

The Persian Empire (490/'89 – 331/'30 B.C.)

This document provides information which shows that the Persian Empire was not from 539/'38 until 331/'30 B.C., but from 490/'89 until 331/'30 B.C. The information is presented in a chronological summary which begins with Cyrus II and ends with Darius III. In this summary information from the Word of God (NKJV) is compared to information from other, primarily original, sources. Examples of original sources are the tablets from the house of Egibi and from the house of Murashu, the *Persepolis Treasury Tablets*, the ostraca from Ayn Manawir, the papyri from Elephantine, and the Persian inscriptions. The Saros tablets with information about lunar eclipses are not used as a source of chronological information, because this information proceeds from calculations from the third century before Christ. According to the Persian inscriptions the acknowledged successors of Cyrus II were:

Cambyses II

Darius I

Xerxes I

Artaxerxes I

Darius II

Artaxerxes II

Artaxerxes III

Artaxerxes IV

Darius III

<http://www.livius.org/be-bm/behistun/behistun03.html>

<http://www.livius.org/aa-ac/achaemenians/inscriptions.html> (see inscription A3pa

Cyrus (II) 9 yr. (490/'89 – 481/'80 B.C.)

►Cyrus II, the founder of the Persian Empire, was born around 551 B.C. His father was, according to the Greek writer Herodotus (c.490-c.426 B.C.), Cambyses I the Persian and his mother Mandane, the daughter of Astyages the Mede. According to the Greek writer Ctesias (c.440-c.370? B.C.), Cyrus himself was also married with a daughter of Astyages. The father of Astyages was Cyaxares the Mede, in Tobit 14:15 named Ahasuerus. If Ctesias is right then Biblically speaking Cyrus, because of his association with a daughter of Astyages, can also be called a son of Cyaxares the Mede (Ahasuerus) (Dan.9:1). Cyrus the Persian could then be the same person as Darius the Mede. Because Darius is not a personal name but, like Ahasuerus and Artaxerxes, a throne name which was used for various Persian kings. The name Darius means 'holding firm the good' or 'the doer of good'. And that fits well in the context of Daniel 6. If all this is correct then the Aramaic word which in Daniel 6 verse 28 is translated as 'and', should be translated as 'that' or 'that is', meaning 'namely', just as it is in Daniel 4 verse 9.

The other throne name for Cyrus, the Hebrew name Ahasuerus, represents the old Persian Khsayarsha. In Elamite the name is Iksersa, in Akkadian it is Ahsi'arsu, and in Greek Xerxes. The name means 'king of kings' or 'lord of lords' and in Ezra 4:6 it is used for Cyrus in connection with the greatness of his kingdom (Ezra 1:1-2).

http://www.livius.org/ct-cz/cyrus_/cyrus.html

►Not long after Cyrus, the king of Persia, in year 6 of Nabonidus (501/'00 B.C.), had defeated Astyages, the king of Media, Cyrus was also named the king of Media.

►In year 17 (490/'89 B.C.) of Nabonidus an army of Cyrus, consisting of Medes and Persians, moved into Babylon without battle on 16 Tishri (Is.13:7; 45:1; Dan.5:6). Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was slain and Darius, the Mede (Cyrus), being about 62 years old, received the kingdom of the Chaldeans (from the LORD) (Dan.5:28-31; Is.45:1-5). Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which Jeremiah the prophet had spoken to all the people of Judah and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the fourth year of Jehoiakim,

saying, "Then it will come to pass, when 70 years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, says the LORD; and I will make it a perpetual desolation" (Jer.25:1-2,12). Later, when many of them who had heard these words were carried away to Babylon, Jeremiah refers them to this again in his letter, with the words: "For thus says the LORD: After (or "Surely, when") 70 years are completed for (the Hebrews preposition is not the same here as in other places in the Scripture where it is translated with 'at' before the name of a place; the translation with 'for', in the sense of 'in regard to', just as in the N.I.V. 1983, is correct) Babylon, *then* I will visit you and perform My good Word toward you, and cause you to return to this place" (Jer.29:1-2,10).

http://www.livius.org/cg-cm/chronicles/abc7/abc7_nabonidus3.html

► In year 1 (489/'88 B.C.) of Cyrus Daniel understood by the books the number of the years specified by the Word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish 70 years in the desolations of Jerusalem (Dan.9:2). From this verse it appears that Daniel does not connect the beginning of the 70 years, mentioned in Jeremiah 25 verse 11, with the nations that shall serve the king of Babylon, but with the beginning of the desolations of Jerusalem (see also 2Kin.21:10-14). And that's why there should be a comma between the words 'Babylon' and 'seventy' in Jeremiah 25 verse 11, just as between the words 'them' and 'four hundred' in Genesis 15 verse 13. According to God's Word the 70 years began therefore with a desolation of Jerusalem and they ended with the fall of Babylon and the return of the people of Israel after the proclamation to return by Cyrus (Jer.25:11-12; 29:10). With this return the 70 years in the desolations of Jerusalem were accomplished (Dan.9:2).

From Jeremiah 25 verse 18 ("as it is this day") and verse 29 ("I began to bring calamity", and not "I begin to bring calamity") it appears that the desolations of Jerusalem had begun before Jeremiah prophesied about the 70 years in the fourth year of Jehoiakim (556/'55 B.C.). The only event which fits as the start of the desolations of Jerusalem is the carrying away captive of king Joahaz in 559/'58 B.C. by Pharaoh Necho (2Kin.23:31-34). Seventy years later God performed His good Word toward His people with His shepherd Cyrus (Is.44:28; Jer.29:10). Because Cyrus made the proclamation to return and build Jerusalem (Is.45:13; Dan.9:25; 2Chr.36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4). The children of Israel returned, and when the seventh month had come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem (Ezra 3:1). And from the first day of the seventh month {13/14 Sept.; day 2}, they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD had not yet been laid (Ezra 3:6). See the document *The calendars in the Bible* for the calendar which was used in the Bible in this time.

http://www.livius.org/ct-cz/cyrus_1/cyrus_cylinder2.html

► In year 3 (487/'86 B.C.), on the twenty-fourth day of the first month {21/22 April; day 6}, a message was revealed to Daniel (Dan.10:1f.).

► In year 9 (481/'80 B.C.), around September, Cyrus made his son Cambyses II viceroy. Several months later Cyrus died at the age of about 71 years.

http://www.livius.org/ct-cz/cyrus_1/cyrus.html

Cambyses (II) 7 yr. (481/'80 – 474/'73 B.C.)

