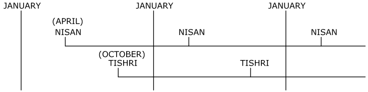
The first problem in understanding basic chronology in the Books of Kings and Chronicles is determining from Scripture the month used by a king and/or nation in beginning the regnal year. Most ancient nations used either Spring or Fall months (i.e. around April 1st or October 1st) as beginning the new year.

Although it is disputed, the Holy Scriptures, Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Robert Anderson, W.J. Beecher, K.F. Keil, E.W. Faulstich and the Jewish Mishna agree that the kings of Judah used Spring (the month of Nisan [Abib], e.g. Exo.9:31; 12:2; 13:4; Jer.36:22; 39:32; II Ch.29:3,17, cp. 30:1-5,13, 15; I Ch.35:1). Further, the Hebrew new years were regulated by observable natural phenomena controlled by the sun such as the stage of crop development and flowering of the almond tree, and not by merely numbering the lunar months and days.


JANUARY
JANUARY
JANUARY
(APRIL)
NISAN
NISAN
NISAN
(OCTOBER)
TISHRI
TISHRI

Thus when Daniel was Prime Minister and living in Persia, his writings reflected their Fall dating method whereas Jeremiah, who was living in Jerusalem, used the Spring method. Therefore, a king's first regnal year using one method could have been his second year by the other method. However, no error or contradiction actually existed.

The second major basic principle is understanding the method used in reckoning regal years. If a king reckoned his reign beginning with New Year's Day after his accession as the first official year of reign, the year in which he came to the throne was called his "accession" year; hence, this method is called "accession year dating" or "postdating". If the king called the year in which he ascended to the throne his first official year, he was using "non-accession year dating" or "pre" or "antedating". For example:

Accession Year Dating:	(Accession year)	(1st year)	(2nd year)
Non-accession Year Dating:	(1st year)	(2nd year)	(3rd year)

As king, each could chose which method he desired. Observe that in non-accession year dating, the last year of one king was the first official year of his successor. Hence that year was counted twice. Reigns so reckoned give one year more than the actual elapsed time. Conversely, Accession reckoning yields official years equal to actual.

Usually the kings of Judah used accession dating while those of Israel often chose the non-accession method. Judah used the non-accession method when Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, married Athaliah, the daughter of King Ahab of Israel and wicked Jezebel. When Athaliah's influence was broken, Judah returned to the accession method.

When these facts are understood, apparent discrepancies between Israel and Judah disappear. To illustrate, the accessions of Rehoboam in Judah and Jeroboam in Israel transpired in the same year. Further, Scripture declares the 18th year of Jehoshaphat of Judah as the year when Ahaziah of Israel died and Joram took his place (II Kng.3:1), therefore near identical periods for the two kingdoms are represented.

JUDAH	OFF. YRS.	ISRAEL	OFF. YRS.	ACT. YRS.
REHOBOAM	17	JEROBOAM	22	21
ABIJAM	3	NADAB	2	1
ASA	41	BAASHA	24	23
JEHOSAPHAT	18	ELAH	2	1
		OMRI	12	11
		AHAB	22	21
		AHAZIAH	2	1
TOTAL	79		86	79

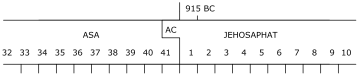
Nevertheless, as the chart depicts, recognizing the accession year reckoning for Judah and non-accession year for Israel shows the data to harmonize. By merely subtracting one year from each of the reigns of the kings of Israel (due to the overlapping feature of the non-accession method), the paradox is resolved.

Thirdly - the length of time from Solomon's death (with the subsequent division of the kingdom) to the termination of the kingdom of Judah and its final destruction by Babylon c.586 BC was found to be 390 years. This was determined by adding the years of the reign of the kings of Judah from the fall of Babylon to the 6th year of Hezekiah, when Israel fell to Assyria. This span was 134 yrs. 6 mos. or "in the 135th year". The regnal data of the kings fits this time span perfectly without reference to any other kingdom thus demonstrating that it would be illogical to suddenly resort to using Israel as the chronological guide at the point where they begin to coexist.

The total span of the reigns of Judah's monarchs yields 394 yrs. 6 mos. The only scriptural co-regency of these kings is that of Jehoshaphat and Jehoram (II Kng.8:16). Some claim a co-rex (hence an overlap) for Jotham & Uzziah (II Ch.26:21). However, a careful examination of the wording discloses otherwise i.e.: Jotham "Begin to reign" versus "was over the kings house, governing the people". The marked contrast reveals that Jotham held only a pro-rex post at this time as II Ch.26:23 confirms.

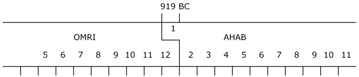
From II Kng.3:1; 8:16; 8:25; and 9:29, the length of this overlapping co-rex was determined to be 4 yrs. (See chart). Subtracting the 4 year overlap from the total, leaves 390 yrs. 6 mos. Jehoram, Athaliah and their son Ahaziah all occupied the throne in 886 BC (See chart 5). Ahaziah claimed the last year of Jehoram as his first official year but Athaliah seems to have paid homage to "her men" by hallowing that year as the last of both her husband and son. Thus, although all three reigned in 886, only two claimed the year for themselves. Hence, the official years become one more than the actual years such that when this extraneous year is subtracted from 390 yrs. 6 mos, the result is 389 yrs. 6 mos. or "in the 390th year". This 390 year time span is confirmed by Ezk.4:4-5. It is the math key to the chronology of the kings of Judah and Israel.

A typical example as to how the accession year method appears on the chart is:

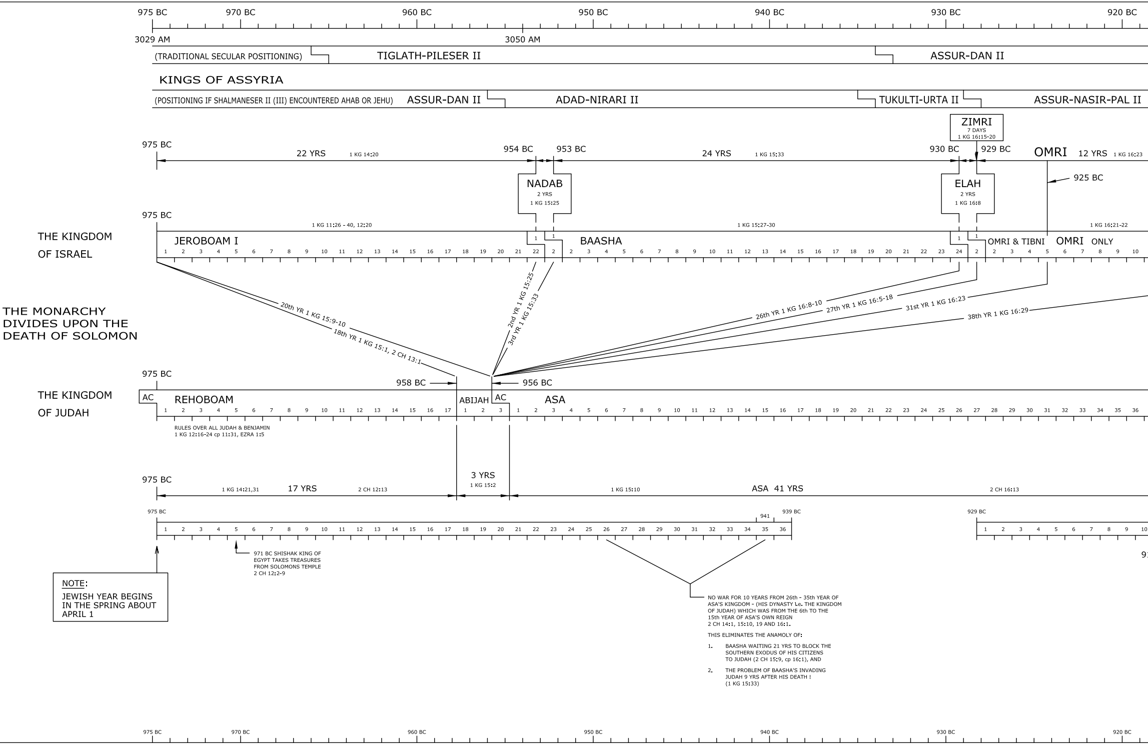

915 BC
AC
ASA
JEHOSAPHAT
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

The offset indicates that Asa died during the 41st yr. of his reign. In that year (916 BC) Jehoshaphat ascended to the throne, calling it his "accession year" and credited that year to his father, Asa. He began his first official year (915 BC) after the first of the year (1 Nisan). Again note, that the official years and the actual linear years are the same in this method.

An example of the non-accession year method is:


919 BC
1
OMRI
AHAB
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Here, the offset indicates that Omri died in 919 BC during the 12th yr. of his reign. Within that year, Ahab ascended to the throne, claiming that year as his first. Note that the official years now exceed the actual linear years by one as both men claimed the year 919 BC.

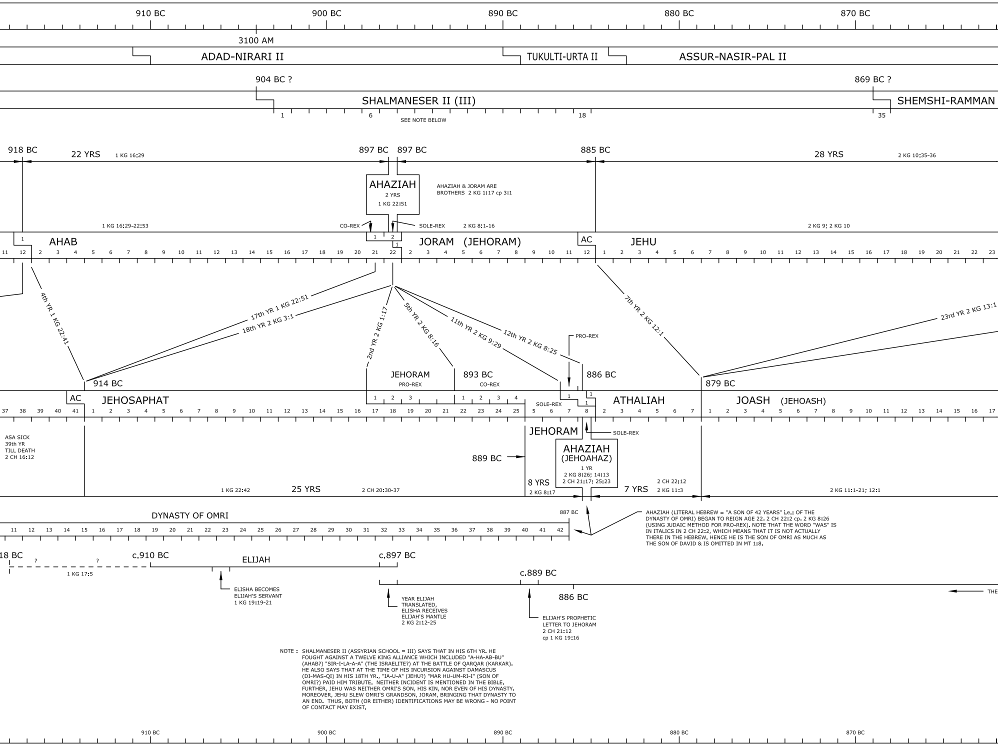

975 BC
970 BC
960 BC
950 BC
940 BC
930 BC
920 BC
3029 AM
3050 AM
(TRADITIONAL SECULAR POSITIONING)
TIGLATH-PILESER II
ASSUR-DAN II
KINGS OF ASSYRIA
(POSITIONING IF SHALMANESER II (III) ENCOUNTERED AHAB OR JEHU)
ASSUR-DAN II
ADAD-NIRARI II
TUKULTI-URTA II
ASSUR-NASIR-PAL II
ZIMRI
7 DAYS
1 KG 16:15-20
975 BC
22 YRS
1 KG 14:20
954 BC
953 BC
24 YRS
1 KG 15:33
930 BC
929 BC
OMRI
12 YRS
1 KG 16:23
925 BC
NADAB
2 YRS
1 KG 15:25
ELAH
2 YRS
1 KG 16:8
975 BC
1 KG 11:26 - 40, 12:20
1 KG 15:27-30
1 KG 16:21-22
THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL
JEROBOAM I
BAASHA
OMRI & TIBNI
OMRI ONLY
THE MONARCHY DIVIDES UPON THE DEATH OF SOLOMON
20th YR 1 KG 15:9-10
18th YR 1 KG 15:1, 2 CH 13:1
2nd YR 1 KG 15:25
3rd YR 1 KG 15:33
26th YR 1 KG 16:8-10
27th YR 1 KG 16:5-18
31st YR 1 KG 16:23
38th YR 1 KG 16:29
975 BC
958 BC
956 BC
THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH
AC
REHOBOAM
ABIJAH
AC
ASA
RULES OVER ALL JUDAH & BENJAMIN
1 KG 12:16-24 cp 11:31, EZRA 1:5
975 BC
1 KG 14:21,31
17 YRS
2 CH 12:13
3 YRS
1 KG 15:2
1 KG 15:10
ASA 41 YRS
2 CH 16:13
975 BC
941
939 BC
929 BC
971 BC SHISHAK KING OF EGYPT TAKES TREASURES FROM SOLOMONS TEMPLE 2 CH 12:2-9
975 BC
970 BC
960 BC
950 BC
940 BC
930 BC
920 BC

NOTE:
JEWISH YEAR BEGINS IN THE SPRING ABOUT APRIL 1

NO WAR FOR 10 YEARS FROM 26th - 35th YEAR OF ASA'S KINGDOM - (HIS DYNASTY i.e. THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH) WHICH WAS FROM THE 6th TO THE 15th YEAR OF ASA'S OWN REIGN 2 CH 14:1, 15:10, 19 AND 16:1.

