will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will stir up the entire empire against the realm of Greece. A mighty king will arise... will rule with great authority...do as he pleases...as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up ...though not to his own descendants, nor according to his authority...because his sovereignty will be removed and given to others besides them” (Dan 11:3-4).</li> <li>▪ 522 BC Murdered by Darius I who believed this king was an imposter (well documented).</li> <li>▪ <a href="http://Iranicaonline.org/articles/guamata">Iranicaonline.org/articles/guamata</a></li> </ul>
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## Kings of Achaemenid Empire 522 - 486 BC

<p><b>Darius I</b> 522-486 BC Died 64yo He is not heir to the throne - his kingly line comes down through an uncle if <b>Cyrus I</b> was a brother to <b>Ariaramnes</b></p> <p>Darius the Great Darius the Persian (Neh 12:22, Ez 4:24)</p> <p>King of Persia, Babylon, Egypt</p> <p>Son of Hystaspes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Behistun Inscription: “My father is <b>Hystaspes</b>; ... Arsames; ... <b>Ariaramnes</b>; ...<b>Teispes</b>; ... Achaemenes. Eight of my dynasty were kings before me.”</li> <li>▪ His father, Hystaspes, was a Persian satrap of Persis (directly east of Persian gulf and in the southern portion of the Achaemenid Empire). “He accompanied Cyrus on his expedition against the Massagetae. However, he was sent back to Persis to keep watch over his eldest son, Darius, whom Cyrus, after a dream, suspected of considering treason.” Died in 499 BC.</li> <li>▪ <b>King #5</b> “Then the king of the South [Hystaspes] will grow strong, along with one of his princes [Darius I] who will gain ascendancy over him and rule; his domain will be a great realm indeed” (Dan 11:5, names added).</li> <li>▪ Achaemenid Empire is now the greatest it ever has been: The Caucasus (mntns between Black and Caspian seas) to western Asia. Made network of roads, Royal Road. Innovated agriculture. Freedom of nationality &amp; religion. Tributes of precious metals funded empire for successive generations. Introduced standard weights and measures, divided kingdom into provinces. Palace of Darius in Persepolis still standing.</li> <li>▪ Start of reign. Subdued Babylon revolt. Took <b>Vashti</b> to marry his son. <b>Zerubbabel</b> (Zorobabel) is a Babylonian name - meets Darius?</li> <li>▪ <b>499-493 BC Ionian Revolt</b> - Greek city-states in Ionia (located on the western coast of Asia Minor, present-day Turkey) rebelled against Persian rule, seeking assistance from mainland Greece. Athens and Eretria supported the Ionian cities, leading to the destruction of the Persian-controlled city of Sardis, which provoked Persian retaliation.</li> <li>▪ <b>492-490 BC 1st invasion of the Greco-Persian Wars</b> in response to Ionian revolt.</li> <li>▪ <b>490 BC Battle of Marathon</b> won by Athenians.</li> <li>▪ 522- 520 BC. <b>People of land try to stop temple construction</b> (Ezr 4:5).</li> <li>▪ 520 BC - 2<sup>nd</sup> yr of reign – 39 yrs after Cyrus decreed to build the temple. <b>Haggai</b> gives prophecy to <b>Zerubbabel</b>, governor of Judah, with <b>Jeshua</b>, high priest, to resume temple work (Hag 1:1, 4) w/out telling Darius. Word of Lord to <b>Zechariah</b> (Zech 1:1) for <b>Zerubbabel</b> (Zech 4) and <b>Jeshua</b> (Zech 3) as two olive trees (Zech 4:3-6). <b>Tattenai</b> informs Darius I of Cyrus’ decree (Ezr 5:6; 6:1,8), Darius’ decrees to <b>resume temple work</b> (Ezr 6:1,7). Darius funds temple building &amp; sacrifices. (Ez 6:8-9). “The Lord stirred up the spirit of...the people; they came and worked on the house of the Lord” (Hag 1:14). Zephania prophesied while Josiah was king - “The crown will become a reminder in the temple of the Lord ...Those who are far away will come and build the temple of the Lord. Then you will know that the Lord of armies has sent me to you. And it will take place if you completely obey the Lord your God” (Zeph 6:14-15). Zeph came true with Zech 6:11-15</li> <li>▪ <b>*Zechariah</b> - son of Berechiah, grandson of Iddo (Zech 1:1 ) was a priest and tribal leader of 30 yo or older, under King Joiakim (Ne 12:16) who was taken captive in 599BC. This makes Zechariah over 100 yo in 520 BC.</li> <li>▪ 516 BC 6<sup>th</sup> yr of reign. <b>Temple is finished</b> in ~41 yrs by <b>Zerubbabel</b> who is ~ 71yo (Ez 6:15, Zech 4:8-10). “It took forty-six years to build this temple” (Jn 2:20). Israel is under Achmenian empire. Temple later refurbished by Herod the Great (18 AD) and destroyed by Rome in 70 AD.</li> </ul>
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## Kings of Achaemenid Empire 486 - 424 BC