► Cambyses II was the oldest son of Cyrus II. In the Bible he is called by his throne name Artaxerxes (Ezra 4:7,23).

http://www.livius.org/caa-can/cambyses_ii/cambyses_ii.html

► Around year 1 (480/'79 B.C.), according to Flavius Josephus (Antiq.XI,2,2) 9 years before year 2 of Darius I, Cambyses gave the command to cease the work of the house of God (Ezra 4:7-24).

<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/josephus.html>

► Around year 4 (477/'76 B.C.) Cambyses murdered his brother Smerdis. In Egypt Pharaoh Amasis II (Ahmose) died in his regnal year 44. See note 4 for the Apis bull stelae from his time.

► In year 5 (476/75 B.C.) Cambyses conquered Egypt by defeating Pharaoh Psammetichus III (Psamtik). Psammetichus had then only been king for 6 months according to Herodotus (3,14).

http://www.livius.org/caa-can/cambyses_ii/cambyses_ii.html

http://www.livius.org/ps-pz/psammetichus/psammetichus_iii.html

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2707/2707-h/book3.htm>

► In year 7 (474/73 B.C.) Cambyses, who was in Egypt, heard of the rebellion which Gaumata, according to the Behistun inscription, had begun on 14 Viyaxana { = 14 Adar according to the Babylonian calendar = 7/8 March 473 B.C.}. When Cambyses heard the news of the rebellion he rushed back to Persia. But before he reached Persia, he died. After the death of Cambyses, Gaumata, according to Herodotus (3,67-68), reigned 7 months before he was killed by Darius I. Darius killed Gaumata, according to the Behistun inscription, on the tenth of the seventh month. From this we can conclude that Cambyses must have died in the last month (Adar) of 474/73 B.C., or in the first month (Nisan) of 473/72 B.C. A Babylonian tablet dated 23 Nisan, year 8 of Cambyses, seems to support that Cambyses died in Nisan. But it is also possible that the Babylonian scribes were not yet aware of Cambyses' death in Adar.

<http://www.livius.org/be-bm/behistun/behistun03.html>

http://www.livius.org/caa-can/calendar/calendar_babylonian.html

http://www.livius.org/caa-can/cambyses_ii/cambyses_ii.html

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2707/2707-h/book3.htm>

Gaumata 1 yr. (474/73 – 473/72 B.C.)

► Gaumata pretended to be Smerdis, the brother of Cambyses II. He could do that because the people did not know that Smerdis was dead. From Babylonian tablets that are dated in the second, third, and fourth months of the accession year of Gaumata, and tablets that are dated in the first and the third to the eighth month of the first year of Gaumata, it seems that Gaumata reigned 1 year and 7 months. However, the absence of tablets which are dated in the fifth to the twelfth month of the accession year of Gaumata points in another direction. Namely, that some Babylonian scribes dated the accession of Gaumata at the end of 474/73 B.C. and others at the beginning of 473/72 B.C. The dating of the accession of Gaumata at the end of 474/73 B.C. must be correct, because the scribes who dated the accession of Gaumata at the beginning of 473/72 B.C. stopped with this method of dating in the fourth month.

<http://www.livius.org/be-bm/behistun/behistun03.html>

<http://www.google.nl/search?q=www.jstor.org%2Fstable>

<http://www.google.nl/search?q=www.jstor.org%2Fstable%2F528928&btnG=Zoeken&hl=nl&source=hp&lr=&aq=f&aqi=&aql=&oq=>

► In year 1 (473/72 B.C.) Gaumata's illegitimate rule was overthrown when Darius and his associates killed him.

Darius (I) 36 yr. (473/72 – 437/36 B.C.)

► Darius I was, according to Herodotus (1,209), the oldest son of Hystaspes (c.516-c.449 B.C.) and about 20 years old when Cyrus II died in 481/80 B.C.

The name Darius is a throne name and means 'holding firm the good' or 'doer of good'. This name is used in the books Ezra, Haggai and Zechariah in connection with the completion of the building of the temple in Jerusalem.

Another throne name for this king, which was also used for Cyrus (Ezra 4:6) and Cyaxares the Mede (Tobit 14:15), is Ahasuerus (Est.1:1-3 and cf. 1 Esdras 3:1-2). This Hebrew name represents the old Persian Khsayarsha. In Elamite the name is Iksersa, in Akkadian it is Ahsi'arsu, and in Greek Xerxes. The name means 'king of kings' or 'lord of lords' and is used in the book Esther in association with the greatness of his kingdom (Est.1:1-4).

The third throne name which was used for this king and various other Persian kings is Artahsasta. This Hebrew name represented the old Persian Arta-xs'a~a. In Elamite the name is Zrta-kSas'Sa, in Akkadian it is Arta-kSatsu, and in Greek Artaxerxes. The name means 'king of justice' or 'he who reigns in truth' and in the books Ezra and Nehemiah is used in connection with the doing of justice. In his tomb at Naqs-i Rostam it is, amongst other things, written: "King Darius says: By the grace of Ahuramazda I am of such a sort, I am a friend of the right, of wrong I am not a friend. It is not my wish that the weak should have harm done him by the strong, nor is it my wish that the strong should have harm done him by the weak. The right, that is my desire. To the man who is a follower of the lie I am no friend."

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2707/2707-h/book1.htm>

<http://www.livius.org/na-nd/naqsh-i-rustam/naqsh-i-rustam.html>

<http://www.livius.org/aa-ac/achaemenians/DNb.html>

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/apo/es1.htm>

► In year 473/72 B.C. Darius and his associates killed Gaumata on 10 Bagayadis { = 10 Tishri according to the Babylonian calendar = 26/27 Sept.}. According to Herodotus (3,79), this day was later celebrated each year as the *feast of Magophonia* or the day of slaughter of the magi. It is possible that the day chosen by Darius and his associates for carrying out their plot against Gaumata was the same day as the great national *feast of Baga*, when the court was expected to indulge in pleasure and was less on its guard. This feast was held on the day which was determined as the day of the autumnal equinox. That day could be determined within 1 or 2 days from the true day of the equinox. The true day of the autumnal equinox fell in 473 B.C. on 27/28 September. See for more information the document *The calendars in the Bible*.

According to Herodotus (3,88), who from his writings appears to have lived in the time of Darius I and Xerxes I (see note 1), Darius married Atossa shortly after he became king. Their first son, the future successor of Darius, was born 1 or 2 years later.