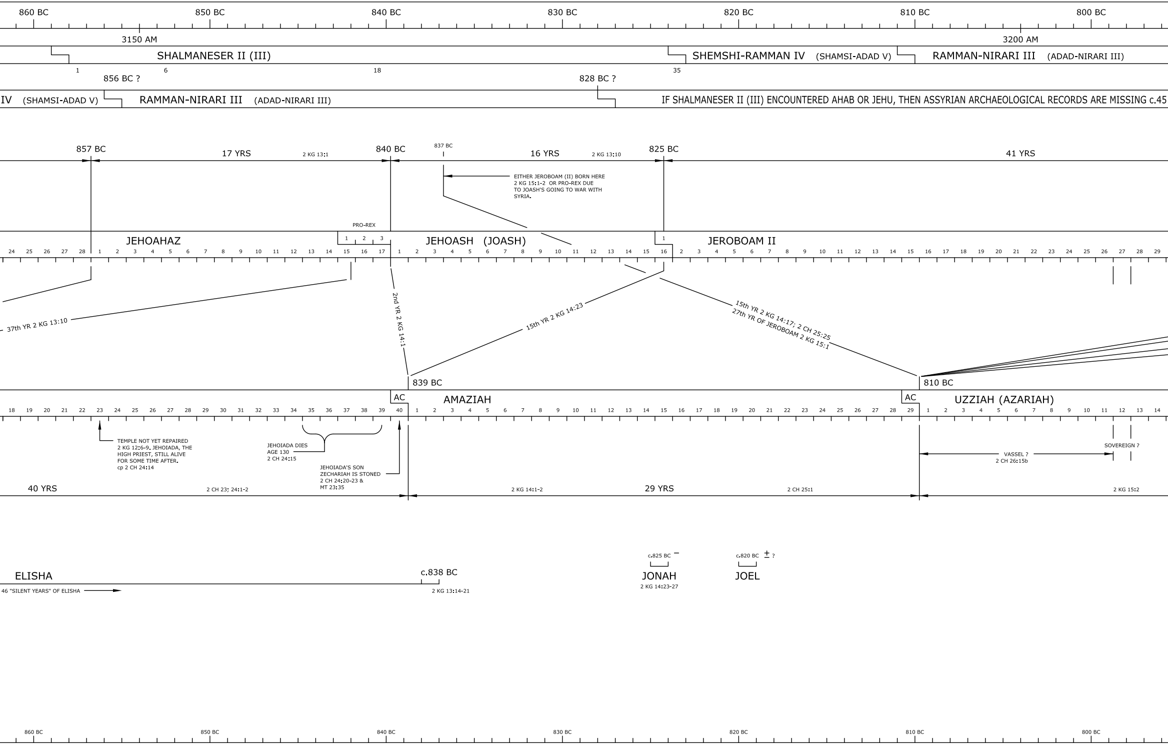
THIS ELIMINATES THE ANAMOLY OF:

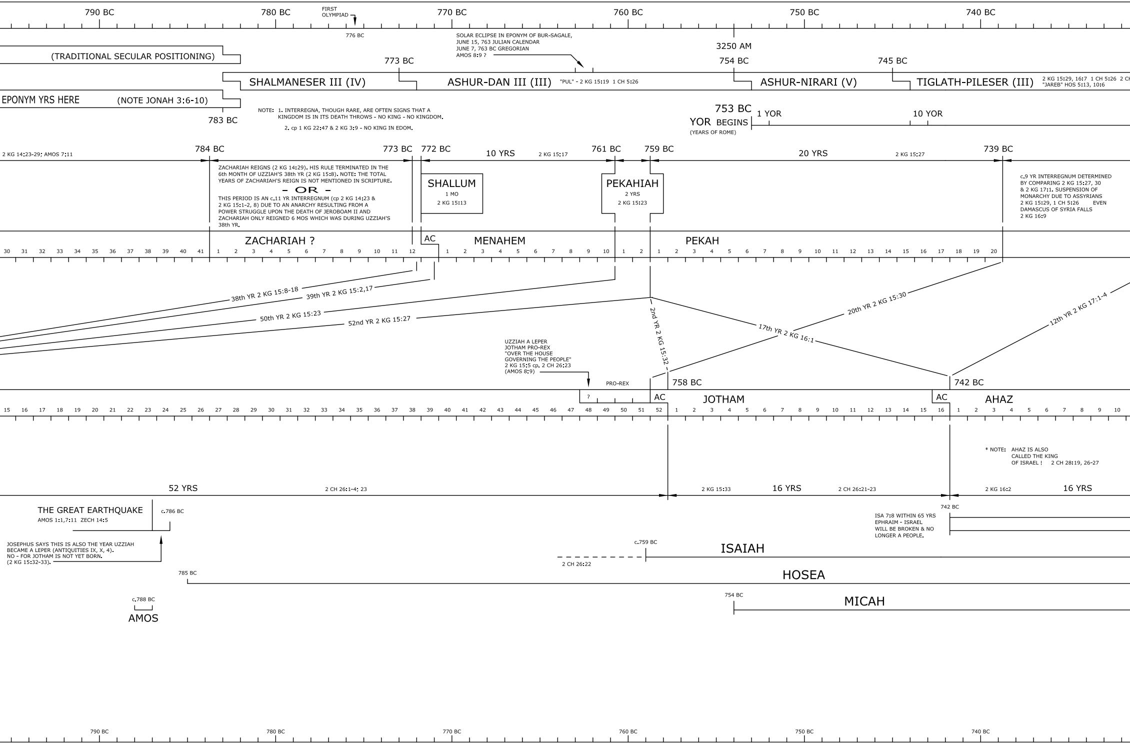
1. BAASHA WAITING 21 YRS TO BLOCK THE SOUTHERN EXODUS OF HIS CITIZENS TO JUDAH (2 CH 15:9, cp 16:1), AND
2. THE PROBLEM OF BAASHA'S INVADING JUDAH 9 YRS AFTER HIS DEATH ! (1 KG 15:33)


910 BC
900 BC
890 BC
880 BC
870 BC
3100 AM
ADAD-NIRARI II
TUKULTI-URTA II
ASSUR-NASIR-PAL II
904 BC ?
869 BC ?
SHALMANESER II (III)
SHEMSHI-RAMMAN
1
6
18
35
SEE NOTE BELOW
918 BC
22 YRS
1 KG 16:29
897 BC
897 BC
885 BC
28 YRS
2 KG 10:35-36
AHAZIAH
2 YRS
1 KG 22:51
AHAZIAH & JORAM ARE BROTHERS 2 KG 1:17 cp 3:1
1 KG 16:29-22:53
CO-REX
SOLE-REX
2 KG 8:1-16
2 KG 9; 2 KG 10
AHAB
JORAM (JEHORAM)
AC
JEHU
4th YR 1 KG 22:41
17th YR 1 KG 22:51
18th YR 2 KG 3:1
2nd YR 2 KG 1:17
5th YR 2 KG 8:16
11th YR 2 KG 9:29
12th YR 2 KG 8:25
PRO-REX
7th YR 2 KG 12:1
23rd YR 2 KG 13:1
914 BC
JEHORAM
PRO-REX
893 BC
CO-REX
886 BC
879 BC
AC
JEHOSAPHAT
SOLE-REX
ATHALIAH
JOASH (JEHOASH)
ASA SICK
39th YR
TILL DEATH
2 CH 16:12
JEHORAM
SOLE-REX
889 BC
AHAZIAH
(JEHOAHAZ)
1 YR
2 KG 8:26; 14:13
2 CH 21:17; 25:23
8 YRS
2 KG 8:17
1 KG 22:42
25 YRS
2 CH 20:30-37
7 YRS
2 CH 22:12
2 KG 11:3
2 KG 11:1-21; 12:1
DYNASTY OF OMRI
887 BC
18 BC
?
?
1 KG 17:5
c.910 BC
ELIJAH
c.897 BC
c.889 BC
886 BC
ELISHA BECOMES ELIJAH'S SERVANT 1 KG 19:19-21
YEAR ELIJAH TRANSLATED, ELISHA RECEIVES ELIJAH'S MANTLE 2 KG 2:12-25
ELIJAH'S PROPHETIC LETTER TO JEHORAM 2 CH 21:12 cp 1 KG 19:16
THE
910 BC
900 BC
890 BC
880 BC
870 BC

AHAZIAH (LITERAL HEBREW = "A SON OF 42 YEARS" i.e.: OF THE DYNASTY OF OMRI) BEGAN TO REIGN AGE 22. 2 CH 22:2 cp. 2 KG 8:26 (USING JUDAIC METHOD FOR PRO-REX). NOTE THAT THE WORD "WAS" IS IN ITALICS IN 2 CH 22:2, WHICH MEANS THAT IT IS NOT ACTUALLY THERE IN THE HEBREW. HENCE HE IS THE SON OF OMRI AS MUCH AS THE SON OF DAVID & IS OMITTED IN MT 1:8.

NOTE : SHALMANESER II (ASSYRIAN SCHOOL = III) SAYS THAT IN HIS 6TH YR. HE FOUGHT AGAINST A TWELVE KING ALLIANCE WHICH INCLUDED "A-HA-AB-BU" (AHAB?) "SIR-I-LA-A-A" (THE ISRAELITE?) AT THE BATTLE OF QARQAR (KARKAR). HE ALSO SAYS THAT AT THE TIME OF HIS INCURSION AGAINST DAMASCUS (DI-MAS-QI) IN HIS 18TH YR., "IA-U-A" (JEHU?) "MAR HU-UM-RI-I" (SON OF OMRI?) PAID HIM TRIBUTE. NEITHER INCIDENT IS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE. FURTHER, JEHU WAS NEITHER OMRI'S SON, HIS KIN, NOR EVEN OF HIS DYNASTY. MOREOVER, JEHU SLEW OMRI'S GRANDSON, JORAM, BRINGING THAT DYNASTY TO AN END. THUS, BOTH (OR EITHER) IDENTIFICATIONS MAY BE WRONG - NO POINT OF CONTACT MAY EXIST.


