

592	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ezekiel 8, 9, 10 – The glory of God leaves the temple. Ezekiel 12 – Ezekiel digs through the wall. Ezekiel 13 and 14 – False prophets are condemned. Ezekiel 15-19 	Ezekiel 8-10,12-19
591	Ezekiel 20-23	Ezekiel 20-23
589	Pharaoh Hophra promises Judah that Egypt will help Zedekiah's revolt against Nebuchadnezzar.	Zedekiah Revolts
588	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 15, Ezekiel sees the boiling kettle and Ezekiel's wife dies. January 15, Babylon marches against Judah. (2 Kings 25:1) 	Ezekiel 24 Final Siege Begins 2 Kings 25:1
587	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nebuzar-Adan begins reigning with Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuzar-Adan is in charge of the Jerusalem siege. January 7 – Ezekiel chapter 29, a prophecy against Egypt Egypt comes to help Jerusalem but Babylonians leave Judah to fight Pharaoh Hophra. Jeremiah attempts to leave Jerusalem during the break in the siege to go to the territory of Benjamin to buy some property. (Jer. 37) Jeremiah is put in a vaulted dungeon cell. (Jer. 37) Jeremiah is put in the courtyard by Zedekiah. (Jer. 37:21) Jeremiah has a dream of Israel's pleasant future while he is in the courtyard. (Jer. 30-31) Jeremiah buys the field while he is in the courtyard. (Jer. 32) Jeremiah promises there will be restoration. (Jer. 33) Zedekiah sends for Jeremiah. (Jer. 21) Jeremiah is thrown into the cistern. (Jer. 38) Jeremiah gives Zedekiah a final warning; the slaves in Jerusalem are released but taken back. (Jer. 34) 	Ezekiel 29 Jeremiah 37 Babylon Fights Egypt Break in Siege Jeremiah 30, 31, 32, 33, 21, 38, 34 Jeremiah is in a dungeon, courtyard and a cistern
586	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egypt has been driven back and the Babylonian siege at Jerusalem has resumed. July, there is no food left inside Jerusalem. July 18, Babylon breaks through the walls. The siege lasted two and a half years. Ezekiel prophecies that Zedekiah will come to Babylon but he will not see Babylon. (Ezekiel 12:13) Jeremiah 39 and 52 August 14, Nebuzar-Adan returns to burn Jerusalem. Psalms 74, 79 and 94 are written. Jeremiah writes the book of Lamentations. Nebuzar-Adan looks for and finds Jeremiah. Jeremiah is released from his chains. Jeremiah is invited to go to Babylon as a royal guest. Jeremiah chooses to stay in Judah. Jeremiah is given provisions and a money gift from King Nebuchadnezzar. (Jer. 40) Gedaliah, a Jewish man, is made governor in Judah for King Nebuchadnezzar. October 7, Gedaliah is assassinated by Ammonites. Although Jeremiah warns them not to go, the remaining Jews flee to Egypt for safety. Jeremiah prophecies against the Jews fleeing to Egypt and against Egypt. He says Nebuchadnezzar will be back to take Egypt. 	Jerusalem's Walls Fall July 18 Temple is Destroyed Jerusalem Burnt August 14 Jeremiah 39, 52 Psalm 74, 79, 94 Lamentations Nebuzar-Adan Releases and Rewards Jeremiah Jeremiah 40 Gedaliah Appointed Governor & is Assassinated
571	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 26, Ezekiel prophecies that Nebuchadnezzar will invade Egypt. (Ez. 29:19) Ezekiel's last recorded prophecy at the age of 52 	Ezekiel 29
570	Nebuchadnezzar dreams of a great tree and is warned by Daniel of his pride.	Daniel 4

569	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nebuchadnezzar invades Egypt in fulfillment of Jer. 43:8-13; 46:13-26; Ez. 29:19. Jeremiah was either stoned by the Jews in Egypt or Nebuchadnezzar found him again and took him back to Babylon to live his final years in peace. Both are traditional endings for Jeremiah's life. Jeremiah is 79 years old and lived his final days either in Egypt or Babylon. Daniel is 54 years old and is in the palace in Babylon with Nebuchadnezzar administrative team. 	Egypt is taken by Nebuchadnezzar
569	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In fulfillment of Daniel's warning, Nebuchadnezzar goes insane and lives in exile for seven years. The Babylonian government continues without Nebuchadnezzar. His administrative team, which includes Daniel, runs the empire. 	Nebuchadnezzar in Exile
562	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August, Nebuchadnezzar repents and glorifies God. Nebuchadnezzar is restored to his throne. September, Nebuchadnezzar dies after having humbled himself before God. 	Nebuchadnezzar Repents, is Restored and Dies
561	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evil Merodach, Nebuchadnezzar's son, begins to reign. Evil Merodach releases the 55 year old Jewish king Jehoiachin from 36 years in prison in Babylon. Jehoiachin had reigned for 3 months and was taken captive at the age of 19. 	Evil Merodach Jehoiachin Released