<http://www.livius.org/be-bm/behistun/behistun03.html>

http://www.livius.org/caa-can/calendar/calendar_babylonian.html

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2707/2707-h/book3.htm>

<http://www.iranchamber.com/history/atossa/atossa.php>

► Year 1 (472/71 B.C.) of Darius fell, according to the Babylonian dated business documents from the house of Egibi and the Adda Gupi Stele, 81 years after year 3 of Nebuchadnezzar II (553/52 B.C.) and 130 years after year 20 of Ashurbanipal (602/01 B.C.). In the usual chronology year 1 of Darius (521/20 B.C.) falls 128 years after year 20 of Ashurbanipal (649/48 B.C.). See for the year in which Ashurbanipal began to reign the document *King Esarhaddon reigned from 634/33 until 622/21 B.C.*

<http://www.livius.org/be-bm/behistun/behistun04.html>

<http://www.heraldmag.org/olb/contents/doctrine/time.pdf> (see page 19 and 20)

► In year 2 (471/70 B.C.), on the first of the sixth month {27/28 Aug.; day 7}, the prophet Haggai spoke the Word of the LORD to the people about the negligence in the building of the temple (Hag.1:1-13).

▪ On the twenty-fourth of the sixth month {19/20 Sept.; day 2} they resumed the building of the temple (Hag.1:14-15; Ezra 5:1-2). At the same time Tattenai the governor of the region beyond the River came to them and asked them who had commanded them to build this temple. When he hears from them that king Cyrus had done that, then he sends a letter to king Darius with the request to find out if this is true, and what the king wants to be done. (Ezra 5:3-17). Some time later king Darius reports to him that king Cyrus had indeed given the command to build the house of God, and that therefore the building must continue (Ezra 6:1-7). Moreover Darius issued a decree that the cost had to be paid at the king's expense so that the builders are not hindered (Ezra 6:8). And whatever the priests needed had to be given to them day by day without fail, that they may offer sacrifices of sweet aroma to the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king and his sons (Ezra 6:9-10 and cf. 7:23).

▪ On the twenty-first of the seventh month {15/16 Oct.; day 7} the prophet Haggai spoke an encouraging Word from the LORD to the people (Hag.2:1-9).

- In the eighth month the prophet Zechariah called on the people to return to the LORD of hosts (Zech.1:1-6).
- On the twenty-fourth of the ninth month {16/17 Dec.; day 6} the prophet Haggai spoke the Word of the LORD about punishments and promises of blessings to the people (Hag.2:10-23).
- On the twenty-fourth day, in the eleventh month {13/14 Febr. 470 B.C.; day 2}, which is the month of Shebat, in year 70 of the wrath of the LORD of hosts over Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, which began in 540/39 B.C. with the besieging of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar II, the Angel of the LORD said, amongst other things, to the prophet Zechariah "Proclaim, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal" (Zech.1:7,12,14).

► When in year 3 (470/69 B.C.) all those who had raised a rebellion and had become king of a province in the Persian Empire were overthrown (see Behistun inscription), Ahasuerus (king of kings), that is Darius, made a feast for all his officials and servants (Est.1:1-3). He showed the riches of his glorious kingdom for 180 days and when these days were completed the king made a feast lasting 7 days (Est.1:4-5). In total, therefore, this all went on for 187 days. And that number makes it possible that the start and the end of the days were marked by two great Persian feasts. Namely, the *New Year feast* on the day of the vernal (spring) equinox { = 25/26 March = 5 Nisan} and the *feast of Baga* on the day of the autumnal equinox { = 27/28 Sept. = 14 Elul II according to the Babylonian calendar}. If this is correct, then on this last day it was also decided to depose Vashti as queen (Est.1:9-2:1). Vashti (in Persian Vahista) is not a personal name, but an epithet for Atossa (in Persian Hutaosa), and means excellent. Because queen Vashti (Atossa) was deposed in year 3, she is not named in the *Persepolis Fortification Tablets*, from which the oldest tablet found is from year 7 of Darius. Whereas Artystone, the woman with whom Darius later married, is named more than 25 times.

<http://www.livius.org/be-bm/behistun/behistun01.html>

http://www.livius.org/da-dd/darius/darius_i_6.html

http://www.livius.org/da-dd/darius/darius_i_4.html

<http://www.livius.org/arl-arz/artystone/artystone.html>

► In year 4 (469/68 B.C.), year 70 of the fasting and mourning over the destruction of Jerusalem in 538/37 B.C., on the fourth day of the ninth month {3/4 Dec.; day 3}, some men came to the house of God to pray before the LORD about the fasting, and then the Word of the LORD came to Zechariah (Zech.7:1-14, in v.5 not 'even those 70 years', but 'even these 70 years', see ASV).

- In year 4 Darius did not visit Egypt so as is generally thought, because the Darius of the stelae from year 4 is not Darius I, but Darius II. See note 4 for more information.

- Around this year Darius began to build at Persepolis (Parsa in old Persian). The site for Persepolis was chosen by Cyrus, after a total solar eclipse had taken place there on 24 Nov. 493 B.C.

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEatlas/SEatlas-1/SEatlas-0499.GIF>

<http://www.livius.org/pen-pg/persepolis/persepolis.html>

<http://www.iranica.com/articles/persepolis>

► Around year 5 (468/67 B.C.) Darius conquered the Indus valley and plains east of the Afghan mountains (Est.1:1).

http://www.livius.org/da-dd/darius/darius_i_6.html#518

http://www.livius.org/da-dd/darius/darius_i_8.html

► In year 6 (467/66 B.C.), on the third day of the month of Adar {7/8 Feb. 466 B.C.; day 1}, the house of God was finished (Ezra 6:15). After this they offered sacrifices, according to Flavius Josephus (Antiq.XI,4,7) on 23 Adar {27/28 Febr.; day 7}, at the dedication of this house of God (Ezra 6:16-18).

During this time, and probably because Darius in the letter which he gave Ezra uses his

throne name Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:11-26), Darius is in Ezra 6 verse 14 introduced as Artaxerxes. The Hebrew *wāw* which is in this verse before the name Artaxerxes and is translated with 'and', should be translated with 'that is', just as in the Authorized King James Version it is translated with 'even', for example, in 1Sam.17:40 and 28:3 ('even' means 'that is'). Because only the two kings Cyrus and Darius, that is Artaxerxes, gave the command to build the temple (Ezra 6:2-13).

<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/josephus.html>

► In year 7 (466/65 B.C.), on the first of the first month {5/6 April; day 2}, Ezra came up from Babylon (Ezra 7:6,9).

▪ On the twelfth of the first month {16/17 April; day 6} Ezra departed from the river of Ahava to go to Jerusalem (Ezra 8:15,31).

▪ On the first of the fifth month {1/2 Aug.; day 1} Ezra came to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:9).

▪ On the twentieth of the ninth month {16/17 Dec.; day 5} all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered at Jerusalem because of the matter of the pagan wives who lived with them (Ezra 10:7-12).