860 BC
850 BC
840 BC
830 BC
820 BC
810 BC
800 BC
3150 AM
3200 AM
SHALMANESER II (III)
SHEMSHI-RAMMAN IV (SHAMSI-ADAD V)
RAMMAN-NIRARI III (ADAD-NIRARI III)
1
6
18
35
856 BC ?
828 BC ?
IV (SHAMSI-ADAD V)
RAMMAN-NIRARI III (ADAD-NIRARI III)
IF SHALMANESER II (III) ENCOUNTERED AHAB OR JEHU, THEN ASSYRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS ARE MISSING c.45
857 BC
17 YRS
2 KG 13:1
840 BC
837 BC
16 YRS
2 KG 13:10
825 BC
41 YRS
EITHER JEROBOAM (II) BORN HERE 2 KG 15:1-2 OR PRO-REX DUE TO JOASH'S GOING TO WAR WITH SYRIA.
PRO-REX
JEHOAHAZ
JEHOASH (JOASH)
JEROBOAM II
37th YR 2 KG 13:10
2nd YR 2 KG 14:1
15th YR 2 KG 14:23
15th YR 2 KG 14:17; 2 CH 25:25
27th YR OF JEROBOAM 2 KG 15:1
839 BC
810 BC
AC
AMAZIAH
AC
UZZIAH (AZARIAH)
TEMPLE NOT YET REPAIRED 2 KG 12:6-9. JEHOIADA, THE HIGH PRIEST, STILL ALIVE FOR SOME TIME AFTER. cp 2 CH 24:14
JEHOIADA DIES AGE 130 2 CH 24:15
JEHOIADA'S SON ZECHARIAH IS STONED 2 CH 24:20-23 & MT 23:35
VASSEL ? 2 CH 26:15b
SOVEREIGN ?
40 YRS
2 CH 23; 24:1-2
2 KG 14:1-2
29 YRS
2 CH 25:1
2 KG 15:2
c.825 BC –
JONAH
2 KG 14:23-27
c.820 BC ± ?
JOEL
ELISHA
46 "SILENT YEARS" OF ELISHA
c.838 BC
2 KG 13:14-21
860 BC
850 BC
840 BC
830 BC
820 BC
810 BC
800 BC


790 BC
780 BC
FIRST OLYMPIAD
776 BC
770 BC
760 BC
750 BC
740 BC
3250 AM
(TRADITIONAL SECULAR POSITIONING)
773 BC
754 BC
745 BC
SHALMANESER III (IV)
ASHUR-DAN III (III)
"PUL" - 2 KG 15:19 1 CH 5:26
ASHUR-NIRARI (V)
TIGLATH-PILESER (III)
2 KG 15:29, 16:7 1 CH 5:26 2 CH
"JAREB" HOS 5:13, 10:6
EPONYM YRS HERE
(NOTE JONAH 3:6-10)
783 BC
753 BC
YOR BEGINS
(YEARS OF ROME)
1 YOR
10 YOR
2 KG 14:23-29; AMOS 7:11
784 BC
773 BC
772 BC
10 YRS
2 KG 15:17
761 BC
759 BC
20 YRS
2 KG 15:27
739 BC
SHALLUM
1 MO
2 KG 15:13
PEKAHIAH
2 YRS
2 KG 15:23
ZACHARIAH ?
AC
MENAHEM
PEKAH
30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
38th YR 2 KG 15:8-18
39th YR 2 KG 15:2,17
50th YR 2 KG 15:23
52nd YR 2 KG 15:27
2nd YR 2 KG 15:32
17th YR 2 KG 16:1
20th YR 2 KG 15:30
12th YR 2 KG 17:1-4
PRO-REX
?
AC
758 BC
JOTHAM
AC
742 BC
AHAZ
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
52 YRS
2 CH 26:1-4; 23
2 KG 15:33
16 YRS
2 CH 26:21-23
2 KG 16:2
16 YRS
THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE
AMOS 1:1,7:11 ZECH 14:5
c.786 BC
742 BC
c.759 BC
ISAIAH
2 CH 26:22
785 BC
HOSEA
754 BC
MICAH
c.788 BC
AMOS
790 BC
780 BC
770 BC
760 BC
750 BC
740 BC

SOLAR ECLIPSE IN EPONYM OF BUR-SAGALE,
JUNE 15, 763 JULIAN CALENDAR
JUNE 7, 763 BC GREGORIAN
AMOS 8:9 ?

NOTE: 1. INTERREGNA, THOUGH RARE, ARE OFTEN SIGNS THAT A KINGDOM IS IN ITS DEATH THROWS - NO KING - NO KINGDOM.

2. cp 1 KG 22:47 & 2 KG 3:9 - NO KING IN EDOM.

ZACHARIAH REIGNS (2 KG 14:29). HIS RULE TERMINATED IN THE 6th MONTH OF UZZIAH'S 38th YR (2 KG 15:8). NOTE: THE TOTAL YEARS OF ZACHARIAH'S REIGN IS NOT MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE.

- OR -

THIS PERIOD IS AN c.11 YR INTERREGNUM (cp 2 KG 14:23 & 2 KG 15:1-2, 8) DUE TO AN ANARCHY RESULTING FROM A POWER STRUGGLE UPON THE DEATH OF JEROBOAM II AND ZACHARIAH ONLY REIGNED 6 MOS WHICH WAS DURING UZZIAH'S 38th YR.

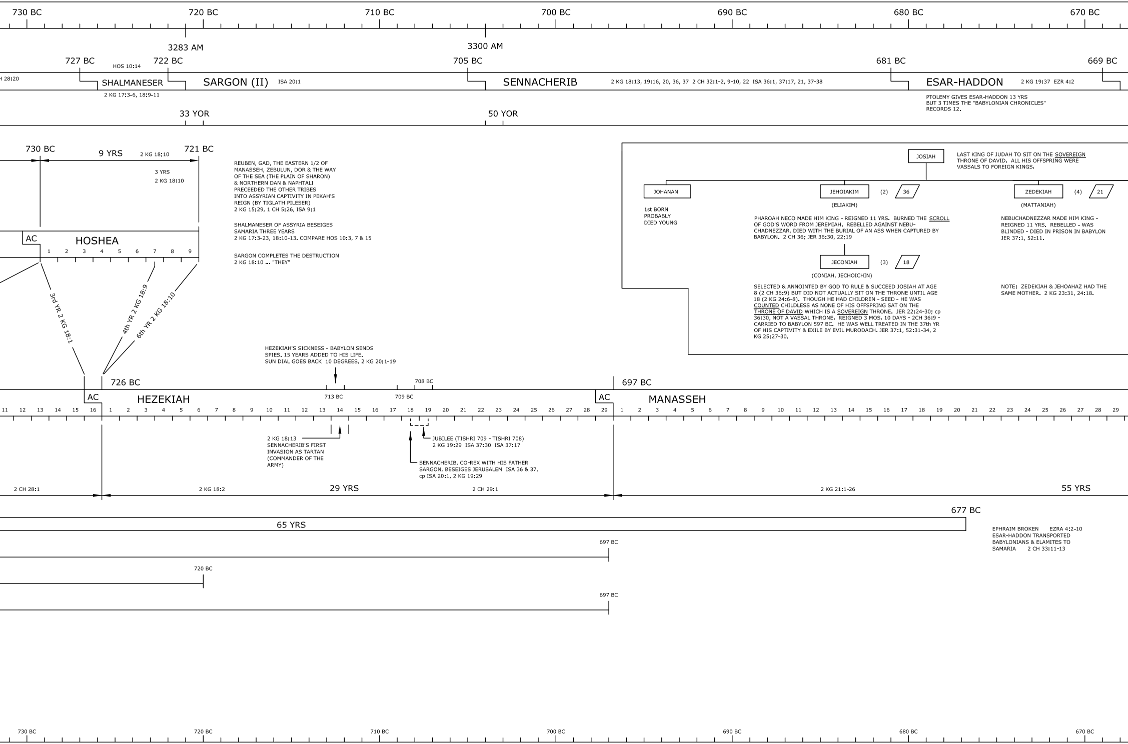
c.9 YR INTERREGNUM DETERMINED BY COMPARING 2 KG 15:27, 30 & 2 KG 17:1. SUSPENSION OF MONARCHY DUE TO ASSYRIANS 2 KG 15:29, 1 CH 5:26 EVEN DAMASCUS OF SYRIA FALLS 2 KG 16:9

UZZIAH A LEPER
JOTHAM PRO-REX
"OVER THE HOUSE
GOVERNING THE PEOPLE"
2 KG 15:5 cp. 2 CH 26:23
(AMOS 8:9)

* NOTE: AHAZ IS ALSO CALLED THE KING OF ISRAEL ! 2 CH 28:19, 26-27

JOSEPHUS SAYS THIS IS ALSO THE YEAR UZZIAH BECAME A LEPER (ANTIQUITIES IX, X, 4). NO - FOR JOTHAM IS NOT YET BORN. (2 KG 15:32-33).

ISA 7:8 WITHIN 65 YRS EPHRAIM - ISRAEL WILL BE BROKEN & NO LONGER A PEOPLE.


730 BC
720 BC
710 BC
700 BC
690 BC
680 BC
670 BC
3283 AM
3300 AM
727 BC
722 BC
705 BC
681 BC
669 BC
H 28:20
HOS 10:14
SHALMANESER
2 KG 17:3-6, 18:9-11
SARGON (II)
ISA 20:1
SENNACHERIB
2 KG 18:13, 19:16, 20, 36, 37 2 CH 32:1-2, 9-10, 22 ISA 36:1, 37:17, 21, 37-38
ESAR-HADDON
2 KG 19:37 EZR 4:2
33 YOR
50 YOR
730 BC
9 YRS
2 KG 18:10
721 BC
3 YRS
2 KG 18:10
AC
HOSHEA
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
3rd YR 2 KG 18:1
4th YR 2 KG 18:9
6th YR 2 KG 18:10
JOSIAH
JOHANAN
JEHOIAKIM
(2)
36
(ELIAKIM)
JECONIAH
(3)
18
(CONIAH, JECHOICHIN)
ZEDEKIAH
(4)
21
(MATTANIAH)
726 BC
713 BC
709 BC
708 BC
697 BC
AC
HEZEKIAH
AC
MANASSEH
11 12 13 14 15 16 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
2 CH 28:1
2 KG 18:2
29 YRS
2 CH 29:1
2 KG 21:1-26
55 YRS
677 BC
65 YRS
697 BC
720 BC
697 BC
730 BC
720 BC
710 BC
700 BC
690 BC
680 BC
670 BC

PTOLEMY GIVES ESAR-HADDON 13 YRS
BUT 3 TIMES THE "BABYLONIAN CHRONICLES"
RECORDS 12.

REUBEN, GAD, THE EASTERN 1/2 OF MANASSEH, ZEBULUN, DOR & THE WAY OF THE SEA (THE PLAIN OF SHARON) & NORTHERN DAN & NAPHTALI PRECEEDED THE OTHER TRIBES INTO ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY IN PEKAH'S REIGN (BY TIGLATH PILESER) 2 KG 15:29, 1 CH 5:26, ISA 9:1

SHALMANESER OF ASSYRIA BESEIGES SAMARIA THREE YEARS 2 KG 17:3-23, 18:10-13. COMPARE HOS 10:3, 7 & 15

SARGON COMPLETES THE DESTRUCTION 2 KG 18:10 ... "THEY"

LAST KING OF JUDAH TO SIT ON THE SOVEREIGN THRONE OF DAVID. ALL HIS OFFSPRING WERE VASSALS TO FOREIGN KINGS.

1st BORN
PROBABLY
DIED YOUNG

PHAROAH NECO MADE HIM KING - REIGNED 11 YRS. BURNED THE SCROLL OF GOD'S WORD FROM JEREMIAH. REBELLED AGAINST NEBUCHADNEZZAR, DIED WITH THE BURIAL OF AN ASS WHEN CAPTURED BY BABYLON. 2 CH 36; JER 36:30, 22;19

SELECTED & ANNOINTED BY GOD TO RULE & SUCCEED JOSIAH AT AGE 8 (2 CH 36:9) BUT DID NOT ACTUALLY SIT ON THE THRONE UNTIL AGE 18 (2 KG 24:6-8). THOUGH HE HAD CHILDREN - SEED - HE WAS COUNTED CHILDLESS AS NONE OF HIS OFFSPRING SAT ON THE THRONE OF DAVID WHICH IS A SOVEREIGN THRONE. JER 22:24-30; cp 36:30, NOT A VASSAL THRONE. REIGNED 3 MOS. 10 DAYS - 2CH 36:9 - CARRIED TO BABYLON 597 BC. HE WAS WELL TREATED IN THE 37th YR OF HIS CAPTIVITY & EXILE BY EVIL MURODACH. JER 37:1, 52:31-34, 2 KG 25:27-30.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR MADE HIM KING - REIGNED 11 YRS. REBELLED - WAS BLINDED - DIED IN PRISON IN BABYLON JER 37:1, 52:11.