560	Jeremiah would be 88 years old if he died in Babylon.	
559	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyrus begins reigning in Persia. Neriglissar assassinates Evil Merodach as King of Babylon. Neriglissar had been a senior official at the destruction of Jerusalem. 	Cyrus
556	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law, Nabonidus, begins to reign. Nabonidus marries Nebuchadnezzar's daughter Nitocris and they have a son Belshazzar. Nitocris is the one who sends for Daniel when the hand of God writes on the wall at Belshazzar's party. 	Nabonidus Nitocris Belshazzar
554	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nabonidus leaves Babylon in the hands of his son Belshazzar (Nebuchadnezzar's grandson). Nabonidus moved to Harran to work on a temple of the old Chaldean moon god, Sin. Babylonians prefer to worship Marduk. 	Nabonidus
555	Nabonidus makes a treaty with Cyrus the Persian king. Together they conquer most of Southwest Asia.	Babylon and Persia Treaty
553	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nabonidus marches through Syria, Palestine and Edom building a workforce to restore the family shrine in Harran to the moon god Sin. Daniel has the dream of the four beasts in Daniel 7 	Daniel 7
552	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nabonidus moves into Arabia for the next ten years leaving Babylon in the hands of his son, Belshazzar. Nabonidus lives in Teima, Arabia (Central western Saudi Arabia). During the years 552-542 BC inflation increases 50% in Babylon, a famine strikes the land and Nabonidus blames the people for having rejected the moon god Sin. In Teima Arabia there is plenty of rain and the spice routes bring prosperity. 	
551	Daniel has a vision of a ram (Persian King Darius of 330 BC) and a goat (Alexander the Great of Greece). These events will take place 220 years in the future.	Daniel 8
549	Cyrus captures Astyages, the king of the Medes. Cyrus and Darius begin the empire of the Medes and the Persians.	Cyrus Captures the King of the Medes
547	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egypt, Persia and Media resume good relations. Medes cross the Tigris and overrun eastern Babylon. Elamites overrun southern Babylonia. 	Babylonia falls in the east & south

546	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyrus defeats Croesus, the fabulously wealthy king of Lydia (in Asia Minor). 	
545	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October, Nabonidus returns to Babylon to carry out work on the shrines to the gods and to bring the Babylonian gods from the other cities into Babylon for protection. Babylon is economically weak and is not able to defend itself. 	
539	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nabonidus flees Babylon and goes 11 miles south to Borsippa, the site of the famous ziggurat which still stands today and is identified in the Talmud as the actual Tower of Babel. September, Cyrus defeats Babylon at Opis and Sippara. Only the double wall of the city of Babylon remains. October 12, Belshazzar is having a drunken feast when the Lord writes on the plaster of the banquet hall wall: "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin". <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Belshazzar's mother Nitocris (Nebuchadnezzar's daughter) hears the noise and enters the banquet hall and suggests that Belshazzar send for a man named Daniel. Daniel interprets the writing to mean: "God has numbered your days, you have been weighed on the scales and your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and the Persians." The Persian military, under the leadership of Darius the Mede, enter Babylon that night, killing Belshazzar and taking over the city of Babylon. October 29, Cyrus enters Babylon himself. Cyrus is presented as a gracious liberator. Cyrus reverses the policies of the Assyrians and the Babylonians by sending the captured people back to their homelands. Daniel is 84 years old if he was taken captive at the age of 18 in 605 BC. Daniel prays the prayer in Daniel chapter 9 and receives a visit from Gabriel explaining the "seventy 'sevens'". (9:24) (See notes on the year 458 BC for details.) Daniel may have shown Cyrus Isaiah 41:2-7, 25; 44:28; 45:1 along with Jeremiah 25:11, 12. Josephus says Cyrus read these prophecies and an "earnest desire and ambition seized upon him to fulfill what was written." Thus, 2 Chronicles 36:22, 23 says, "In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word spoken by Jeremiah the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus, king of Persia, to make a proclamation throughout his realm . . ." The people were sent back to Jerusalem. Read Ezra 1:1-3. 	<p>Daniel 5</p> <p>Babylon Falls to Darius</p> <p>Cyrus Arrives</p> <p>Daniel 9</p> <p>Jews sent back to their land.</p>
PERSIAN-MEDE EMPIRE		
538	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darius appoints 120 satraps to rule the kingdom with three administrators over them. One of the administrators is Daniel. Darius plans on putting Daniel over the whole kingdom (Dan.6:3). King Darius is tricked into putting Daniel, age 85, into the lions den. Cyrus allows any Jews to return and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. 	<p>Daniel in the Lion's Den</p> <p>Daniel 6</p> <p>Ezra 1:2</p>

537	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darius the Mede dies and Cyrus takes the title of King of Persia. A remnant of the Jews return to Jerusalem. It has been 70 years since the first captivity in 605 BC counting both the year 605 BC and 537 BC and the 68 years between <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 800 mile journey from the Chebar River to Jerusalem Cyrus provides money, orders for people to assist Jews and the temple's sacred vessels. The returning Jews leave in Mar/Apr and arrive in Jerusalem in Jun/July. 	<p>Ezra 2</p> <p>Jews Return 70 Years After First Captivity</p>
536	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An angel comes to Daniel after he fasts for 3 weeks. Daniel receives his final revelation in Daniel 10, 11 and 12. Chapter 11 will cover the history from the time of Cyrus (536 BC) up through the Macabbean Revolt against Antiochus Epiphanies (168 BC). The prophecy then continues with the rise of the anti-Christ. (11:36) Zerubbabel goes to rebuild the temple. The altar is built and the foundation for the temple is laid. Samaritans begin to oppose the Jew's efforts to rebuild the temple. (Ez 4:1-5) 	<p>Daniel 10, 11, 12</p> <p>Ezra 3</p> <p>Zerubbabel</p> <p>Altar Rebuilt Ezra 4:1-5</p> <p>Jews Opposed</p>