▪ On the first of the tenth month {27/28 Dec.; day 2} they began to examine this matter, and on the first of the first month of the following year {24/25 March 465 B.C.; day 6} they finished this matter (Ezra 10:13-17).

▪ In the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, Darius made Esther queen instead of Vashti (Est.2:16-17). Esther (Aester) is the Persian name for the Hebrews Hadassah, because both names have the same meaning, that is, myrtle. Herodotus (3,88) calls her Artystone in his writings and says that she was the woman who was the most loved by Darius (Est.2:17). He also records correctly that she was a virgin when Darius married her (Est.2:2-3). However, he is not right when he says that she was a sister of Atossa. The Greek name Artystone represents the old Persian Irtastuna which means 'who (the) truth has as a pillar' This name was given to Esther when she was queen.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2707/2707-h/book3.htm>

► In year 8 (465/64 B.C.) of Darius (also called Artaxerxes) began the era of Artaxerxes (king of justice). This era had probably to do with the great tax reform which Herodotus (3,89-97) describes, because all the documents from the banking house of Murashu (see links etana), which acted as a middleman in the system of tax collection in Babylonia, are during the reign of Darius I and during the reigns of his lawful successors Xerxes I and Artaxerxes I, dated according to this era. It was not until 41 years later when the unlawful son of Artaxerxes I, Darius II, began to reign that the dating according to this era ended. Other documents which are also dated according to this era, are for instance, ostraca from Ayn Manawir (see link trismegistos and cais-soas) and papyri from Elephantine (see note 3).

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2707/2707-h/book3.htm>

http://www.iranchamber.com/history/articles/achaemenid_society_culture.php

<http://www.livius.org/na-nd/naqsh-i-rustam/naqsh-i-rustam.html>

<http://www.livius.org/aa-ac/achaemenians/DNb.html>

http://www.livius.org/da-dd/darius/darius_i_6.html

<http://www.livius.org/pha-phd/pharnaces/pharnaces.html>

http://www.livius.org/da-dd/darius/darius_i_8.html

<http://www.etana.org/abzu/coretext.pl?RC=20249>

<http://www.etana.org/abzu/coretext.pl?RC=14473>

http://www.google.nl/search?hl=nl&source=hp&q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.trismegistos.org%2Fdownloads%2Fprocess.php%3Ffile%3DTOP_1.pdf&btnG=Google+zoeken&meta=lr%3D&aq=f&aqi=&aql=&oq= (see page 15-17)

http://www.cais-soas.com/CAIS/History/hakhamaneshian/new_trends.htm

► Around year 9 (464/63 B.C.) Darius, according to Herodotus (5,25), made his brother Artaphernes satrap of Lydia. After about 20 years Artaphernes was succeeded by Pissuthnes. The son of Artaphernes, who was also called Artaphernes, was one of the leaders in Darius' army during the battle at Marathon in 443/42 B.C.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2456/2456-h/book5.htm>

<http://www.livius.org/arl-arz/artaphernes/artaphernes.html>

► In year 12 (461/'60 B.C.), in the first month, which is the month of Nisan, they cast Pur (that is, the lot) before Haman to select a date for destroying the Jews (Esth.3:7-8). Providentially, the thirteenth of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, was chosen (Esth.3:13; Prov.16:33). In Babylon, the *New Year* had long been the time when fate was determined for the coming year. It was determined by drawing lots. The word 'pur' is neither a Semitic nor a Persian word. The Assyrians, however, did have a word 'puru' meaning a stone that was used like a dice for casting lots.

▪ On the thirteenth of the first month {23/24 March; day 3}, a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded. And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth of the twelfth month, and to plunder their possessions (Esth.3:12-13).

▪ On the twenty third of the third month {31 May/1 June; day 2}, which is the month of Sivan, the letters and the schemes of Haman were revoked in new letters, which were written according to everything that Mordecai commanded (Esth.8:3-17).

▪ On the thirteenth of the twelfth month {11/12 Febr. 460 B.C.; day 6}, which is the month of Adar, the Jews laid hands on those who sought their harm. And the Jews who were in Shushan did the same on the fourteenth day as well, and rested on the fifteenth, while the remainder of the Jews of the villages and unwallied towns rested on the fourteenth (Esth.9:1-32).

▪ And Mordechai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen (Est.10:3; 8:2; 3:1). The effect of this can clearly be seen for example in the documents from the years 455 until 403 B.C. of the Jewish banking house of Murashu. Because it appears from these documents that the house of Murashu was closely linked to the royal family, and that their business prospered greatly.

http://www.iranchamber.com/history/articles/achaemenid_society_culture.php

<http://www.iranica.com/articles/babylonia-i>

► Year 19 (454/'53 B.C.) was, according to the Persepolis tablets, a year in which a second month Elul was intercalated (PFT 3158), and a year which began with a day which was determined as the day of the vernal equinox. That day could be determined within 1 or 2 days from the true day of the equinox. The true day of the vernal equinox fell in 454 B.C. on 25/26 March and the first of the first month (1 Nisan) fell on 24/25 March. See for more information the document *The calendars in the Bible*.

<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/full/1978JHA.....9..201H>

► In year 20 (453/'52 B.C.), in the month of Kislev (Nov. 453 B.C.), men came from Judah to Nehemiah (Neh.1:1-3).

▪ In the month of Nisan (1 Nisan was 2/3 March 452 B.C.), Nehemiah asked the king if he would send him to Jerusalem (Neh.2:1,5-6). From Nehemiah 2 verse 1 it appears that the first month Nisan still fell in year 20 of king Artaxerxes (Darius). The reason for this is that at the end of year 453/452 B.C., which normally would have had an extra month Adar, no second Adar was intercalated because it was a Sabbath year from autumnal equinox 453 B.C. to autumnal equinox 452 B.C. (see the next year and also the document *The calendars in the Bible*).

► In year 21 (452/'51 B.C.), on the twenty-fifth day of Elul {21/22 Aug.; day 4} the wall of Jerusalem was finished, in 52 days (Neh.6:15).

▪ At the end of a Sabbath year, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, they (not 'he') read from the Book of the Law of God day by day, from the first day until the last day {21 Tishri = 15/16 Sept.; day 1} (Neh.8:13-18; Deut.31:10-12).

▪ On the twenty-fourth of the seventh month {18/19 Sept.; day 4}, the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads, and they confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers (Neh.9:1-38).

► In about 449/'48 B.C. Hystaspes, the father of Darius, died.