NOTE: ZEDEKIAH & JEHOAHAZ HAD THE SAME MOTHER. 2 KG 23:31, 24:18.

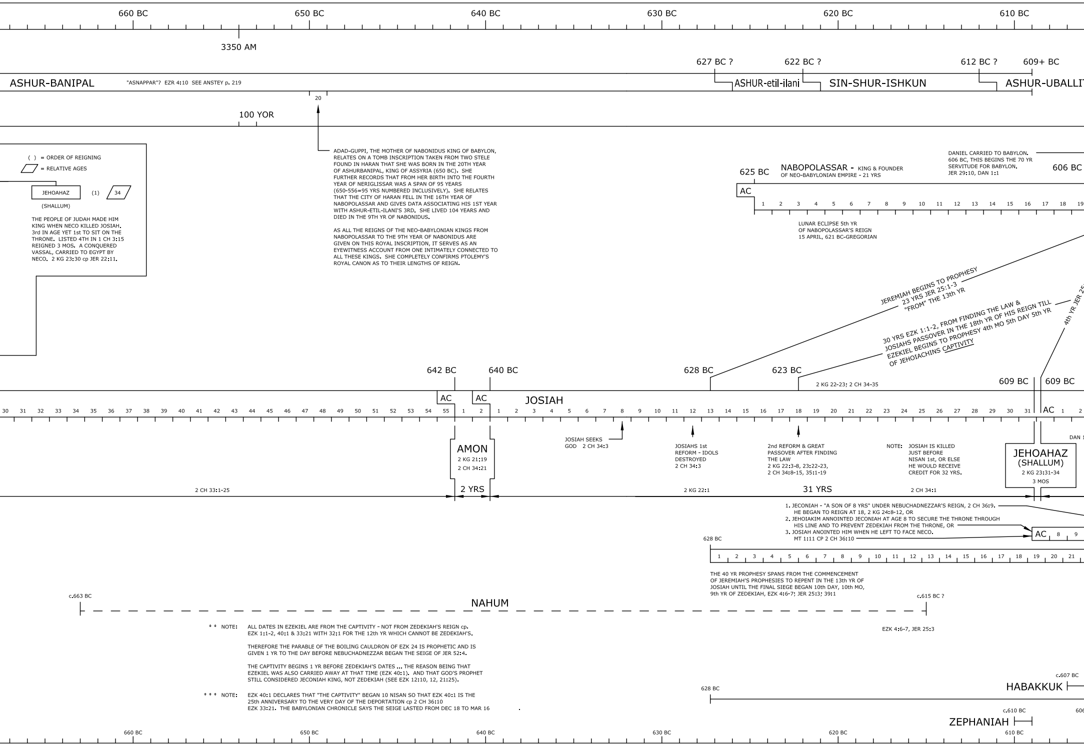
HEZEKIAH'S SICKNESS - BABYLON SENDS SPIES. 15 YEARS ADDED TO HIS LIFE. SUN DIAL GOES BACK 10 DEGREES. 2 KG 20:1-19

2 KG 18:13
SENNACHERIB'S FIRST INVASION AS TARTAN (COMMANDER OF THE ARMY)

JUBILEE (TISHRI 709 - TISHRI 708)
2 KG 19:29 ISA 37:30 ISA 37:17

SENNACHERIB, CO-REX WITH HIS FATHER SARGON, BESEIGES JERUSALEM ISA 36 & 37, cp ISA 20:1, 2 KG 19:29

EPHRAIM BROKEN   EZRA 4:2-10
ESAR-HADDON TRANSPORTED BABYLONIANS & ELAMITES TO SAMARIA   2 CH 33:11-13


660 BC
650 BC
640 BC
630 BC
620 BC
610 BC
3350 AM
627 BC ?
622 BC ?
612 BC ?
609+ BC
ASHUR-BANIPAL
"ASNAPPAR"? EZR 4:10 SEE ANSTEY p. 219
ASHUR-etil-ilani
SIN-SHUR-ISHKUN
ASHUR-UBALLI
20
100 YOR
( ) = ORDER OF REIGNING
= RELATIVE AGES
JEHOAHAZ
(SHALLUM)
(1)
34
625 BC
NABOPOLASSAR - KING & FOUNDER OF NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE - 21 YRS
606 BC
AC
642 BC
640 BC
628 BC
623 BC
609 BC
609 BC
JOSIAH
AMON
2 KG 21:19
2 CH 34:21
2 YRS
2 CH 33:1-25
2 KG 22:1
31 YRS
2 CH 34:1
2 KG 22-23; 2 CH 34-35
JEHOAHAZ
(SHALLUM)
2 KG 23:31-34
3 MOS
DAN 1
628 BC
NAHUM
c.663 BC
c.615 BC ?
EZK 4:6-7, JER 25:3
HABAKKUK
c.607 BC
ZEPHANIAH
c.610 BC
606

THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH MADE HIM KING WHEN NECO KILLED JOSIAH. 3rd IN AGE YET 1st TO SIT ON THE THRONE. LISTED 4TH IN 1 CH 3:15 REIGNED 3 MOS. A CONQUERED VASSAL, CARRIED TO EGYPT BY NECO. 2 KG 23:30 cp JER 22:11.

ADAD-GUPPI, THE MOTHER OF NABONIDUS KING OF BABYLON, RELATES ON A TOMB INSCRIPTION TAKEN FROM TWO STELE FOUND IN HARAN THAT SHE WAS BORN IN THE 20TH YEAR OF ASHURBANIPAL, KING OF ASSYRIA (650 BC). SHE FURTHER RECORDS THAT FROM HER BIRTH INTO THE FOURTH YEAR OF NERIGLISSAR WAS A SPAN OF 95 YEARS (650-556=95 YRS NUMBERED INCLUSIVELY). SHE RELATES THAT THE CITY OF HARAN FELL IN THE 16TH YEAR OF NABOPOLASSAR AND GIVES DATA ASSOCIATING HIS 1ST YEAR WITH ASHUR-ETIL-ILANI'S 3RD. SHE LIVED 104 YEARS AND DIED IN THE 9TH YR OF NABONIDUS.

AS ALL THE REIGNS OF THE NEO-BABYLONIAN KINGS FROM NABOPOLASSAR TO THE 9TH YEAR OF NABONIDUS ARE GIVEN ON THIS ROYAL INSCRIPTION, IT SERVES AS AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT FROM ONE INTIMATELY CONNECTED TO ALL THESE KINGS. SHE COMPLETELY CONFIRMS PTOLEMY'S ROYAL CANON AS TO THEIR LENGTHS OF REIGN.

DANIEL CARRIED TO BABYLON. 606 BC, THIS BEGINS THE 70 YR SERVITUDE FOR BABYLON. JER 29:10, DAN 1:1

LUNAR ECLIPSE 5th YR OF NABOPOLASSAR'S REIGN 15 APRIL, 621 BC-GREGORIAN

JEREMIAH BEGINS TO PROPHESY 23 YRS JER 25:1-3 "FROM" THE 13th YR

30 YRS EZK 1:1-2, FROM FINDING THE LAW & JOSIAHS PASSOVER IN THE 18th YR OF HIS REIGN TILL EZEKIEL BEGINS TO PROPHESY 4th MO 5th DAY 5th YR OF JEHOIACHINS CAPTIVITY

4th YR JER 25

JOSIAH SEEKS GOD 2 CH 34:3

JOSIAHS 1st REFORM - IDOLS DESTROYED 2 CH 34:3

2nd REFORM & GREAT PASSOVER AFTER FINDING THE LAW 2 KG 22:3-8, 23:22-23, 2 CH 34:8-15, 35:1-19

NOTE: JOSIAH IS KILLED JUST BEFORE NISAN 1st, OR ELSE HE WOULD RECEIVE CREDIT FOR 32 YRS.

1. JECONIAH - "A SON OF 8 YRS" UNDER NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S REIGN, 2 CH 36:9. HE BEGAN TO REIGN AT 18, 2 KG 24:8-12, OR
2. JEHOIAKIM ANNOINTED JECONIAH AT AGE 8 TO SECURE THE THRONE THROUGH HIS LINE AND TO PREVENT ZEDEKIAH FROM THE THRONE, OR
3. JOSIAH ANOINTED HIM WHEN HE LEFT TO FACE NECO. MT 1:11 CP 2 CH 36:10

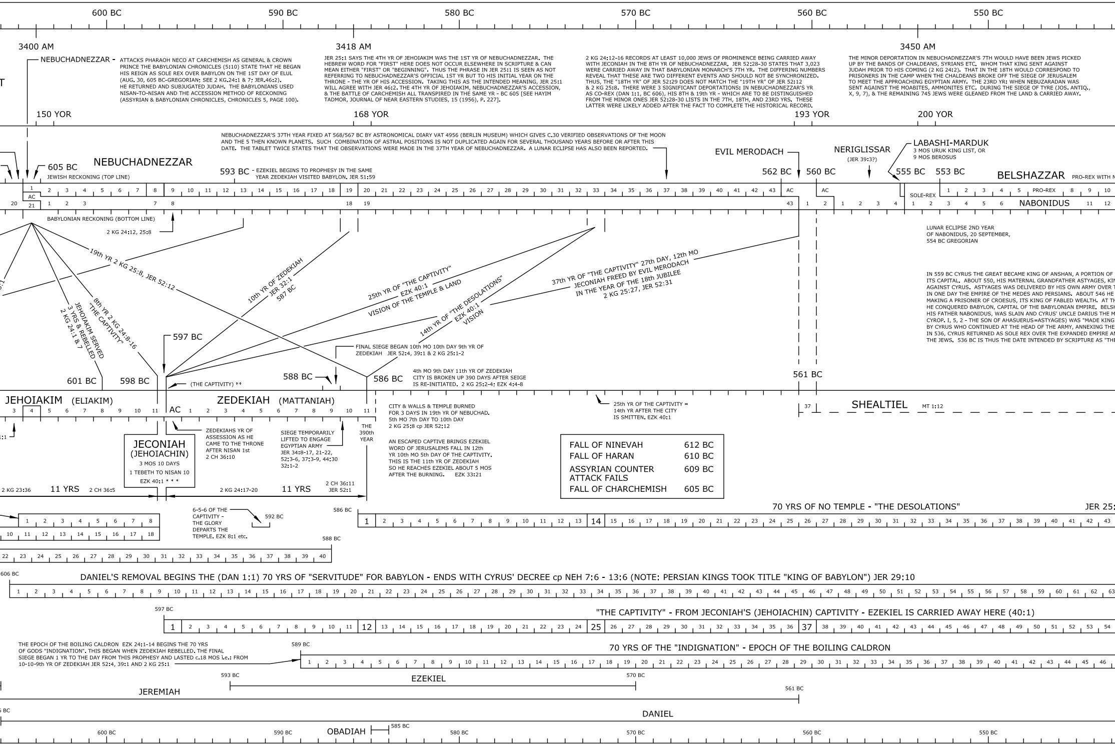
THE 40 YR PROPHESY SPANS FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF JEREMIAH'S PROPHESIES TO REPENT IN THE 13th YR OF JOSIAH UNTIL THE FINAL SIEGE BEGAN 10th DAY, 10th MO, 9th YR OF ZEDEKIAH, EZK 4:6-7; JER 25:3; 39:1

* * NOTE: ALL DATES IN EZEKIEL ARE FROM THE CAPTIVITY - NOT FROM ZEDEKIAH'S REIGN cp. EZK 1:1-2, 40:1 & 33:21 WITH 32:1 FOR THE 12th YR WHICH CANNOT BE ZEDEKIAH'S.