534	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyrus gives his son Cambyses the task of preparing for an expedition against Egypt which will finally be unleashed in 525 BC. 	<p>Cambyses</p>
530	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the New Years festival on March 26, Cyrus appoints his son, Cambyses, as his co-regent and successor. Cambyses is given title "King of Babylon" and Cyrus maintains the title "King of Kings." 	
529	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyrus dies on the battle field versus nomadic barbarians. Cyrus is buried in Pasargadae one of the five capital cities. (Babylon, Ecbatana, Persepolis, Pasargadae and Susa) Cyrus had built an enormous empire with roads, postal system and legal codes. Cambyses secures the throne by murdering his brother Smerdis. 	
525	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambyses totally defeats Egypt in the eastern delta of the Nile and captures Memphis. Cambyses desires to capture the Oasis of Ammon further west in the desert and to march on to Carthage but his 50,000 troops perished in the desert and the Phoenician ships refused to land ships carrying Persian soldiers to attack the Phoenician colony of Carthage. 	<p>Cambyses Defeats Egypt</p>
522	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaumata, a pseudo-Smerdis, claims the throne back in Babylon. Cambyses disappears from history near Mt. Carmel on his return to Babylon. 	
521	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darius Hystaspes executes Gaumata and takes the throne of the Persia empire. Darius Hystaspes searches the royal archives in Babylon and finds that Cyrus had ordered the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. Opposition stops. Within two years Darius Hystaspes stabilizes the empire. 	<p>Darius Hystaspes</p>

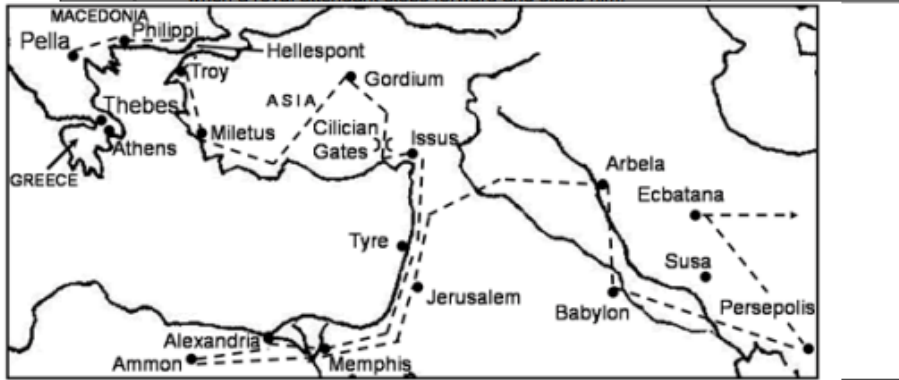
520	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, minister in Jerusalem. August 29, the word of the Lord comes to Haggai and the book of Haggai begins. October 17, Haggai 2:1-9 the word of the Lord is a message for Zerubbabel, the governor, Joshua, the high priest, and the remnant of people. Oct/Nov Zechariah records his first message from the Lord in Zechariah 1:1-6. Darius Hystaspes searches the royal archives in Babylon and finds that Cyrus had ordered the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. Opposition stops. Rebuilding of the temple resumes after opposition had stopped it 16 years earlier. (Ezra 5-6) December 18, 520 BC, Haggai prophesies blessings on the remnant. (Hag. 2:10-23) 	<p>Haggai</p> <p>Zechariah</p> <p>Haggai 1:1-15 Haggai 2:1-9 Zechariah 1:1-6 Ezra 5-6 Haggai 2:10-23</p>
519	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 15, in one night Zechariah is given a series of eight night visions in one night. 	Zechariah 1:7-6:8
518	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 7, Zechariah receives the word of the Lord in the fourth year of Darius Hystaspes. (Zech. 7) 	Zechariah 7
516	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The temple is completed by Zerubbabel. It has been 70 years since the temple was destroyed in 586 BC. 	Ezra 6:13-18 Temple Rebuilt 70 Years After It Was Destroyed