► In 448/'47 B.C. Darius made Xerxes, his first son from Atossa who was then about 23 years old, viceroy. In a text from Persepolis, Xerxes refers to this with the words: "My father

Darius made me the greatest after himself" (cf. Gen.41:40 and Dan.5:16). Xerxes became viceroy in the first month (Nisan), because the earliest known tablet from his accession year is dated to month 1. See also note 2 for the pattern of the extra months in the last 11 years of Darius I and the first 11 years of Xerxes I.

<http://www.livius.org/aa-ac/achaemenians/XPf.html>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/saoc5.pdf>

► Around year 26 (447/'46 B.C.) Darius visited Egypt.

http://www.livius.org/da-dd/darius/darius_i_8.html

► As early as 446/'45 B.C., 9 years before Darius died, a frieze showing the king and the viceroy had been placed near the northern stairs of the Audience hall of Persepolis.

http://www.livius.org/da-dd/darius/darius_i_9.html

► In 445/'44 B.C., 14 years before the beginning of the Peloponnesian War in 431/'30 B.C., Pissuthnes was satrap of Lydia according to the Greek writer Thucydides (c.460-c.400 B.C.). The father of Pissuthnes was, according to Thucydides (1,4), Hystaspes. This is not another unknown Hystaspes, but the same Hystaspes as the father of Darius.

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.mb.txt>

<http://www.livius.org/pi-pm/pissuthnes/pissuthnes.html>

► In year 30 (443/'42 B.C.), according to Thucydides (1,1) 10 years before the great attack of Xerxes I on the Greeks, the battle between the Medes and the Greeks took place at Marathon.

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.mb.txt>

► In year 32 (441/'40 B.C.), when 49 years (seven year weeks) from the going forth of the command to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem were completed, Nehemiah returned to king Darius, that is, Artaxerxes (Neh.13:6; 5:14; 2:6; Dan.9:25).

► In 440/'39 B.C. the Egyptians, according to Herodotus (7,1-4) 3 years after the battle at Marathon, revolted against the Persians. Also, the sons of Darius, who were born before Darius became king, contested the legitimacy of the heir to the throne named by Darius in 448/'47 B.C. Because they were, after all, older than the first son who was born after Darius became king!

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2456/2456-h/book7.htm>

► In the year after the revolt of Egypt (439/'38 B.C.), Darius, according to Herodotus (7,4), died. But Herodotus makes a mistake here. The mistake is not so strange in itself, because in this year Darius handed over his throne to his son Xerxes. In a text from Persepolis, Xerxes refers to this with the words: "When my father Darius went away from the throne, by the grace of Ahuramazda I became king on my father's throne."

<http://www.livius.org/aa-ac/achaemenians/XPf.html>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/saoc5.pdf>

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2456/2456-h/book7.htm>

► In the next year (438/'37 B.C.) Xerxes, according to Herodotus (7,7), marched against those who had revolted in Egypt. After having subdued these he made his brother Achaemenes satrap of Egypt. Achaemenes remained satrap of Egypt until he, about 10 years later (428/'27 B.C.), was killed during a new uprising in Egypt under the command of the Lybian Inaros, who later, according to Thucydides, was assisted by king Amyrtaeus in his rebellion. Then Artaxerxes I made Arsames, also a brother of Xerxes I, satrap of Egypt. His name is frequently mentioned on the papyri from Elephantine in Egypt. Arsames remained satrap of Egypt until at least in 406/'05 B.C.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2456/2456-h/book7.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inarus>

<http://www.iranica.com/articles/arsama-greek-arsmes-aramaic-rsm-name-of-several-achaemenid-notables>

► In year 36 (437/'36 B.C.) Darius died in about November, and around 63 years old. The latest known tablet from year 36 is dated to month 8.

<http://www.heraldmag.org/olb/contents/doctrine/time.pdf> (see page 23)

http://www.livius.org/da-dd/darius/darius_i_9.html

Xerxes (I) 20 yr. (448/47 – 428/27 B.C.)

► In 434/33 B.C. Xerxes began his campaign against Greece, according to Herodotus (7,20), 4 full years after the conquest of Egypt. And, according to Herodotus (7,37), when Xerxes with his army had rested over the winter at Sardis and at the beginning of the spring advanced, a solar eclipse occurred. This solar eclipse did not take place on 2 October 480 B.C. so as is thought in the usual chronology, but on 30 March 433 B.C.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2456/2456-h/book7.htm>

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEatlas/SEatlas-1/SEatlas-0439.GIF>

► In 433/32 B.C., about a ½ year after the solar eclipse and according to Thucydides (1,1) 10 years after the battle of Marathon, the great battle against the Greeks took place. Shortly after the battle, about 1½ years before the beginning of the Peloponnesian War, Xerxes pulled a great part of his forces back. Thucydides says in book 1, at the beginning of chapter 5, that there were not 1½ years but 50 years between these two events. Considering that this is impossible, and that also appears to be the case from other parts of Thucydides writings, then it is probably to do with a falsifying of history by a later writer, possibly by the extremely untrustworthy writer Ctesias. In connection with this could be the remark in book 1, chapter 4, where the writer apologizes for the fact that in that chapter he describes events from during this 50 years which other writers, according to him, have omitted.

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.mb.txt>

► In year 1 of the Peloponnesian War (431/30 B.C.), according to Thucydides (2,6), a solar eclipse took place on an afternoon in the summer. This solar eclipse took place in the afternoon of 3 Aug. 431 B.C.

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.mb.txt>

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEatlas/SEatlas-1/SEatlas-0439.GIF>

► In year 20 (428/27 B.C.) Xerxes died in about August, and around 43 years old. On a double-dated papyrus (C6) from Egypt is written: "18 Kislev, that is 7 Thoth (7 Akhet I), year 21, beginning of the reign of Artaxerxes, the king." These dates are equivalent to the Julian date 14/15 Dec. 428 B.C. See note 3 for more information.

Artaxerxes (I) 3 yr. (428/27 - 425/24 B.C.)

► Artaxerxes I was a lawful son, because he was (the second) son of Xerxes I and his wife Amestris. He did not reign for 40 or 41 years, as the usual chronology indicates, but for 3 years. And that is why there is so little known about his reign. See for instance the satraps of Lydia between 480 and 440 B.C. who are missing in the usual chronology. Note also that there are only a few inscriptions of Artaxerxes I, and that he did not build much. The only building activity of Artaxerxes I, which because of his inscriptions (see A1Pb and A1Pa inscription) is sure, is that he finished the *Hall of Hundred Columns* at Persepolis, also called the *Hundred Columns palace*. Other buildings which some also ascribe to Artaxerxes I, such as the so called *Palace of Artaxerxes* and the so called *Garrison Quarters*, were not built by him.