<p><b>Xerxes I</b> 486-465 BC</p> <p>Xerxes the Great <b>Ahasuerus</b> King of Persia Pharaoh of Egypt King of India &amp; Ethiopia (Est 1:1)</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> son of Darius I &amp; Atossa (daughter of Cyrus the Great). Became king at 32 yo due to mother's father.</p> <p><b>Married Esther</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Temple completed 30 yrs prior to his reign, so this is NOT the Ahasuerus of Ezr 4:5.</li> <li>▪ "It happened in the days of Ahasuerus [Persian king of all province kings including his son], the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Cush over 127 provinces, in those days as King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne which was at the citadel in Susa" (Est 1:1-2). This kingdom was inherited.</li> <li>▪ 483 BC - 3<sup>rd</sup> year of reign. Held banquet for Persian and Median armies and Vashti dethroned (Es 1:3)</li> <li>▪ Built a canal through the Athos peninsula in <b>Northern Greece</b> that aides in his invasion of Greece (began decline of the Persian empire)</li> <li>▪ <b>480-479 BC 2nd invasion of the Greco-Persian Wars</b> – massive invasion to conquer all of Greece.</li> <li>▪ <b>480 BC Battle of Thermopylae.</b> Famous last stand of the <b>300 Spartans</b> led by King Leonidas. Xerxes was victorious &amp; burned Athens.</li> <li>▪ <b>479 BC Battle of Plataea</b> – Sparta and Athens <b>defeat Persian army</b>, ending Persian invasion and securing Greek independence.</li> <li>▪ 479 BC – Xerxes treasury is depleted from wars with Greece. He focuses on his harem and building projects. This agrees with 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Esther. <b>Married Esther</b> (Es 2:17).</li> <li>▪ 474 BC 12<sup>th</sup> yr of reign. Decree made to kill Jews in one year (Es 3:7-13). <b>Mordecai</b>, made second in command (Es 8:2, 9:4), decree made that Jews could retaliate (Es 8:11-12). Purim initiated (Es 9:20-22)</li> <li>▪ 474 - 464 BC. <b>Mordecai</b> is second to Xerxes 1 (Es 10:1-3).</li> <li>▪ Assassinated by his royal guard commander. Darius, his son, was killed shortly after</li> <li>▪ Ahasuerus is Xerxes I - <a href="https://biblearchaeologyreport.com/2020/06/05/xerxes-an-archaeological-biography/">https://biblearchaeologyreport.com/2020/06/05/xerxes-an-archaeological-biography/</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Artaxerxes I/Cyrus</b> 465-424 BC Artaxerxes Longimanus</p> <p>King of Persia Pharaoh of Egypt King of Babylon (Neh 13:6)</p> <p>Son of Xerxes I 3<sup>rd</sup> born (mother Esther?)</p> <p>Josephus ascribes this king as Esther's king, but the dates do not support this.</p> <p>Not Artaxerxes of Ezra 4 because temple construction was done</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early reign – rebellion/revolt in Egypt lasted 10 yrs. Delian league (Greece) assisted Egypt.</li> <li>▪ <b>? BC - Exiled by Greece but fled via alliance of a corrupt Athenian general.</b></li> <li>▪ 457 BC - 7<sup>th</sup> yr of reign, <b>59 yrs after temple completion.</b> Artaxerxes provides a decree for <b>Ezra</b> (scribe/priest) to leave Babylon and go to Jerusalem (Ez 7:1,6, 11-28, Neh 2:1-10). He brings priests and Levites (Ez 8:1-32). Was <b>Nehemiah</b> his cup bearer yet?</li> <li>▪ Purification of Levitical line results in <b>Meshullam</b> sending away his son-in-law who was <b>Tobiah</b> the Ammonite's son (Ezr 10:14-15, Neh 6:18, 9:2) perhaps fueling Tobiah's rage against Nehemiah.</li> <li>▪ <b>449 BC Established Peace of Callias ending the Greek-Persian hostilities.</b></li> <li>▪ There is a shift in the decree with "your God" as opposed to Cyrus saying "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me..." Cyrus recognized the One True God whereas Artaxerxes was allowing for freedom of religion.</li> <li>▪ 445 BC 20<sup>th</sup> yr of reign. Sent <b>Nehemiah</b>, his cup bearer, to Jerusalem (Neh 2:1-10). The temple was finished while the walls of Jerusalem were being rebuilt (Ne 6:10). <b>Tobiah</b> the Ammonite comes against the wall construction. <b>Nehemiah finished wall in 52 days</b> (Neh 6:15).</li> <li>▪ 445 - 433 BC. Cyrus appointed <b>Nehemiah</b> governor (Neh 5:14). <b>Nehemiah</b> finds the record of those who first returned to Jerusalem (Neh 7:5). <b>Nehemiah</b> and <b>Zerubbabel</b> (governor appointed by Cyrus) paid temple singers (Neh 12:47).</li> <li>▪ <b>Ezra</b> died in 440BC?</li> <li>▪ 433 BC - 32<sup>nd</sup> yr of reign. <b>Nehemiah</b> requested a leave of absence from Darius (Neh 13:6).</li> <li>▪ <b>431 BC Funded Sparta's campaign against Athens.</b></li> </ul>