490	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darius attacks Athens by sailing across the Aegean Sea and land 20 miles from Athens on the plains of Marathon. The Persians have 600 ships with 20,000 men; Athenians have 10,000 men. A Greek runner runs 150 miles in 36 hours to Sparta for help but Sparta does not come. Miltiades, an Athenian general, launches an attack by charging down the hill in formation with thin middle ranks. Persia breaks through the middle line but find themselves trapped. They rush back to their ships. Athenians head for the bay of Athens but the Athenians out run them there and Persia returns home. Athenians capture 7 Persian ships. Casualties suffered: Persia-6,400 Athens-192. 	<p>Battle of Marathon</p>
485	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerxes begins to reign. 	Xerxes Ezra 4:6
483	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samaritans take this chance to file a complaint. (Ezra 4:6) Xerxes displays his vast wealth and military power at a banquet in preparation for his invasion of Greece. 	Esther 1

481 480 479	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerxes goes to war against Greece. Persia fights the battles of: 1. Thermopylae – This battle is the basis of the movie “300” that features the Spartan king Leonidas and his 300 men who fight the invading King Xerxes and his Persian troops. 2. Salamis – Persians occupy Athens and burn the temple. The Persians move their ships into a strait through a bottle neck thinking the beached Greek trireme ships are trapped. Xerxes watches from his ivory throne placed on a hill in disbelief as his ships are rammed, congested and unable to maneuver while Persians ships continue to sail into the bottle neck. Xerxes heads back to Persia, leaving behind 1/3 of his troops which then burn Athens to the ground. 3. Plataea – In what looked like a rout of the Greeks, the Persians fail to stay organized and are driven from Greece. These Greek battles fulfill Daniel 11:2: “a fourth Persian king, who will be far richer. . .will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.” This sets the stage for the rise of Alexander the Great who will seek deliverance and revenge for the burning of Athens in 336 BC. 	<p>Battles of: Thermopylae Salamis Plataea</p> <p>Daniel 11:2</p>
478 474	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Esther goes to Xerxes and becomes Queen in Dec/Jan. Esther’s fifth year as queen. April 17 is the date set to meet to determine fate of Jews. 	<p>Esther 2</p> <p>Esther 3:7</p> <p>Haman Esther Mordecai</p>
473	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to Haman’s plans and Xerxes order, the Jews are to be killed in Persia on March 7 March 7, the Jews defend themselves. The Jews kill 500 men in Susa and 10 of Haman’s sons. 	Esther 3:12-14
465	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerxes is inside his bedchamber when he is assassinated by 3 conspirators. They convince Artaxerxes, Xerxes’s son, to slay his older brother. They then try to kill Artaxerxes who is only wounded but kills his attacker. Artaxerxes becomes Persian Emperor and will reign for 41 years. Esther would be about 38 years old if she became queen when she was 25. 	Artaxerxes