THEREFORE THE PARABLE OF THE BOILING CAULDRON OF EZK 24 IS PROPHETIC AND IS GIVEN 1 YR TO THE DAY BEFORE NEBUCHADNEZZAR BEGAN THE SEIGE OF JER 52:4.

THE CAPTIVITY BEGINS 1 YR BEFORE ZEDEKIAH'S DATES ... THE REASON BEING THAT EZEKIEL WAS ALSO CARRIED AWAY AT THAT TIME (EZK 40:1). AND THAT GOD'S PROPHET STILL CONSIDERED JECONIAH KING, NOT ZEDEKIAH (SEE EZK 12:10, 12, 21:25).

* * * NOTE: EZK 40:1 DECLARES THAT "THE CAPTIVITY" BEGAN 10 NISAN SO THAT EZK 40:1 IS THE 25th ANNIVERSARY TO THE VERY DAY OF THE DEPORTATION cp 2 CH 36:10 EZK 33:21. THE BABYLONIAN CHRONICLE SAYS THE SEIGE LASTED FROM DEC 18 TO MAR 16 .


600 BC
590 BC
580 BC
570 BC
560 BC
550 BC
3400 AM
3418 AM
3450 AM
150 YOR
168 YOR
193 YOR
200 YOR
NEBUCHADNEZZAR -
NEBUCHADNEZZAR
605 BC
JEWISH RECKONING (TOP LINE)
BABYLONIAN RECKONING (BOTTOM LINE)
2 KG 24:12, 25:8
593 BC
EVIL MERODACH
562 BC
560 BC
NERIGLISSAR
(JER 39:3?)
LABASHI-MARDUK
3 MOS URUK KING LIST, OR
9 MOS BEROSUS
555 BC
553 BC
BELSHAZZAR
PRO-REX WITH N
SOLE-REX
PRO-REX
NABONIDUS
AC
19th YR 2 KG 25:8, JER 52:12
JEHOIAKIM SERVED
3 YRS & REBELLED
2 KG 24:1 & 7
8th YR 2 KG 24:8-16
"THE CAPTIVITY"
10th YR OF ZEDEKIAH
JER 32:1
587 BC
25th YR OF "THE CAPTIVITY"
EZK 40:1
VISION OF THE TEMPLE & LAND
14th YR OF "THE DESOLATIONS"
EZK 40:1
VISION
37th YR OF "THE CAPTIVITY" 27th DAY, 12th MO
JECONIAH FREED BY EVIL MERODACH
IN THE YEAR OF THE 18th JUBILEE
2 KG 25:27, JER 52:31
597 BC
601 BC
598 BC
(THE CAPTIVITY) **
588 BC
586 BC
561 BC
JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)
ZEDEKIAH (MATTANIAH)
SHEALTIEL
MT 1:12
JECONIAH
(JEHOIACHIN)
3 MOS 10 DAYS
1 TEBETH TO NISAN 10
EZK 40:1 * * *
2 KG 23:36
11 YRS
2 CH 36:5
2 KG 24:17-20
11 YRS
2 CH 36:11
JER 52:1
THE
390th
YEAR
592 BC
586 BC
588 BC
606 BC
597 BC
589 BC
70 YRS OF NO TEMPLE - "THE DESOLATIONS"
JER 25:
DANIEL'S REMOVAL BEGINS THE (DAN 1:1) 70 YRS OF "SERVITUDE" FOR BABYLON - ENDS WITH CYRUS' DECREE cp NEH 7:6 - 13:6 (NOTE: PERSIAN KINGS TOOK TITLE "KING OF BABYLON") JER 29:10
"THE CAPTIVITY" - FROM JECONIAH'S (JEHOIACHIN) CAPTIVITY - EZEKIEL IS CARRIED AWAY HERE (40:1)
70 YRS OF THE "INDIGNATION" - EPOCH OF THE BOILING CALDRON
593 BC
EZEKIEL
570 BC
JEREMIAH
561 BC
DANIEL
OBADIAH
585 BC

NEBUCHADNEZZAR - ATTACKS PHARAOH NECO AT CARCHEMISH AS GENERAL & CROWN PRINCE THE BABYLONIAN CHRONICLES (5:10) STATE THAT HE BEGAN HIS REIGN AS SOLE REX OVER BABYLON ON THE 1ST DAY OF ELUL (AUG. 30, 605 BC-GREGORIAN; SEE 2 KG.24:1 & 7; JER.46:2). HE RETURNED AND SUBJUGATED JUDAH. THE BABYLONIANS USED NISAN-TO-NISAN AND THE ACCESSION METHOD OF RECKONING (ASSYRIAN & BABYLONIAN CHRONICLES, CHRONICLES 5, PAGE 100).

JER 25:1 SAYS THE 4TH YR OF JEHOIAKIM WAS THE 1ST YR OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR. THE HEBREW WORD FOR "FIRST" HERE DOES NOT OCCUR ELSEWHERE IN SCRIPTURE & CAN MEAN EITHER "FIRST" OR "BEGINNING". THUS THE PHRASE IN JER 25:1 IS SEEN AS NOT REFERRING TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S OFFICIAL 1ST YR BUT TO HIS INITIAL YEAR ON THE THRONE - THE YR OF HIS ACCESSION. TAKING THIS AS THE INTENDED MEANING, JER 25:1 WILL AGREE WITH JER 46:2. THE 4TH YR OF JEHOIAKIM, NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S ACCESSION, & THE BATTLE OF CARCHEMISH ALL TRANSPIRED IN THE SAME YR - BC 605 [SEE HAYIM TADMOR, JOURNAL OF NEAR EASTERN STUDIES, 15 (1956), P. 227].

2 KG 24:12-16 RECORDS AT LEAST 10,000 JEWS OF PROMINENCE BEING CARRIED AWAY WITH JECONIAH IN THE 8TH YR OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR. JER 52:28-30 STATES THAT 3,023 WERE CARRIED AWAY IN THAT BABYLONIAN MONARCH'S 7TH YR. THE DIFFERING NUMBERS REVEAL THAT THESE ARE TWO DIFFERENT EVENTS AND SHOULD NOT BE SYNCHRONIZED. THUS, THE "18TH YR" OF JER 52:29 DOES NOT MATCH THE "19TH YR" OF JER 52:12 & 2 KG 25:8. THERE WERE 3 SIGNIFICANT DEPORTATIONS: IN NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S YR AS CO-REX (DAN 1:1, BC 606), HIS 8TH & 19th YR - WHICH ARE TO BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THE MINOR ONES JER 52:28-30 LISTS IN THE 7TH, 18TH, AND 23RD YRS. THESE LATTER WERE LIKELY ADDED AFTER THE FACT TO COMPLETE THE HISTORICAL RECORD.

THE MINOR DEPORTATION IN NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S 7TH WOULD HAVE BEEN JEWS PICKED UP BY THE BANDS OF CHALDEANS, SYRIANS ETC. WHOM THAT KING SENT AGAINST JUDAH PRIOR TO HIS COMING (2 KG 24:2). THAT IN THE 18TH WOULD CORRESPOND TO PRISONERS IN THE CAMP WHEN THE CHALDEANS BROKE OFF THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM TO MEET THE APPROACHING EGYPTIAN ARMY. THE 23RD YR: WHEN NEBUZARADAN WAS SENT AGAINST THE MOABITES, AMMONITES ETC. DURING THE SIEGE OF TYRE (JOS. ANTIQ., X, 9, 7), & THE REMAINING 745 JEWS WERE GLEANED FROM THE LAND & CARRIED AWAY.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S 37TH YEAR FIXED AT 568/567 BC BY ASTRONOMICAL DIARY VAT 4956 (BERLIN MUSEUM) WHICH GIVES C.30 VERIFIED OBSERVATIONS OF THE MOON AND THE 5 THEN KNOWN PLANETS. SUCH COMBINATION OF ASTRAL POSITIONS IS NOT DUPLICATED AGAIN FOR SEVERAL THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE OR AFTER THIS DATE. THE TABLET TWICE STATES THAT THE OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE IN THE 37TH YEAR OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR. A LUNAR ECLIPSE HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED.

593 BC - EZEKIEL BEGINS TO PROPHESY IN THE SAME YEAR ZEDEKIAH VISITED BABYLON. JER 51:59

LUNAR ECLIPSE 2ND YEAR OF NABONIDUS, 20 SEPTEMBER, 554 BC GREGORIAN

IN 559 BC CYRUS THE GREAT BECAME KING OF ANSHAN, A PORTION OF
ITS CAPITAL. ABOUT 550, HIS MATERNAL GRANDFATHER ASTYAGES, KIN
AGAINST CYRUS. ASTYAGES WAS DELIVERED BY HIS OWN ARMY OVER T
IN ONE DAY THE EMPIRE OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS. ABOUT 546 HE
MAKING A PRISONER OF CROESUS, ITS KING OF FABLED WEALTH. AT TH
HE CONQUERED BABYLON, CAPITAL OF THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE. BELSH
HIS FATHER NABONIDUS, WAS SLAIN AND CYRUS' UNCLE DARIUS THE M
CYROP. I, 5, 2 - THE SON OF AHASUERUS=ASTYAGES) WAS "MADE KING
BY CYRUS WHO CONTINUED AT THE HEAD OF THE ARMY, ANNEXING THE
IN 536, CYRUS RETURNED AS SOLE REX OVER THE EXPANDED EMPIRE AN
THE JEWS. 536 BC IS THUS THE DATE INTENDED BY SCRIPTURE AS "THE

FINAL SIEGE BEGAN 10th MO 10th DAY 9th YR OF ZEDEKIAH JER 52:4, 39:1 & 2 KG 25:1-2

4th MO 9th DAY 11th YR OF ZEDEKIAH CITY IS BROKEN UP 390 DAYS AFTER SEIGE IS RE-INITIATED. 2 KG 25:2-4; EZK 4:4-8

ZEDEKIAHS YR OF ASSESSION AS HE CAME TO THE THRONE AFTER NISAN 1st 2 CH 36:10

SIEGE TEMPORARILY LIFTED TO ENGAGE EGYPTIAN ARMY JER 34:8-17, 21-22, 52:3-6, 37:3-9, 44:30 32:1-2

CITY & WALLS & TEMPLE BURNED FOR 3 DAYS IN 19th YR OF NEBUCHAD. 5th MO 7th DAY TO 10th DAY 2 KG 25:8 cp JER 52:12

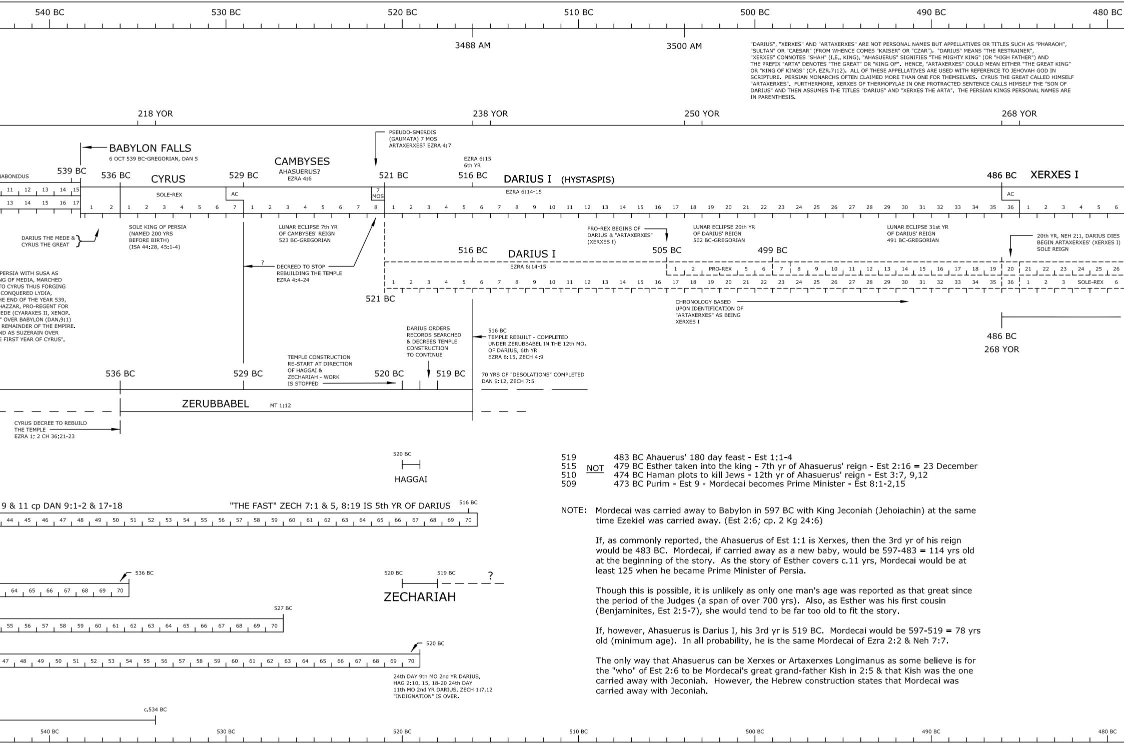
AN ESCAPED CAPTIVE BRINGS EZEKIEL WORD OF JERUSALEMS FALL IN 12th YR 10th MO 5th DAY OF THE CAPTIVITY. THIS IS THE 11th YR OF ZEDEKIAH SO HE REACHES EZEKIEL ABOUT 5 MOS AFTER THE BURNING. EZK 33:21

25th YR OF THE CAPTIVITY = 14th YR AFTER THE CITY IS SMITTEN. EZK 40:1

6-5-6 OF THE CAPTIVITY - THE GLORY DEPARTS THE TEMPLE. EZK 8:1 etc.