## Kings of Achaemenid Empire 424 - 330 BC

King of kings	Reign	
<b>Xerxes II</b> Son of Artaxerxes I	424 BC 45 days	Assassinated by Sogdianus
<b>Sogdianus</b> Secydianus Pharaoh of Egypt Son of Artaxerxes I (illegitimate)	424-423 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assassinated by half-brother Ochus</li> <li>▪ Following the death of Artaxerxes I, in 424 BC, there was a struggle for power between his sons. The victor, Ochus, adopted the name Darius (Greek sources often call him Darius Nothos, "Bastard"), in reference to his unattested lineage. Wikipedia</li> <li>▪ Is the undated lineage because his grandmother was Jewish (Esther)?</li> </ul>
<b>Darius II /Ochus</b> King of Persia, Egypt Son of Artaxerxes I	423-404 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Immediate successor of Artaxerxes I according to Babylonian records</li> <li>▪ "As for the Levites, the heads of fathers' households were registered in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua; so were the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian" (Neh 12:22).</li> <li>▪ Eliashib is High Priest (Jeshua's grandson Neh 3:1, 20, 12:10)</li> </ul>
<b>Artaxerxes II</b> Mnemon Son of Darius II	404-359 BC	Last book of OT dates during his reign – <b>Malachi</b> 420-397 BC
<b>Artaxerxes III</b> Ochus Son of Artaxerxes II	359-338 BC	Poisoned by eunuch Bagoas – Persia weakened after his death
<b>Artaxerxes IV</b> Son of Artaxerxes III	338-336 BC	Did not want to be controlled by Bagoas, so he was poisoned also
<b>Darius III</b> Codomanus	336-330 BC	Persia fell in 330BC to Alexander the Great (Greece/Macedon)

## Temple Timeline

966 -959 BC	Solomon's Temple constructed
629 BC	Solomon's temple destroyed by Babylon
559 BC	Cyrus the Great becomes king & <b>proclamation to rebuild the temple</b> (Ezr 1, Isa 44:28-45:7, 2 Chr 36:22-23, Jer 28:6)
559 BC 7 mos	Tribes of Judah and Benjamin exiles return to Jerusalem (Esr 3:1). Build altar and Feast of Booths (Neh 7:5-73).
557 BC	<b>Work begins</b> (Ezr 3:8) – Daniel, Zerubbabel, Jeshua <b>Foundation completed</b> with loud celebration (Ezr 3:10, Isa 44:28, Zech 4:8-9) Harassment to stop building begins (Ezr 4:5) Assyrian captives (10 tribes of northern Israel who's kings were evil and the people worshiped other gods along with the Lord, included Samaria) want to help rebuild temple. <b>Zerubbabel</b> and <b>Jeshua</b> refuse their help (Ezr 4:13)
530-522 BC	"In the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam, ... and the rest of his colleagues wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the text of the letter was written in Aramaic and translated from Aramaic" (Ezr 4:7). Same letter was also from Rehum the commander & Shimshai the scribe (Ez 4:8-11). Cambyses found records of Babylon about Judah and <b>decreed to stop work on the temple</b> (Ez 4:14-24) until the second yr of Darius II (Ez 4:24).
520 BC	<b>Haggai</b> gives prophecy to <b>Zerubbabel</b> , governor of Judah, with <b>Jeshua</b> , high priest, to resume temple work (Hag 1:1, 4) w/out telling Darius. Word of Lord to <b>Zechariah</b> (Zech 1:1) for <b>Zerubbabel</b> (Zech 4) and <b>Jeshua</b> (Zech 3) as two olive trees (Zech 4:3-6). <b>Tattenai</b> informs Darius I of Cyrus' decree (Ezr 5:6; 6:1,8), Darius' decrees <b>resume temple work</b> (Ezr 6:1,7). Darius funds temple building & sacrifices. (Ez 6:8-9). "The Lord stirred up the spirit of...the people; they came and worked on the house of the Lord" (Hag 1:14). Zephania prophesied while Josiah was king - "The crown will become a reminder in the temple of the Lord ...Those who are far away will come and build the temple of the Lord. Then you will know that the Lord of armies has sent me to you. And it will take place if you completely obey the Lord your God" (Zeph 6:14-15).
516 BC	<b>Temple is finished</b> in 41 yrs by <b>Zerubbabel</b> who is ~ 71yo (Ez 6:15, Zech 4:8-10, Hag 2:18)
445 BC	<b>Jerusalem walls rebuilt in 52 days</b> (Neh 6:15)
1-33 AD	<b>Jesus</b> in the temple
70 AD	Temple destroyed by Romans

## Maps

### Achaemenid Empire under Darius the Great



<https://www.reddit.com/media?url=https%3A%2F%2Fi.redd.it%2F21v7nhogucv11.png>