<http://www.livius.org/lu-lz/lydia/lydia.html>

http://www.livius.org/arl-arz/artaxerxes/artaxerxes_i_makrocheir.html

http://www.livius.org/aa-ac/achaemenians/inscriptions_3.html#A1Pb

<http://www.livius.org/aa-ac/achaemenians/A1Pa.html>

<http://www.livius.org/pen-pg/persepolis/persepolis.html>

<http://class.lism.catholic.edu.au/ahist-dvd/ahist-hsc09/HSC%20Xerxes/webpages/Persepolis%20stuff/Persepolisgood.htm>

► According to Thucydides (1,5), the Greek Themistocles was banished just before the beginning of the Peloponnesian War which began in 431/30 B.C., and not long after that he wrote a letter to king Artaxerxes who had just then come to the throne. This event does not fit into the usual chronology, because according to the usual chronology Themistocles was banished about 45 years before the beginning of the Peloponnesian War and it would still be another 11 years before Artaxerxes would come to reign. Furthermore, according to Thucydides (1,5), Perdikkas II was king of Macedonia at the time of Themistocles' banishment. This

is also not in agreement with the usual chronology, because according to the usual chronology, it was not until about 26 years later that Perdiccas became king of Macedonia.

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.mb.txt>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perdiccas_II

► In year 3 (425/'24 B.C.), which is year 40 of the era of Artaxerxes, Artaxerxes died at the age of about 30 years. According to Thucydides (4,13), the Greeks heard of the death of king Artaxerxes I, the son of Xerxes I, in the winter of year 7 of the Peloponnesian War (425/'24 B.C.). And in the first days of the summer following this (the beginning of the summer season began with the spring for the Greeks) a solar eclipse took place. This solar eclipse took place on 21 March 424 B.C.

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.mb.txt>

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEatlas/SEatlas-1/SEatlas-0439.GIF>

Xerxes (II) 1½ months (425/'24 – 424/'23 B.C.)

► Xerxes II was a lawful son because he was a son of Artaxerxes I and his wife Damaspia. He began to reign at the end of 425/'24 B.C. About 2 months later Xerxes, at the age of about 16 years old, was killed by Sogdianus.

http://www.livius.org/x/xerxes/xerxes_ii.html

Sogdianus 6½ months (424/'23 B.C.)

► Sogdianus was an unlawful son, because he was a son of king Artaxerxes I and his concubine Alogyne. After a reign of about seven months in year 41 of the era of Artaxerxes, he was killed in about November by Darius II, at the age of about 16 years old.

http://www.livius.org/x/xerxes/xerxes_ii.html

Darius (II) 19 yr. (424/'23 – 405/'404 B.C.)

► Darius II was an unlawful son, because he was a son of king Artaxerxes I and his concubine Cosmartidene.

http://www.livius.org/da-dd/darius/darius_ii_nothus.html

► On a papyrus (C21) from Egypt, dated in year 5 (419 B.C.) of Darius there are, amongst other things, instructions written from Hananja for the Jewish garrison at Elephantine in Egypt about the observing of the Pascha. See for more papyri note 3.

<http://www.kchanson.com/ANCDOCS/westsem/passover.html>

► The last known tablet of the *Persepolis Treasury Tablets* is from year 7 (417/'16 B.C.) of Darius II. The first tablets are dated in year 30 and 32 of Darius I and the last tablets are dated in year 1, 3, 5 and 7 of (an) unnamed king(s) who reigned after Xerxes I. The tablets dated in year 5 and 7 must be from the time of Darius II, because Artaxerxes I reigned only 3 years. This is confirmed by the mentioning of a second month Adar on the tablet dated in year 5 (see also note 2). The two other tablets dated in year 1 and 3 are from the time of Artaxerxes I.

<http://www.cais->

[soas.com/CAIS/Archaeology/Hakhamaneshian/persepolis_elamite_tablets.htm](http://www.cais-)

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/oip/oip65.html> (see page 16)

► In about 415/'14 B.C. Darius made Tissaphernes satrap of Lydia in place of Pissuthnes. The father of Tissaphernes was called Hydarnes, and was the captain of the elite forces of Xerxes I who in 433/'32 B.C. fought against the Greeks. The father of Hydarnes, who was also called Hydarnes, was the one who helped Darius I to come to power in 473/'72 B.C.

<http://books.google.nl/books?>

[id=XWbhmebyhxAC&pg=PA337&lpg=PA337&dq=Tissaphernes+son+of+Hydarnes+Ctesias&source=bl&ots=bKNzlezScB&sig=X5lx9Lsk2JwwfFGMOgNj-](http://books.google.nl/books?id=XWbhmebyhxAC&pg=PA337&lpg=PA337&dq=Tissaphernes+son+of+Hydarnes+Ctesias&source=bl&ots=bKNzlezScB&sig=X5lx9Lsk2JwwfFGMOgNj-)

[d76PNM&hl=nl&ei=MNmaSe6IOc-gbvyfyACQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=4&ct=result](http://books.google.nl/books?d76PNM&hl=nl&ei=MNmaSe6IOc-gbvyfyACQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=4&ct=result)

http://www.livius.org/ho-hz/hydarnes/hydarnes_2.html

► In the summer of year 19 of the Peloponnesian War (413/12 B.C.), according to Thucydides (7,23), a lunar eclipse occurred. This lunar eclipse was total and took place on the evening of 27 August 413 B.C.

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.mb.txt>

► Year 20 of the Peloponnesian War (412/11 B.C.), according to Thucydides (8,25), corresponds to year 13 of Darius. (the Greeks counted inclusive)

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.mb.txt>

► On a papyrus (C30) from Egypt, dated in year 17 (407 B.C.) of Darius, Johanan is named as the high priest in Jerusalem. From the Bible we know him as the (grand)son of the high priest Eliashib (Ezra 10:6; Neh.3:1;12:22).

<http://books.google.nl/books?>

[id=qEhSNN_x8HUC&pg=PA55&lpg=PA55&dq=Elephantine+papyri+AP+30&source=bl&ots=qVS4f5dgk1&sig=60GNVRjpChCkYOacvTqZ9jrm4ol&hl=nl&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=3&ct=result](http://books.google.nl/books?id=qEhSNN_x8HUC&pg=PA55&lpg=PA55&dq=Elephantine+papyri+AP+30&source=bl&ots=qVS4f5dgk1&sig=60GNVRjpChCkYOacvTqZ9jrm4ol&hl=nl&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=3&ct=result)

► At the end of year 19 (405/4 B.C.) Darius died, at the age of about 36 years old.

Artaxerxes (II) 46 yr. (405/04 – 359/58 B.C.)

