

# **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 Thermopyli in 480
- Xerxes I was assassinated in 465
- 480 Battle of Thermopyli
- 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

626 - 605 Nabopolassar dies  
 (“Nabu, Protect the Sun”)

605 - 562 Nebuchadnezzar II  
 (“Nebo, Protect the Boundary”)

562 - 560 Evil Merodack

556 Labaski Marduk

556 - 539 Nabonidus, who  
 delegated rule to his son  
 Belshazzar

### MEDIA

625 – 585 Cyrzares (Cyaxares)

585 – 550 Astyages

550 Cyrus II

539 - Gobiyas (Darius the Mede?)

## 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.