FALL OF NINEVAH	612 BC
FALL OF HARAN	610 BC
ASSYRIAN COUNTER ATTACK FAILS	609 BC
FALL OF CHARCHEMISH	605 BC

THE EPOCH OF THE BOILING CALDRON EZK 24:1-14 BEGINS THE 70 YRS OF GODS "INDIGNATION". THIS BEGAN WHEN ZEDEKIAH REBELLED. THE FINAL SIEGE BEGAN 1 YR TO THE DAY FROM THIS PROPHESY AND LASTED c.18 MOS i.e.: FROM 10-10-9th YR OF ZEDEKIAH JER 52:4, 39:1 AND 2 KG 25:1


540 BC
530 BC
520 BC
510 BC
500 BC
490 BC
480 BC
3488 AM
3500 AM
218 YOR
238 YOR
250 YOR
268 YOR
BABYLON FALLS
6 OCT 539 BC-GREGORIAN, DAN 5
ABONIDUS
11 12 13 14 15
13 14 15 16 17
539 BC
536 BC
CYRUS
SOLE-REX
1 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
AC
529 BC
CAMBYSES
AHASUERUS?
EZRA 4:6
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
7 MOS
PSEUDO-SMERDIS
(GAUMATA) 7 MOS
ARTAXERXES? EZRA 4:7
521 BC
EZRA 6:15
6th YR
516 BC
DARIUS I (HYSTASPIS)
EZRA 6:14-15
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36
486 BC
XERXES I
AC
1 2 3 4 5 6
DARIUS THE MEDE &
CYRUS THE GREAT
SOLE KING OF PERSIA
(NAMED 200 YRS
BEFORE BIRTH)
(ISA 44:28, 45:1-4)
LUNAR ECLIPSE 7th YR
OF CAMBYSES' REIGN
523 BC-GREGORIAN
?
DECREED TO STOP
REBUILDING THE TEMPLE
EZRA 4:4-24
PRO-REX BEGINS OF
DARIUS & "ARTAXERXES"
(XERXES I)
LUNAR ECLIPSE 20th YR
OF DARIUS' REIGN
502 BC-GREGORIAN
LUNAR ECLIPSE 31st YR
OF DARIUS' REIGN
491 BC-GREGORIAN
20th YR, NEH 2:1, DARIUS DIES
BEGIN ARTAXERXES' (XERXES I)
SOLE REIGN
516 BC
DARIUS I
EZRA 6:14-15
505 BC
499 BC
1 2 PRO-REX 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 1 2 3 SOLE-REX 6
521 BC
PERSIA WITH SUSA AS
NG OF MEDIA, MARCHED
TO CYRUS THUS FORGING
CONQUERED LYDIA,
HE END OF THE YEAR 539,
HAZZAR, PRO-REGENT FOR
EDE (CYARAXES II, XENOP.
" OVER BABYLON (DAN.9:1)
REMAINDER OF THE EMPIRE.
ND AS SUZERAIN OVER
E FIRST YEAR OF CYRUS".
CHRONOLOGY BASED
UPON IDENTIFICATION OF
"ARTAXERXES" AS BEING
XERXES I
486 BC
268 YOR
DARIUS ORDERS
RECORDS SEARCHED
& DECREES TEMPLE
CONSTRUCTION
TO CONTINUE
516 BC
TEMPLE REBUILT - COMPLETED
UNDER ZERUBBABEL IN THE 12th MO.
OF DARIUS, 6th YR
EZRA 6:15, ZECH 4:9
TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION
RE-START AT DIRECTION
OF HAGGAI &
ZECHARIAH - WORK
IS STOPPED
536 BC
529 BC
520 BC
519 BC
70 YRS OF "DESOLATIONS" COMPLETED
DAN 9:12, ZECH 7:5
ZERUBBABEL
MT 1:12
CYRUS DECREE TO REBUILD
THE TEMPLE
EZRA 1; 2 CH 36:21-23
520 BC
HAGGAI
9 & 11 cp DAN 9:1-2 & 17-18
"THE FAST" ZECH 7:1 & 5, 8:19 IS 5th YR OF DARIUS
516 BC
44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70
536 BC
64 65 66 67 68 69 70
520 BC
519 BC
?
ZECHARIAH
527 BC
55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70
520 BC
47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70
24th DAY 9th MO 2nd YR DARIUS,
HAG 2:10, 15, 18-20 24th DAY
11th MO 2nd YR DARIUS, ZECH 1:7,12
"INDIGNATION" IS OVER.
c.534 BC
540 BC
530 BC
520 BC
510 BC
500 BC
490 BC
480 BC

"DARIUS", "XERXES" AND "ARTAXERXES" ARE NOT PERSONAL NAMES BUT APPELLATIVES OR TITLES SUCH AS "PHARAOH", "SULTAN" OR "CAESAR" (FROM WHENCE COMES "KAISER" OR "CZAR"). "DARIUS" MEANS "THE RESTRAINER", "XERXES" CONNOTES "SHAH" (I.E., KING), "AHASUERUS" SIGNIFIES "THE MIGHTY KING" (OR "HIGH FATHER") AND THE PREFIX "ARTA" DENOTES "THE GREAT" OR "KING OF". HENCE, "ARTAXERXES" COULD MEAN EITHER "THE GREAT KING" OR "KING OF KINGS" (CP. EZR.7:12). ALL OF THESE APPELLATIVES ARE USED WITH REFERENCE TO JEHOVAH GOD IN SCRIPTURE. PERSIAN MONARCHS OFTEN CLAIMED MORE THAN ONE FOR THEMSELVES. CYRUS THE GREAT CALLED HIMSELF "ARTAXERXES". FURTHERMORE, XERXES OF THERMOPYLAE IN ONE PROTRACTED SENTENCE CALLS HIMSELF THE "SON OF DARIUS" AND THEN ASSUMES THE TITLES "DARIUS" AND "XERXES THE ARTA". THE PERSIAN KINGS PERSONAL NAMES ARE IN PARENTHESIS.

519	NOT	483 BC Ahauerus' 180 day feast - Est 1:1-4
515		479 BC Esther taken into the king - 7th yr of Ahasuerus' reign - Est 2:16 = 23 December
510		474 BC Haman plots to kill Jews - 12th yr of Ahasuerus' reign - Est 3:7, 9,12
509		473 BC Purim - Est 9 - Mordecai becomes Prime Minister - Est 8:1-2,15

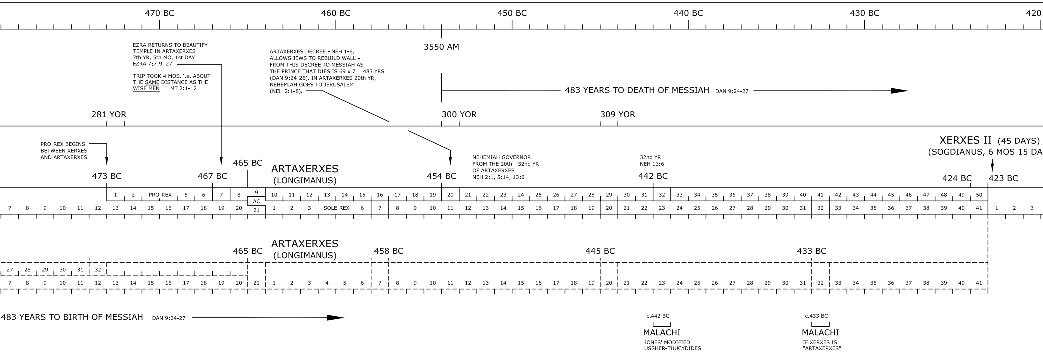
NOTE: Mordecai was carried away to Babylon in 597 BC with King Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) at the same time Ezekiel was carried away. (Est 2:6; cp. 2 Kg 24:6)

If, as commonly reported, the Ahasuerus of Est 1:1 is Xerxes, then the 3rd yr of his reign would be 483 BC. Mordecai, if carried away as a new baby, would be 597-483 = 114 yrs old at the beginning of the story. As the story of Esther covers c.11 yrs, Mordecai would be at least 125 when he became Prime Minister of Persia.

Though this is possible, it is unlikely as only one man's age was reported as that great since the period of the Judges (a span of over 700 yrs). Also, as Esther was his first cousin (Benjaminites, Est 2:5-7), she would tend to be far too old to fit the story.

If, however, Ahasuerus is Darius I, his 3rd yr is 519 BC. Mordecai would be 597-519 = 78 yrs old (minimum age). In all probability, he is the same Mordecai of Ezra 2:2 & Neh 7:7.

The only way that Ahasuerus can be Xerxes or Artaxerxes Longimanus as some believe is for the "who" of Est 2:6 to be Mordecai's great grand-father Kish in 2:5 & that Kish was the one carried away with Jeconiah. However, the Hebrew construction states that Mordecai was carried away with Jeconiah.


470 BC
460 BC
450 BC
440 BC
430 BC
420
3550 AM
EZRA RETURNS TO BEAUTIFY TEMPLE IN ARTAXERXES 7th YR, 5th MO, 1st DAY EZRA 7:7-9, 27
TRIP TOOK 4 MOS. i.e. ABOUT THE SAME DISTANCE AS THE WISE MEN MT 2:1-12
ARTAXERXES DECREE - NEH 1-6, ALLOWS JEWS TO REBUILD WALL - FROM THIS DECREE TO MESSIAH AS THE PRINCE THAT DIES IS 69 x 7 = 483 YRS (DAN 9:24-26). IN ARTAXERXES 20th YR, NEHEMIAH GOES TO JERUSALEM (NEH 2:1-8).
483 YEARS TO DEATH OF MESSIAH DAN 9:24-27
281 YOR
300 YOR
309 YOR
PRO-REX BEGINS BETWEEN XERXES AND ARTAXERXES
473 BC
467 BC
465 BC
ARTAXERXES (LONGIMANUS)
454 BC
NEHEMIAH GOVERNOR FROM THE 20th - 32nd YR OF ARTAXERXES NEH 2:1, 5:14, 13:6
32nd YR NEH 13:6
442 BC
XERXES II (45 DAYS)
(SOGDIANUS, 6 MOS 15 DA
424 BC
423 BC
PRO-REX
AC
SOLE-REX
465 BC
ARTAXERXES (LONGIMANUS)
458 BC
445 BC
433 BC
483 YEARS TO BIRTH OF MESSIAH DAN 9:24-27
c.442 BC
MALACHI
JONES' MODIFIED USSHER-THUCYDIDES
c.433 BC
MALACHI
IF XERXES IS "ARTAXERXES"

ARTAXERXES DECREE AND THE 483 YEARS UNTO CHRIST JESUS

Longimanus (BC 465-424) has for many yrs been generally acknowledged as the "Artaxerxes" of Ezra 6:14, Ezra 7, and the Book of Nehemiah. As his 20th yr would fall c.445 BC, the 483 yrs of the Dan.9:24-27 prophecy from BC 445 takes one to c.39 AD; yet other Biblical data places the Lord Jesus as "about" 30 yrs old (Luk.3:23) in the "15th yr of Tiberius Caesar" (Luk.3:1, c.26 AD) thus His crucifixion should not have extended past c.33 AD.

