

KINGS AND EVENTS OF THE BABYLONIAN, PERSIAN, AND GREEK DYNASTIES

- 612 B.C. Nineveh falls to neo-Babylonian army (Nebuchadnezzar)
- 608 Pharaoh Necho II marched to Carchemesh to halt expansion of neo-Babylonian power
- Josiah, King of Judah, tries to stop him
- Death of Josiah and assumption of throne by his son, Jehoahaz
- Jehoiakim, another son of Josiah, replaced Jehoahaz on the authority of Pharaoh Necho II within 3 months
- Palestine and Syria under Egyptian rule
- Josiah's reforms dissipate
- 605 Nabopolassar sends troops to fight remaining Assyrian army and the Egyptians at Carchemesh
- Nebuchadnezzar chased them all the way to the plains of Palestine
- Nebuchadnezzar got word of the death of his father (Nabopolassar) so he returned to Babylon to receive the crown
- On the way back he takes Daniel and other members of the royal family into exile
- 605 - 538 Babylon in control of Palestine, 597; 10,000 exiled to Babylon
- 586 Jerusalem and the temple destroyed and large deportation
- 582 Because Jewish guerilla fighters killed Gedaliah another last large deportation occurred

SUCCESSORS OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR

- 562 - 560 Evil-Merodach released Jehoiakim (true Messianic line) from custody
- 560 - 556 Neriglissar
- 556 Labaski-Marduk reigned
- 556 - 539 Nabonidus:
- Spent most of the time building a temple to the mood god, *Sin*. This earned enmity of the priests of Marduk.

Spent the rest of his time trying to put down revolts and stabilize the kingdom.

He moved to Tema and left the affairs of state to his son, Belshazzar

Belshazzar:

Spent most of his time trying to restore order.

Babylonia's great threat was Media.

Rise of Cyrus

585 - 550 Astyages was king of Media (Cyrus II was his grandson by Mandane)

550 Cyrus II, a vassal king, revolted

Nabonidus, to restore balance of power, made alliances with:

1. Egypt
2. Croesus, King of Lydia

547 Cyrus marched against Sardis (capital Lydia) and captured all of Asia Minor

539 Gobiyas took Babylon without resistance (Dan. 5; Belshazzar Nabonidus' co-regent; also Gobiyas possibly Darius the Mede, Dan. 5:31).

Oct. 11,
539 Cyrus entered as liberator from Nabonidus' moon goddess, *Zin*

Cyrus' Successors

530 Cyrus' son succeeded him (Cambyses II)

530 - 522 Reign of Cambyses (Elephantine Papyri)

Added Egypt in 525 to the Medo-Persian Empire

522 - 486 Darius I came to rule

He organized the Persian Empire along Cyrus' plan of satraps

He set up coinage like Lydia's

486 - 465 Xerxes I (Esther)

Put down Egyptian revolt

Intended to invade Greece, but was defeated in the Battle of Thermopyly in 480

Xerxes I was assassinated in 465

480 Battle of Thermopyly

465 - 424 Artaxerxes I Longimanus (Ezra 7-10, Nehemiah, and Malachi)

Greeks continued to advance until confronted with Peloponnesian Wars

Wars lasted about 20 years

During this period the Jewish community is reconstructed

423 - 404

Darius II

Authorized the feast of unleavened bread in the Elephantine Temple

404 - 358

Artaxerxes II

358 - 338

Artaxerxes III

338 - 336

Arses

336 - 331

Darius III

GREECE

359 - 336

Philip II of Macedon built up Greece

He was assassinated in 336

336 - 323

Alexander the Great (Philip's son)

Routed Darius II at battle of ISUS

He died in 323 in Babylon of a fever after conquering the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East

Alexander's generals divided his empire at his death:

1. Cassander - Macedonia and Greece
2. Lysimachus - Thrace
3. Seleucus I - Syria and Babylon
4. Ptolemy - Egypt and Palestine
5. Antigonus - small part of Asia Minor

Seleucids vs. Ptolemies

301

Palestine was under Ptolemy's rule for 100 years

175 - 163

Antiochus Epiphanes

Wanted to Hellenize Jews, constructed gymnasium

Constructed pagan altars; priests were mistreated

Dec. 13,
168

Hog was slain on the altar by Antiochus Epiphanes. Some consider this to be the abomination of desolation.

167 Mattathias and sons rebel. Mattathias killed. Judas took control.
 Judas Maccabeaus wages successful guerilla warfare

Dec. 25, Temple rededicated
 165

RULERS

BABYLON

MEDIA

626 - 605	Nabopolassar dies (“Nabu, Protect the Sun”) 625 - 585 Cyrzares
605 - 562	Nebuchadnezzar II (“Nebo, Protect the Boundary”) 585 - 550 Astyages
562 - 560	Evil Merodack 550 Cyrus II
556	Labaski Marduk
556 - 539	Nabonidus Belshazzar
539 -	Gobiyas

MEDO-PERSIAN

550 - 530	Cyrus II (538 Medo-Persian dominate power called Achaemenian Empire)
530 - 522	Cambyses II (Egypt added and Cyprus)
522	Gaumata or Pseudo, Smerdis (reign 6 months)
522 - 486	Darius I (Hystaspes)
486 - 465	Xerxes I (Esther’s husband)
465 - 424	Artaxerxes I (Ezra and Nehemiah in Palestine)
423 -	Xerxes II
424 - 404	Darius II Nothus

404 - 359 Artaxerxes II Mnemon
359 - 338 Artaxerxes III Ochus
338 - 336 Arses
336 - 331 Darius III Codomannus

GREEK

359 - 336 Philip II of Macedon
336 - 323 Alexander the Great
323 -
Generals divide Empire

1. Cassander - Macedonia
2. Lysimicus - Syria
3. Seleucus I - Syria and Babylon
4. Ptolemy - Egypt
5. Antigonus - Asia Minor (killed in 301 B.C.)

The Ptolemies controlled Palestine, but in 175 - 163 control passed to the Seleucids

175 - 163 Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the eighth Seleucid ruler

*Dates and names have been mostly taken from *A History of Israel* by John Bright, pp. 461-471.