464	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artaxerxes orders the rebuilding of the rebellious city, Jerusalem, to stop. Samaritans send a letter to Artaxerxes to say Jerusalem is a rebellious city. (Ezra 4:7) Artaxerxes replies: “this city will not be rebuilt until I so order.” (Ezra 4:21) 	Ezra 4:7-23 Ezra 4:21 Daniel 9:25
458	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Artaxerxes’ seventh year he issues the decree to rebuild and restore Jerusalem. Ezra leaves Babylon on April 8 and arrives in Jerusalem on August. December 19 the people assemble and the investigation of intermarriage begins. The 70 weeks (or, 490 years) of Daniels prophecy in Daniel 9:25 begins with Artaxerxes’ decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem in 458 BC. The decree is found in Ezra 7:12-26. The 70 weeks (490 years) are interrupted after 69 weeks (483 years) with the coming of the Messiah. 458 BC minus 483 years equals 25/26 AD which is when John the Baptists will introduce the Messiah to the Jewish nation. 	<p>Decree to Rebuild</p> <p>Ezra</p> <p>Ezra 7: 8-9, 12-26 Daniel 9:25 Ezra 10:9-16</p>

457	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ezra committee ends their three month long investigation into intermarriage by Mar/Apr. 	Ezra 10:17
446	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov/Dec, Nehemiah is in Susa and hears a report from a Jew from Jerusalem that the walls of Jerusalem have not been rebuilt. 	Nehemiah Nehemiah 1
445	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artaxerxes 20th year Mar/Apr, Nehemiah, Artaxerxes cup bearer, speaks to Artaxerxes about Jerusalem's ruined wall system. (Neh. 2:1) August 10, Nehemiah begins to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Opposition to building the walls. (Neh. 4, 6) October 2, The walls of Jerusalem are completed in 52 days. (Neh. 6:15) October 8, Ezra reads the law to public for first time in thirteen years. (8:2) October 9, the people of Jerusalem celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. (8:13) October 30, Israel confesses their sin. (Neh. 9) If Esther were 25 when she married Xerxes, she is now 58. 	Nehemiah 2:1 Nehemiah 4 Nehemiah 6:15 Nehemiah 8:2 Nehemiah 8:13 Nehemiah 9
433	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nehemiah is recalled to Artaxerxes after a 12 year absence. Artaxerxes is in his 32 year as the king of the Persian Empire. 	Nehemiah 5:14; 13:6
432	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The book of Malachi is written. Malachi accuses: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the priest of not honoring God the people of unlawful marriages the people of having given up on the Lord's return the people of failing to give properly to God Malachi ends with a promise in 3:1, "See, I will send my messenger." 	Malachi

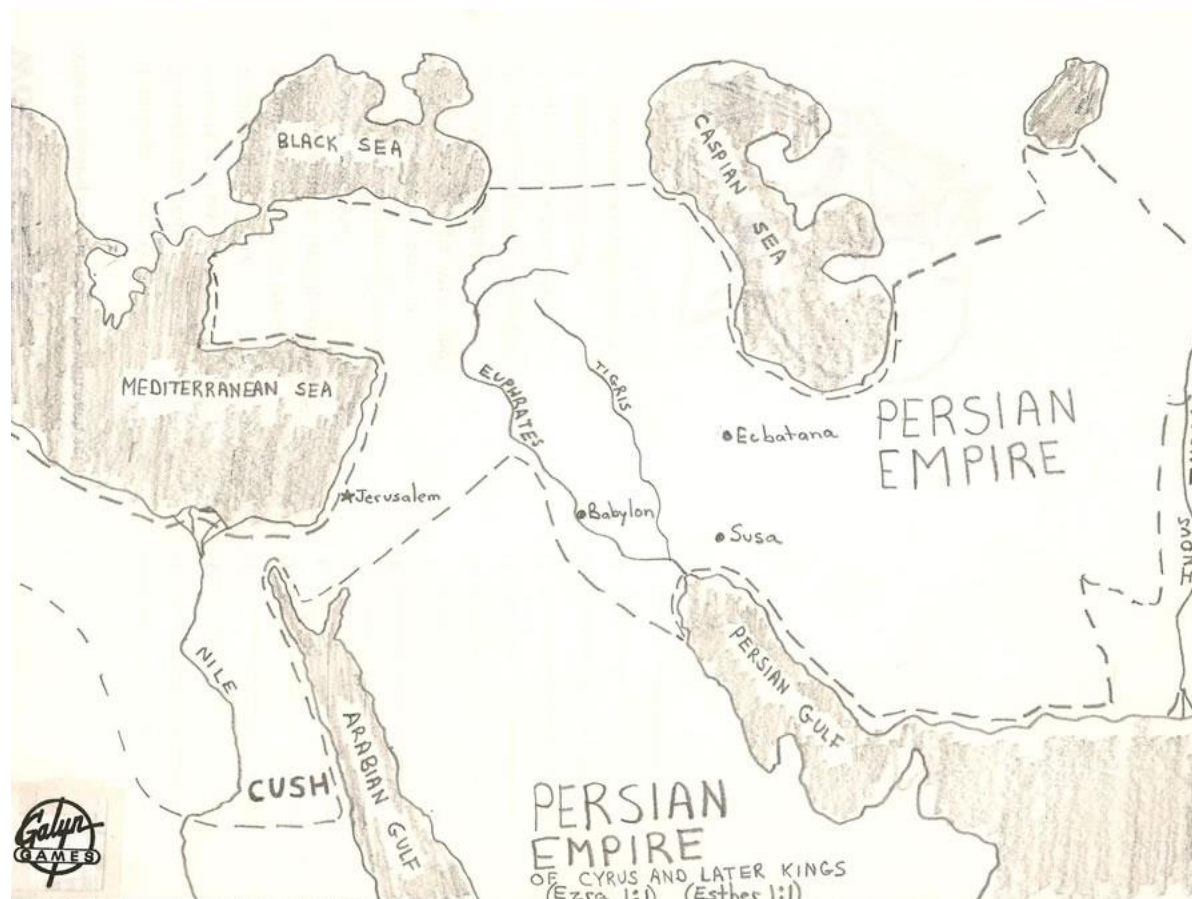
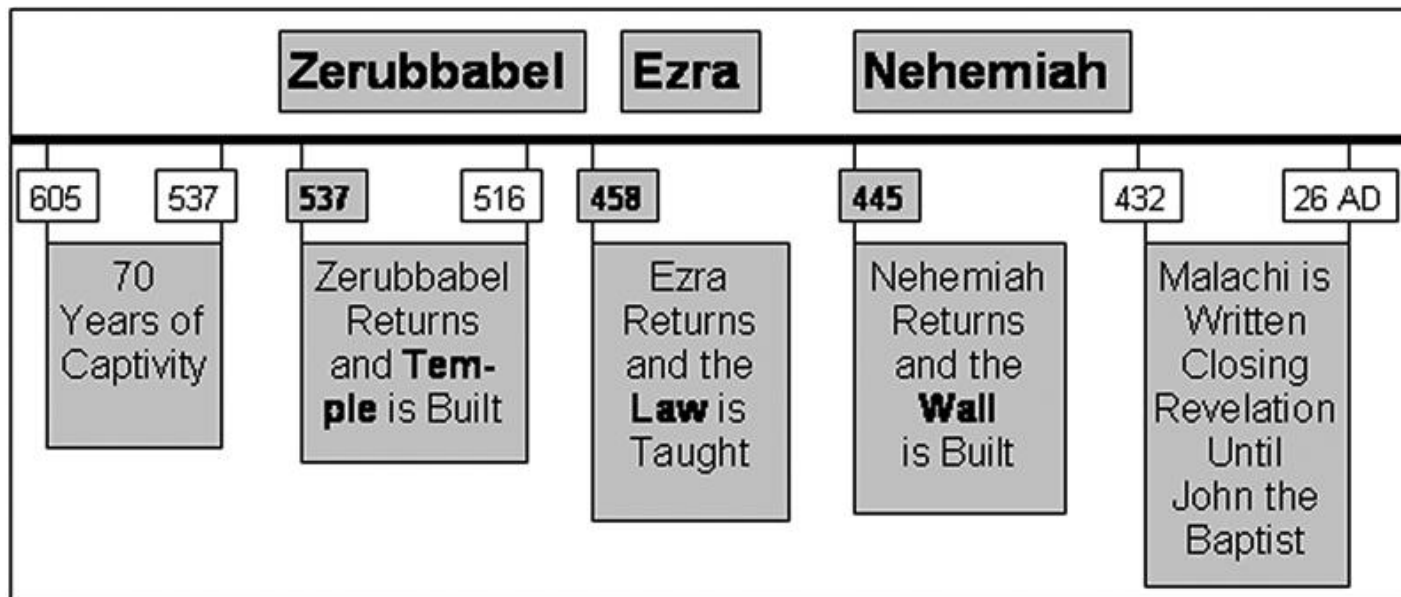