Sir Robert Anderson sought to resolve this impasse by making the 483 yrs "prophetic" 360 day yrs thereby reducing the span to 476 solar yrs (365.24 days) bringing the fulfillment date near 30-33 AD. The main weakness in this is that the material in Daniel must be compared to Genesis and Revelation in order to so calculate. The Hebrews were given this prophecy so they could know the time of Messiah, but as Revelation was written AD 96 it would not have been at their disposal.

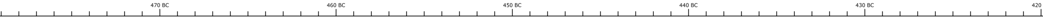
Whereas such calculation would have been possible from the data in Genesis 7 and 8, it is not certain the Jews would have understood to do this. It is conceded that the feast recorded in Est.1:1-5 lasting 180 days (exactly six months of a 360 day yr) indicates the possibility of a 360-day-yr. It is illogical that Anderson et al. used 365.24 day solar yrs from Creation to the 20th yr of Artaxerxes, but suddenly resorted to 360 day yrs in order to complete the Old Testament chronology. Notwithstanding, ever since his 1882 publishing, nearly all conservatives consider that this resolved the matter.

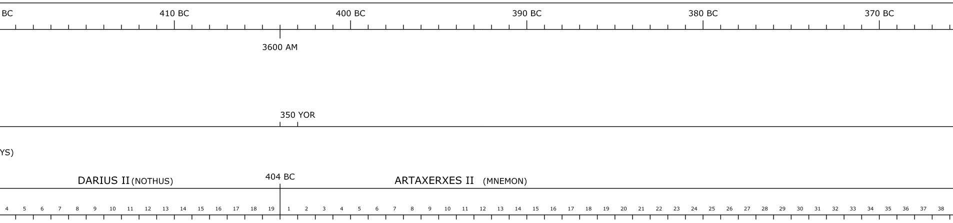
This solution encounters an "unpleasant" quandary for as the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah span about 103 yrs (536-433=103), the ages of these two men become embarrassingly large. As leaders, Ezra would have been a minimal of 121 yrs (536-445=91+30) and Nehemiah 133. Modern scholarship resolved this by contriving a 2nd Ezra and Nehemiah but even this does not resolve the problem.

A comparison of the Neh.12:1-9 list of Priests and Levites returning with Zerubbabel in the 1st yr of Cyrus as sole Rex of Persia/Babylonia (536 BC) with the Neh.10:1-10 list sealing a covenant with Nehemiah in the 20th yr of Artaxerxes (BC 445?) reveals that at least 16, possibly 20, of those returning with Zerubbabel as leaders (30 and older) were still alive in the 20th yr of Artaxerxes. If this Artaxerxes is Longimanus as is generally held, then this generation of leaders would be alive 91 yrs (536-445=91) after they returned to Jerusalem. The youngest would then be 121 (91+30) and others much older. Yet the Scriptures reveal that life spans were foreshortened to those of today (Psa.90:10) such that for over 700 yrs only one man was recorded as having lived past age 100 (Jehoiada=130, 2 Chr.24:15). It is inconceivable that an entire generation suddenly lived so long. Thus the Scriptures imply that the traditional identification of the Artaxerxes of Nehemiah as being Longimanus may be erroneous. Secular history also infers this, relating that Xerxes was the last Persian King to practice the religious tolerance depicted by the Biblical Artaxerxes (Hayes & Hanscom, *Ancient Civilizations*, 1968, p. 182). Therefore the possibility arises that the Artaxerxes of Nehemiah was another King of Persia prior to Longimanus, thereby reducing these men's ages.

Note that "Darius", "Xerxes" and "Artaxerxes" are not names but titles with Persian Monarchs often claiming more than one. Cyrus called himself "Artaxerxes", and Xerxes of Thermopylae in one sentence calls himself the "son of Darius" and then assumes the titles "Darius" and "Xerxes the Arta".

A Possible Solution: These excessive age problems may be resolved by the possibility that as the Biblical monarch of Persia bearing the title "Artaxerxes" is uniformly mentioned in the Scriptures following Darius I Hystaspis, he may be "Xerxes I" of secular history rather than Longimanus (Ezr.6 & 7; Neh.2). Comparing the Persian Kings of Dan.10:1 and 11:1-4 with the Book of Ezra (4:5-7,24; 6:14-15; 7:1-13,29), the conclusion may be drawn that the fourth King of Dan.11:2 and the "Artaxerxes" of the Ezra passage are the same, Xerxes I. Josephus concurs indirectly in that he first identifies the successor to Darius the son of Hystaspis as being "Xerxes" and then specifies that he was the Persian King with whom Ezra and Nehemiah dealt (Antiq. XI,3,1 cp. to XI,5,1-6). He later mentions an event that occurred in Xerxes' 28th yr (Antiq. XI,5,8). Firdusi's "historical" poetic rendering of the legendary national traditions of Persia recounts that Darius Hystaspis was followed by "an" Artaxerxes. If this is the actual identification, the ages of Ezra/Nehemiah (& Priests/Levites of Neh.10 & 12) will no longer appear so great as to apparently necessitate having two different men in successive generations with the same name.


470 BC
460 BC
450 BC
440 BC
430 BC
420



Relying only on Biblical data, beginning with Adam (AM=1) we moved forward establishing 3488 AM (516 BC) as the 6th yr of Darius I Hystaspis. Then we established fixed points of reference using the 15th yr of Tiberius (Luk.3:1) as c.26 AD when Jesus was baptized being c.30 (Luk.3:23 or His cleansing of the Temple [Joh.2:13-22 cp. Mal.3:1] at the April Passover of AD 27 in the 46th yr of Herod's repair on the Temple). Measuring back 30 yrs from 26 AD establishes the birth of Jesus at 4 BC. As the ministry of Jesus seems to have been c.3 1/2 yrs, the crucifixion is set at AD 30.

There are four occurrences far exceeding all others in significance in the life of Jesus from which to begin working backward to fill the gap to 516 BC, i.e. His BC 4 birth, 12th yr at Temple c.AD 9, crucifixion/resurrection (3 days apart) in AD 30, & Baptism c.26 AD. Starting at each of these events & backing up 483 yrs (Dan.9:24-27, the decree corresponding to that of the 20th yr of Artaxerxes [Xerxes I] found in Neh.1 & 2), fixed points may be set & compared with the time span between the leaders returning with Zerubbabel in BC 536 to the sealing of the covenant with Nehemiah (20th yr of "Artaxerxes").

Measuring back 483 yrs from Jesus' Baptism in c.26 AD brings us to 457 BC as a possible date for the 20th yr of Artaxerxes. However, 536-457 yields a 79 yr gap between Neh.10 & 12 to which at least 30 yrs must be added bringing the minimum age of an entire generation of leaders to 109. This is far too old & thus ruled out.

Using the yr of the crucifixion/resurrection (AD 30), the ages will be 3 yrs greater. Measuring from AD 9, we obtain BC 474 resulting in the minimum age of that generation as 92.

Lastly, measuring back 483 yrs (solar) from the birth (c.4 BC) takes us to 486 BC as the 20th yr of "Artaxerxes". This gives a 50 yr gap from the 1st yr of Cyrus to Artaxerxes' 20th, yielding an 80 yr minimum age for that generation (536-486=50+30). This is the only solution providing reasonable ages for these men as compared to the ages of their predecessors. Counting back 20 yrs from 486 BC ("1st yr" of "Artaxerxes" - Xerxes) is 505 BC. The remaining yrs (506-516 BC) are left to Darius as those of his unshared reign.

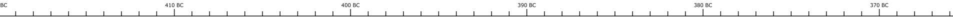
This suggests that in anticipation of a military undertaking (or possibly illness), Xerxes became associated on the throne with his father, Darius Hystaspis, near or during the 16th yr of Darius' sole reign (505 BC). This plausibility is apparent as Persian Law "which alters not" forbade a king to march with his army until he had named his successor (Herodotus VII, 1). Very likely at that time the title "King of Babylon" was conferred upon Xerxes (Neh.13:6, cp. 2:1 & 5:14).

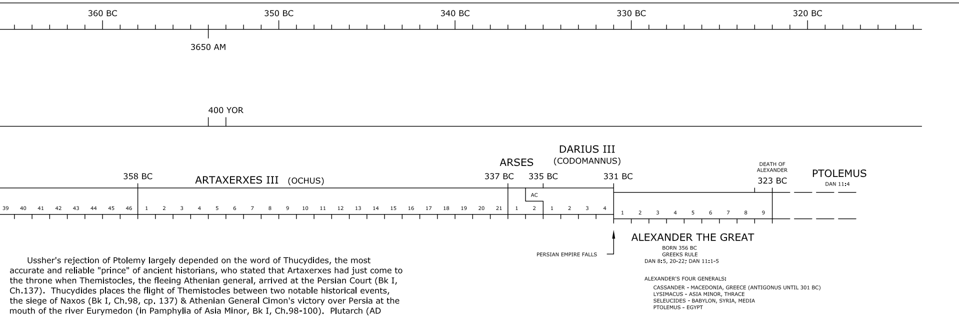
Upon installation as viceroy, Xerxes ("Artaxerxes") would have become the Suzerain of the Jews & the Persian with whom they would have dealt. Thus they would have referenced their yrs with respect to his date of overlordship rather than his date of sole reign beginning at the end of Darius' 36th yr (486 BC). Significantly, from the Hebrew viewpoint this results in the 20th yr of "Artaxerxes" (Xerxes) falling in Darius' final yr (chart, lower dashed segment) indicating that, as co-regent, Xerxes lacked sufficient authority to allow the Jews to rebuild the city & wall prior to Darius' death. The implication is that though Darius had been persuaded from Cyrus' edict to allow completion of the Temple (Ezr.5:16-17; 6:3,7,8,12), he succumbed in part to the negative arguments of the counselors hired by the Jews enemies (Ezr.4:4-24) but opposed further restoration resulting in Jerusalem's becoming fortified. Accordingly, in the 7th yr of his co-regency, Darius would not have objected when Xerxes ("Artaxerxes") permitted Ezra to return to merely "beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem" (Ezr.7:11-28). The same yr in which he gained full governmental power, Xerxes ("Artaxerxes") apparently granted the decree for Nehemiah to return and rebuild the city & its wall.

Thus if "Artaxerxes" is Xerxes, Ptolemy's date of 486 BC as Xerxes' 1st yr of sole reign holds as does Darius' 36 yr rule. As Ptolemy affirms, Xerxes may have ruled only 21 yrs as ***sole*** Rex, but his total yrs associated on the throne over Israel would have spanned at least 32 yrs & as much as 40 (505-465 BC), & not merely the 21 yrs of his unshared Kingship (Neh.5:14; 13:6). This scenario enjoys the advantage of resolving all the excessive age problems.

The Canon of Ptolemy: is merely a list of kings & the number of yrs of their reigns with no explanatory text. Ptolemy assigns the entire yr in which a preceding king died to the new king. He made no allowance for reigns of less than a yr, omitting their brief reigns & including their months in the last yr of the preceding or the 1st yr of the following monarch. Ptolemy made no indication for co-regencies. The Canon begins with the 1st yr of the Era of Nabonassar, BC 747; thus the "running" Anno Nabonassar yrs may be converted to BC by subtracting them from 747. Despite Ptolemy's being a late 2nd century compiler writing nearly a 100 yrs after Christ and thereby neither eyewitness nor contemporary historian, his "received" chronology is universally accepted. He is our only authority for no other system bridges the gulf from BC 747 to AD 137. His Canon is the only thread connecting the reign of the Biblical Darius I Hystaspis with Daniel's "notable" horned "he-goat" King of Greece who was to defeat the Medo- Persian empire (Dan.8:5-8,21-22; 11:2-4). It is the lunar eclipse data taken from the Chaldean records accompanying portions of his king list that has given the Canon its high position of esteem. As a general guide, his Persian King data holds true as Biblical data demonstrates that if not exactly correct, it is very nearly so unto the 6th yr of Darius. As to the 36 yr reign of Darius, Ptolemy is supported by Herodotus (Bk VII,3).