► Artaxerxes II was the first son of Darius II and his wife Parysatis. Cyrus, was the second son of Darius II and Parysatis, and was born in about 424/23 B.C.

http://www.livius.org/ct-cz/cyrus_ii/cyrus_ii.html

► At the end of the summer of year 28 of the Peloponnesian War (404/03 B.C.) there was, according to the Greek writer Xenophon (c.430-c.355 B.C.; Hellenica 2,3,4), a solar eclipse. This solar eclipse took place on 3 September 404 B.C.

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?lookup=Xen.+Hell.+2.3.1>

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEatlas/SEatlas-1/SEatlas-0419.GIF>

► At the end of year 46 (359/58 B.C.) Artaxerxes died at the age of about 68 years old.

http://www.livius.org/arl-arz/artaxerxes/artaxerxes_ii_mnemon.html

Artaxerxes (III) 21 yr. (359/58 – 338/37 B.C.)

► Artaxerxes III was a son of Artaxerxes II.

http://www.livius.org/arl-arz/artaxerxes/artaxerxes_iii_ochus.html

Artaxerxes (IV) 2 yr. (338/37 – 336/35 B.C.)

► Artaxerxes IV was a son of Artaxerxes III.

http://www.livius.org/arl-arz/artaxerxes/artaxerxes_iv.html

Darius (III) 5 yr. (336/35 – 331/30 B.C.)

► Darius III was a son of a brother of Artaxerxes III, called Arsames.

► In year 5 (331/30 B.C.) the Persian Empire came to an end due to the conquest of Alexander the Great.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darius_III_of_Persia

Notes

1) From that which Herodotus and Thucydides have written it appears that in the summer of 430 B.C. Herodotus was still alive and writing. We can conclude this because in book 7, which for a great part is about the attack of Xerxes on the Greeks, Herodotus writes in fragment 137 about an event which took place after this attack. Namely, about the death of

Nicolaos, Aneristos and Aristeas, during the Peloponnesian War. According to Thucydides (2,67), this took place at the end of the summer in the second year of the Peloponnesian War. Further, it appears from what Herodotus wrote in book 9, fragment 73, that he must have died before 413 B.C. Because it is written there that the place Decelea had never been plundered by the Spartans. And according to Thucydides (6,93) that did take place in 413 B.C. Therefore it is probable that Herodotus died before 413 B.C. Also, because he wrote nothing about Darius II, who began to reign in 424 B.C., but he did write about Artaxerxes I, who according to the chronology above became king in 428 B.C., then the year of his death was probably between 428 and 424 B.C. If we assume a lifetime of 70 years, then he must have been born around 495 B.C. These dates come close to the dates that we usually find for Herodotus, namely 490 and 426 B.C. For the usual chronology this conclusion does cause considerable difficulties. Because, according to the usual chronology, Artaxerxes I reigned in that time period. Namely from 465 to 425 B.C. And then it is indeed strange that Herodotus wrote almost nothing about Artaxerxes I. And all the more strange, because we know that Herodotus was still writing in 430 B.C. From his writings we cannot otherwise but conclude that he lived through the whole reign of king Darius I and of king Xerxes I, and that at the end of his life he also lived to see king Artaxerxes I.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2456/2456-h/book7.htm>

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2456/2456-h/book9.htm>

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.mb.txt>

2) Beginning in the time of Cambyses II the Babylonians began to experiment with the standard procedures for the intercalation of months. This led to a cycle which, from year 23 (450/49 B.C.) of Darius, always caused the first month of the year (Nisan) to begin with the first visibility of the moon after, or on the day of, the vernal equinox. The cycle consisted of 19 years of which 7 years had an extra month. One year with a second month Elul (E), and 6 years with a second month Adar (A). The cycle is given here below, with below that the years with an intercalary month from year 23 of Darius I until and including year 30 of Artaxerxes II. The years, recorded in texts, with an intercalary month Elul or Adar are given in 'bold'. The unrecorded years, and years with an intercalary month recorded in astronomical texts during the reigns of Darius I, Xerxes I, and Artaxerxes I are not given in bold.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	A			E		A			A			A		A			A	

Darius I	yr. 24		yr. 27		yr. 29		yr. 32		yr. 35									
Xerxes I			yr. 2		yr. 4		yr. 7		yr. 10		yr. 12						yr. 15	
„ „	yr. 18																	
Artaxerxes I			yr. 1		yr. 3													
Darius II							yr. 2		yr. 5		yr. 7						yr. 10	
„ „	yr. 13		yr. 16		yr. 18													
Artaxerxes II							yr. 2		yr. 5		yr. 7						yr. 10	
„ „	yr. 13		yr. 16		yr. 18		yr. 21		yr. 24		yr. 26						yr. 29	

Documents from the fourth, third, second and first century before Christ, and from the first century after Christ show that this cycle continued to function in Babylonia.

<http://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu/full/gif/1978JHA.....9..201H/0000206.000.html>

http://www.caeno.org/_Nabonassar/authors.html (see link Babylonian Chronology 626 B.C. - A.D. 75)

3) Here below is a summary of data from the double-dated papyri from the Jewish garrison at Elephantine (24.05°N and 32.56°E). The Julian dates are given with two figures because the day for the Jews begins with sunset and for the Egyptians with sunrise.

Docu- ment	Year of reign & name of king	Babylonian date with matching Egyptian date	Babylonian and Egyptian date converted to Julian dates
K1	yr.14 Artaxerxes	20 Sivan = 25 Peret III	5/6 and 6/7 July 451 B.C.
K2	yr.16 Artaxerxes	18 Ab = 30 Peret IV	8/9 and 9/10 Aug. 449 B.C.
C15	yr.16 Artaxerxes	24 Tishri = 6 Shemu III	13/14 and 14/15 Oct. 449 B.C.
C13	yr.19 Artaxerxes	2 Kislev = 10 Shemu IV	16/17 and 17/18 Nov. 446 B.C.
C14	yr.25 Artaxerxes	14 Ab = 19 Shemu I	25/26 and 26/27 Aug. 440 B.C.
K3	yr.28 Artaxerxes	7 Elul = 9 Shemu II	13/14 and 14/15 Sept. 437 B.C.
K4	yr.31 Artaxerxes	25 Tishri = 25 Shemu III	29/30 and 30/31 Oct. 434 B.C.
C5	yr.15 Xerxes I	18 Elul = 28 Shemu I	1/2 and 2/3 Sept. 432 B.C.
C6	yr.21 Xerxes I	18 Kislev = 7 Akhet I	14/15 and 14/15 Dec. 428 B.C.
K5	yr.38 Artaxerxes	20 Sivan = 7 Peret III	11/12 and 12/13 June 427 B.C.
C8	yr. 5* Artaxerxes I	21 Kislev = 21 Shemu IV	22/23 and 22/23 Nov. 423 B.C.
K6	yr. 3 Darius II	8 Tammuz = 8 Peret IV	10/11 and 11/12 July 420 B.C.
C20	yr 4 Darius II	1 Elul = 1 Shemu II	1/2 and 2/3 Sept. 420 B.C.
K7	yr. 4 Darius II	1 Tishri = 1 Shemu III	1/2 and 2/3 Oct. 420 B.C.
K8	yr. 8 Darius II	6 Tishri = 22 Shemu II	21/22 and 22/23 Sept. 416 B.C.
C25	yr. 9 Darius II	3 Kislev = 12 Akhet I	16/17 and 16/17 Dec. 416 B.C.
C28	yr.14 Darius II	24 Shebat = 9 Akhet III	10/11 and 10/11 Febr. 410 B.C.
K9	yr. 1 Artaxerxes II	24 Chesvan = 29 Shemu IV	25/26 and 25/26 Nov. 404 B.C.
K10	yr. 3 Artaxerxes II	20 Adar = 8 Akhet IV	8/9 and 9/10 March 402 B.C.