430 to 370	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The High Priest in Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After Zerubbabel the high priest fulfills the role as governor. The high priest position gains power and becomes the head of the Jewish state. The priestly line was made up of an aristocratic class that could trace their lineage back to Zadok (of David's day) and some back to Aaron. A tenth of the produce of the land was given to the Levites; 1 of every 25 loaves of bread went to the priest; The first born of all the cattle went to the priest; A part of every sacrifice were the priestly fee; Fines and vows went into the priest's pocket; plus more. In addition to having the religious power the priests soon control the governmental power, the economic power and the political power. The only thing above the priest was the written Law of Moses which began to be seriously studied in the days of Ezra. The Scribes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since a man who knew the law could control the priest, the scribe eventually rose to a position of power and dignity. Jewish People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The major portion of Jews lived outside of Judea and were caught up in the commercial spirit in Susa, Ecbatana, Persepolis, Mesopotamia, Syria, Seaport cities of Asia Minor, Egyptian delta. Jewish View of Gentiles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isaiah's View: The Messiah's kingdom would include all nations. Nehemiah's View: The Messiah's kingdom would only be Jewish. Samaritan Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division had always existed between the returning Jewish exiles and those that had never left the land but had stayed and intermarried. The high priest brother, Manasseh, married the daughter of a Samaritan. Judea demanded a divorce but Samaria invited Manasseh to move. Manasseh moved to Samaria and another temple on Mt. Gerizim was built. The two groups moved further apart until John could write in John 4:9, "Jews have no dealings with Samaritans." Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jewish religion was growing narrower and more intense. The world was moving in on the Jews. Aramaic was the language of the nations with trade and government. Aramaic began to co-exist with Hebrew until, due to lack of use, the Hebrew language was discontinued. 	<p>High Priest</p> <p>Scribes</p> <p>Jewish People</p> <p>Gentiles</p> <p>Samaritans</p> <p>Aramaic</p>
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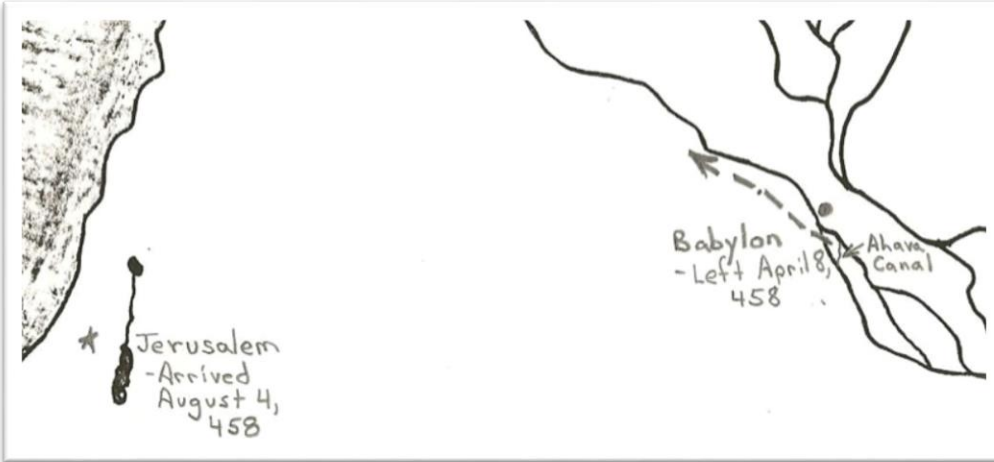
367	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 year old Philip, son of the Macedonian king, is taken hostage to Thebes, Greece for 2 years at the age of 15. 	Philip of Macedonia
366	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Greece Philip learns military science and the Greek passion to overthrow the Persians. 	
365	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philip becomes co-regent with his father in Macedonia and demonstrates ability as a general and in diplomacy. 	
359	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philip becomes king of Macedonia. 	
356	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philip turns the Macedonian military into a tool of expansion by taking Greek cities and the gold and silver mines of Philippi. Philip reorganizes the Macedonian army and begins to use phalanx (fay-lanks) which are heavily armed infantry troops in tight ranks of 8-12 rows deep that carry long spears and overlapping shields. The phalanx are supported with a cavalry. 	Macedonian Warfare
346	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexander the Great is born. 	