The Best Solution: Yet there is significant historical data opposing and/or modifying the Canon as to the dates of Artaxerxes Longimanus. Ussher's chronology was added to the margin of the 1701 edition of the King James Bible by Bishop Lloyd who made a few alterations, the foremost being that of the 20th yr of Artaxerxes (Neh.2:1). Ussher had set aside Ptolemy's 465 BC date as beginning the reign of Artaxerxes Longimanus in favor of BC 473 (AM 3531) based on much older data he considered more reliable. This places the 20th yr of Artaxerxes at BC 454 bringing the 483 yrs to a 30 AD fulfillment, leaving Xerxes only a 12 yr rule. However 51 yrs after Ussher published, Lloyd inserted Ptolemy's date in its place. Note that a serious interval of time is not in question as all agree that Xerxes ascended to the throne of Persia c.486 BC & his son, Artaxerxes Longimanus, died c.424. The only matter in dispute concerns the yr in which Artaxerxes I took the throne.


BC
410 BC
400 BC
390 BC
380 BC
370 BC


360 BC
350 BC
340 BC
330 BC
320 BC
3650 AM
400 YOR
358 BC
ARTAXERXES III (OCHUS)
ARSES
337 BC
DARIUS III
(CODOMANNUS)
335 BC
AC
331 BC
DEATH OF ALEXANDER
323 BC
PTOLEMUS
DAN 11:4
39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 1 2 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
PERSIAN EMPIRE FALLS
ALEXANDER THE GREAT
BORN 356 BC
GREEKS RULE
DAN 8:5, 20-22; DAN 11:1-5
ALEXANDER'S FOUR GENERALS:
CASSANDER - MACEDONIA, GREECE (ANTIGONUS UNTIL 301 BC)
LYSIMACUS - ASIA MINOR, THRACE
SELEUCIDES - BABYLON, SYRIA, MEDIA
PTOLEMUS - EGYPT

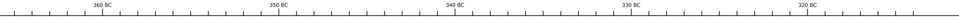
Ussher's rejection of Ptolemy largely depended on the word of Thucydides, the most accurate and reliable "prince" of ancient historians, who stated that Artaxerxes had just come to the throne when Themistocles, the fleeing Athenian general, arrived at the Persian Court (Bk I, Ch.137). Thucydides places the flight of Themistocles between two notable historical events, the siege of Naxos (Bk I, Ch.98, cp. 137) & Athenian General Cimon's victory over Persia at the mouth of the river Eurymedon (in Pamphylia of Asia Minor, Bk I, Ch.98-100). Plutarch (AD 45-120) connected the death of Themistocles with Cimon's campaign (*Lives*, Bk II,31) adding that Charon of Lampsacus (fl. BC 504) also stated that Artaxerxes was the King receiving the fleeing General (*Lives*, Bk II,27). Although believing Xerxes to have been King, Diodorus Siculus (c.80-20 BC) places Cimon's victory at BC 470 (Bk XI, 60-61) & dates Themistocles arrival at the Persian court as 471 (Bk XI, 53-57). Cicero gives the yr of the flight as 472 & Eusebius records it as BC 473. As Thucydides & Charon were Artaxerxes' contemporaries, the question of whether Themistocles appeared before him rather than Xerxes must favor their authority. Based on voices 500 yrs more ancient than Ptolemy's, Ussher placed Artaxerxes' 1st yr as BC 473 in his *Annals of the World* (pp. 131-134).

Here where Ptolemy had no lunar eclipses upon which to depend, his Canon stands on the same ground as all other historical sources. Still, Sir Isaac Newton stated that an eclipse took place a short time after the Battle of Salamis on 2 October (*Chron. Amended*, p.354) & Herodotus mentions this same solar eclipse (Histories,9,10). Upholding Ptolemy, Newton uses this eclipse to set the 1st yr of Xerxes' reign as BC 485 (Anno Nabonassar 263) adding that he ruled "almost 21 yrs by the consent of all writers". What then is to be done with the impasse between Ptolemy and Ussher, Thucydides, Charon et al.

Many writers have attested that Xerxes' spirit was crushed following his humiliation at the hands of the Greeks, resulting in his giving himself over to a life of indolent ease, drink, and the sensual enjoyment of the harem. The solution proposed is that during this debauched period, his desire & abilities to govern were diminished to the extent that he placed Artaxerxes Longimanus on the throne as co-regent some yrs before his death, leaving the affairs of state in his son's hands. Thus when Themistocles flight ended, he arrived with Artaxerxes Longimanus having just come to the throne as Thucydides & Charon of Lampsacus reported. Nowhere in his narrative does Thucydides mention that Xerxes was actually dead at this time (Bk I, 137-138)! Xerxes was alive, but it was Artaxerxes with whom Themistocles spoke. This differs from Ussher who interpreted Thucydides et al. as meaning Themistocles arrived at the onset of the ***sole*** reign of Artaxerxes I; hence rejecting Ptolemy's giving 21 yrs for Xerxes' Kingship, he ceded him only c.12 yrs. The proposed modification completely maintains the integrity of the Canon (chart, upper segment).

Although the exact date for the arrival is uncertain, it seems it should be placed between 473-470. Thus if one takes BC 473 as the yr in which Xerxes installed Artaxerxes I Longimanus as pro-rex, the Jews would naturally have referenced dates associated with him from that yr as it would have been the point from which they began to have dealings with him as sovereign. This places his 20th yr over the Jews as BC 454 (AM 3550 inclusive, Ussher p. 137) & the 483 yrs of the Daniel 9:25 prophecy brings us to a 30 AD fulfillment. Taking BC 470 as the 1st yr of Artaxerxes' pro-rule results in BC 451 as his 20th & AD 33 as the 483rd yr. Not only do both fall during the accepted life time of Christ, the solution is superior to Anderson's expediency as the chronology does not suddenly resort to inserting 360 day yrs instead of the normal yr which was used from Creation. The fact that not one historical event is recorded in connection with the reign of Xerxes after his 11th yr should be viewed as a most significant circumstance in support of this solution. To the possible objection that Artaxerxes was too young at this time to assume the government, the Hebrew Text unmistakably places him of swufficient age in his 7th yr to already be father of more than one son (Ezr.7:23). This explanation merely adds the pro-regency aspect between Xerxes & Longimanus which does not violate Ptolemy for, as stated, he makes no mention of pro or co-reigns. Indeed, this resolution has been confirmed by an article in the *Journal of Sacred Literature & Biblical Record* (Series IV, London: Williams & Norgate Pub., April, 1863, p. 156) which reports that an Egyptian hieroglyphic inscription has been found stating that Artaxerxes was associated with his father on the throne in the 12th yr of Xerxes' reign.

The Ezra-Nehemiah Chronology: The Nehemiah 10 & 12 lists of Priests & Levites dilemma is solved by Sir Isaac Newton's chronology for Ezra-Nehemiah. Newton recognized that the two lists contained many of the same names. He also noted that the Levites Jeshua, Kadmiel, and Hodaviah (or Judah, Ezr.3:9 or Hodevah, Neh.7:43) were among the chief fathers returning with Zerubbabel in BC 536 (Ezr.2:40) and that they assisted in laying the Temple foundation (Ezr.3:9), in the reading of the law (Neh.8:7, along with Sherebiah, cp. Neh.12:8 and possibly Binnui, Neh.10:9; 12:8, cp. 8:7; 9:5), and in sealing the covenant (Neh.9:5; 10:9-10). Taking into account these overlaps between the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah (originally only one book), Newton constructed a chronology which recognized Neh.7:4 as leaving off in the 20th yr of Artaxerxes with the insertion of data previously recorded in the 2nd chapter of Ezra which applied to Zerubbabel's return in the 1st yr of Cyrus. Nearly all scholars regard the repeated insertion to end where "all Israel in their cities" of Ezra 2:70 corresponds to "all Israel, dwelt in their cities" in Nehemiah 7:73, but Newton connected the "7th month" portion of Neh.7:73 to the "7th month" of Neh.8:2. Finding no break in the narrative, he placed everything from Neh.7:5 to 12:9 together as occurring in the 1st yr of Cyrus with Neh.7:4 resuming with the wall of Jerusalem having just been completed (Neh.6:15) to Neh.12:27 at which point the wall was being dedicated. Newton's chronology is: (1) Ezr.1:1-11 followed by (2) Ezr.2:1-6 being overlapped by Neh.7:5-73*a* with (3) Neh.7:73*b* -12:26 following as an inserted unit after which comes (4) the remainder of the Book of Ezra (i.e., 3:8-10:44), then (5) Neh.1:1 to 7:4 with the story of the wall of Jerusalem's completion resuming at (6) its dedication (Neh.12:27) and on to 13:31.


360 BC
350 BC
340 BC
330 BC
320 BC

Thus his solution is that just as the Nehemiah 12 register represents men who returned in the 1st yr of Cyrus (536 BC), the making and sealing of the covenant with Nehemiah (the Tirshatha) also transpired in that same yr and not in the 20th yr of Artaxerxes. Consequently, no 91 yr gap existed between the 2 chapters, resolving the predicament. He viewed Zerubbabel as Governor and Nehemiah as his Tirshatha or 2nd in command; thus for Newton every Scripture with that title signified Nehemiah (Ezr.2:2,63; Neh.7:65,70; 8:9; 10:1, *Chron. Amended*, p.368). After Zerubbabel's death, Nehemiah was promoted and referred to by the title "Governor", a position which he held for 12+ yrs (Neh.5:14).

Most modern scholars insist that Neh.7:73*b* is a connecting statement belonging with chapter 8. For them, the "7th month" statements are connected as Newton believed, but are separated in context and time from Neh.7:5-73 . However, this is not based upon the contextual flow of the narrative, but on the fragile deduction that the events in the 8th chapter of Nehemiah must transpire near the 20th yr of Artaxerxes Longimanus.

Newton's removal of the 91 yr gap between chs. 10 & 12 of Nehemiah solves the ridiculous anomaly whereby an entire generation was suddenly living beyond 120 yrs. Not since the time of Moses, almost 1,100 yrs hence, had a generation lived so long. Whereas this results in Nehemiah's having lived at least 124 yrs by the 32nd yr of Longimanus (536-442=94+30), and Ezra a minimum of 112 (536-454=82+30) at the dedication of the walls, these are not excessive to the impossible. The 1991 Guiness Book of Records lists Carey White as having died at age 115 & a Japanese woman dying in 1986 at 120 yrs old. Walter Williams, the last survivor of the American Civil War, died in 1959 at 117 (George Gipe, *Last Time When*, p.272). The Jan. 1973 National Geographic states that nearly 5,000 individuals in the Caucasus Mountains were documented as being 100 yrs with some 110-141 along with equal & even greater claims for Indians in the mountains of Ecuador (pp.93-119).

The traditional chronology of the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah in use today is not tenable. This is the great unresolved flaw in Anderson's solution as well as all others who have not resolved the registers of Priests and Levites in Nehemiah 10 & 12. If "Artaxerxes" is indeed Longimanus, Newton is correct as chronology must then place Nehemiah 10 & 12 in the 1st yr of Cyrus so as to keep the two registers from being separated by 91 yrs. Newton's system, used in concert with the pro-regency dates for Artaxerxes Longimanus as required by Thucydides, Charon of Lampsacus, Ussher, et al. is for this author a plausible refinement and may well give the actual history; indeed, it is considered the most likely and best solution to the problem. In view of all the foregoing regarding the Daniel 9 prophecy, the people of Jesus' day should have been aware of its fulfillment & thus known "the time of Messiah's visitation".

Chart #5

KINGS
of the DIVIDED MONARCHY

975 - 586 BC
(The 390 years of Ezekiel 4:4-5)
to Alexander the Great 331 BC

SCALE

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