337	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philip has become the master of Greece. Philip announces his decision to his Greek confederacy that he is going to invade Persia. The Greek city/states unite behind Philip. 	Greece Conquered
336	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philip sends 10,000 troops across the Aegean Sea to Troy or Troas. Summer, Philip is assassinated at his daughters wedding when a royal attendant steps forward and stabs him. 	Philip Assassinated



336	<p>The Grecian Empire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philip's son, Alexander (356-323 BC), becomes king of Macedonia and Greece, age 20. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Educated by Aristotle and memorized the "Iliad" at 13 years old. Macedonia's ambassador to Athens at 18 years old. Mother Olympias taught him his ancestor was the Greek god Achilles and his father, Philip, came from the line of Hercules. Thebes rebels against Alexander so Alexander attacks and sells 30,000 of its people into slavery. All of Greece unites behind Alexander. 	Alexander
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334	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the age of 22 Alexander leaves Pella for Asia Minor to begin an invasion of Persia with 30,000 foot soldiers and 5,000 cavalry. Alexander would never see Greece again. He covers 300 miles in 20 days to arrive at the Hellespont. He crosses it and sails for Troy. At a temple to Athena in Troy Alexander exchanges his armor for the sacred armor from the Trojan War. Alexander led his troops across the wild Granicus River to meet Persian soldiers but they flee. Greek colonies along the coast welcome Alexander. In seven months Alexander controlled the coast of Asia Minor. 	Alexander begins to Conquer Daniel 11:3
333	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexander is the "hero-king" of Daniel 11:3. Alexander goes through Gordium. In a night attack he passes through the Cilician Gates which should have been easily defended, since two loaded camels could not pass through together. Fall, Alexander meets the Persian king, Darius III, for the first time at Issus. The Greeks outmaneuver the Persians. Alexander and the Champions, his elite cavalry, charge and collapse the Persian frontline. Alexander pursues Darius III. Darius escapes into the night but Alexander spends the night in Darius' royal tent. This battle is the meeting of the ram from the east with two horns (Darius III, Persia) and the goat from the west with one prominent horn (Alexander, Greece) from Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 8. 	Alexander Faces Darius III Daniel 8





Ezra Returns
 Leaves - April 18, 458 BC
 Arrives in Jerusalem – August 4, 458 BC
Ezra 7:6, 8; 8:31
 1,678 miles



1. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah were one single book in the Jewish canon and early church. Origen (185-253) was the first to divide them into two books. Jerome recognized the difference and made them two books in his Latin translation (Vulgate).
2. Both Ezra and Nehemiah have personal accounts in their books, but the books also include historical information that came from other sources.
3. Ezra 1-6 provides a general historical background for the books.
 - a. Ch. 1 – Edict of Cyrus 538 and the first returning Jews under Sheshbazzar
 - b. Ch. 3 the building of the new altar and foundation of the temple in 537 under Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel and Jeshua
 - c. Ch. 4 Samaritans resist the Jews building efforts
 - d. Persian kings:
 - i. Xerxes - 485
 - ii. Artaxerxes I - 464
 - iii. Darius - 519 BC
 - e. Ezra 4:24-6:22 second attempt to rebuild the temple under Darius in 516
 - f. Ezra 7 through Nehemiah 13 – information about the activities of Ezra and Nehemiah
4. History after 586 BC
 - a. Gedaliah appointed but murdered
 - b. Jews flee to Egypt and become the large group of Jews in Elephantine, Egypt - an island on the Nile, forming part of the city of Aswan in Upper Egypt. Papyrus from the Jews written in Aramaic from after 500 BC have been found and the Jewish presence has been there since the 600's BC
 - c. Jehoiachin was well treated in Babylon according to Babylonian cuneiform tablets identifying rations under Evilmerodach (Amel-Marduk) who was king after Nebuchadnezzar in 562 BC. He himself was imprisoned, but after his release he released and cared for Jehoiachin. (2 Kings 25:27-30 and Jeremiah 52)
 - d. Evilmerodach is murdered by his brother-in-law Negal-shar-usur who is followed by Nabonidus who turned from Marduk to the god Sin making the priest of Marduk angry. Nabonidus moved south into Arabian Desert leaving son Belshazzar in Babylon.
 - e. Cyrus, the Persian king, in the northeast mountains of Iran gained control of Indo-Arian Medes and defeated the Lydians in Asia Minor and then Babylon in 539 BC.
 - f. Jews and other captives are sent home
 - g. Some Jews stayed in Babylon since it had become home. They enjoyed freedom and prospered. About 450 BC the Jewish family Murashu started the first banking-house in history. This is recorded in cuneiform
 - h. Cyrus dies suddenly in battle in the Indian mountains in 529 leaving Cambyses in charge.
 - i. Cambyses invades Egypt in 525 BC and secured victory over Egypt in 523
 - j. Gaumata (Pseudo-Smerdes) pretended to be the brother Cambyses murdered and tried to take over in Cambyses absence.
 - k. Cambyses dies in Israel mysteriously in 522 BC. It was right before his death that Zerubbabel and Jeshua returned to Judah (Ezra 2 and Nehemiah 7). Cambyses General Darius (son of Hystaspes) took control of the Persian empire