* Some read 6, but 5 is the correct reading.

<http://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu/full/gif/1908MNRAS..69...12F/0000014.000.html>

<http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/ifa/zpe/downloads/2000/130pdf/130159.pdf>

<http://khazarzar.skeptik.net/books/jud/timeezra/timeezr1.pdf>

http://aegyptologie.online-resourcen.de/Calendar_of_Ancient_Egypt

http://www.caeno.org/_Nabonassar/authors.html (see link The Calendar of Aramaic Texts from Achaemenid and Ptolemaic Egypt)

The dates for the first invisibility or visibility of the moon were:

first invisibility was on 16 June 451 B.C.	1 Sivan was 16/17 June
„ „ was on 24 July 449 B.C.	1 Ab was 24/25 July
„ „ was on 20 Sept. 449 B.C.	1 Tishri was 20/21 Sept.
„ „ was on 15 Nov. 446 B.C.	1 Kislev was 15/16 Nov.
„ „ was on 12 Aug. 440 B.C.	1 Ab was 12/13 Aug.
„ „ was on 7 Sept. 437 B.C.	1 Elul was 7/8 Sept.
first visibility was on 5 Oct. 434 B.C.	1 Tishri was 5/6 Oct.
„ „ was on 15 Aug. 432 B.C.	1 Elul was 15/16 Aug.
„ „ was on 27 Nov. 428 B.C.	1 Kislev was 27/28 Nov.
„ „ was on 23 May 427 B.C.	1 Sivan was 23/24 May
„ „ was on 2 Nov. 423 B.C.	1 Chesvan (not Kislev) was 2/3 Nov.
„ „ was on 3 July 420 B.C.	1 Tammuz was 3/4 July
„ „ was on 1 Sept. 420 B.C.	1 Elul was 1/2 Sept.
„ „ was on 1 Oct. 420 B.C.	1 Tishri was 1/2 Oct.
„ „ was on 16 Sept. 416 B.C.	1 Elul (not Tishri) was 16/17 Sept.
„ „ was on 14 Dec. 416 B.C.	1 Kislev was 14/15 Dec.
„ „ was on 18 Jan. 410 B.C.	1 Shebat was 18/19 Jan.
„ „ was on 2 Nov. 404 B.C.	1 Chesvan was 2/3 Nov.
„ „ was on 17 Febr. 402 B.C.	1 Adar was 17/18 Febr.

The dates for the first of the first month (1 Nisan) were:

18/19 April 451 B.C.	first invisibility
26/27 March 449 B.C.	„ „
24/25 March 446 B.C.	„ „
15/16 April 440 B.C.	„ „
12/13 April 437 B.C.	„ „
12/13 April 434 B.C.	first visibility
21/22 March 432 B.C.	„ „
5/6 April 428 B.C.	„ „
25/26 March 427 B.C.	„ „
10/11 April 423 B.C.	„ „
6/7 April 420 B.C.	„ „
22/23 April 416 B.C.	„ „
28/29 March 411 B.C.	„ „
9/10 April 404 B.C.	„ „
29/30 March 403 B.C.	„ „

The above dates for the first invisibility and visibility of the moon have been determined with help from the program 'Planetary, Lunar, and Stellar Visibility 3'. This program is free to download from: <http://www.alcyone.de/PVis/english/index.html>

If we closely consider the above information, then we can conclude the following:

- 1) That most of the papyri are written during the day.
- 2) That all regnal years are counted according to the Egyptian year, beginning with 1 Akhet I (1 Thoth).
- 3) That the Egyptian regnal year 1 always began in the Babylonian accession year. The same appears from the dates of the stelae recorded in note 4.
- 4) That in document C5, the year 15 of Xerxes I, must be the year 16.
- 5) That the Babylonian months followed the Babylonian calendar so as recorded in note 2.
- 6) That until and including year 437 B.C. the first invisibility of the moon at sunrise was the determining factor for the beginning of each month, just as was customary for the Egyptians. On the evening of that day the new month then began for the Jews in Elephantine.
- 7) That between 437 and 434 B.C. the first visibility of the moon at sunset became the determining factor for the beginning of each month.
- 8) That sometimes the extra month Adar was not inserted if the twelfth month began just before the vernal equinox (see note 2). See for example document C5 from 432 B.C. and the first document (K8) from 416 B.C., from which it appears that in the Babylonian years 433/'32 and 417/'16 B.C. no second Adar month is inserted. Later this was always corrected. See the second document (C25) from 416 B.C.
- 9) That in document C8, the ninth month Kislev, must be the eighth month Chesvan.
- 10) That in chaotic times counting was continued with the regnal years of the king who had died. See for example document C6 from year 21 of Xerxes I who died in year 20, and document C8 from year 5 of Artaxerxes I who died in year 4. The chaotic time after Artaxerxes I is probably also the reason that in document K3 the year 3 of Darius II is mentioned, and not year 4.

In confirmation of the correctness of the above chronology some more information about the content of the papyri is given here below.

- yr.14 Artaxerxes (451 B.C.) Document (K1) mentions Mahseiah son of Yedoniah as witness.
- yr.16 Artaxerxes (449 B.C.) Document (K2) is Tamet's marriage contract drawn up between her groom Ananiah son of Azariah, and her master Meshullam son of Zakkur.
- yr.16 Artaxerxes (449 B.C.) Document (C15) is a marriage contract between Eshor son of Djeho and Mibtahiah, the daughter of Mahseiah son of Yedoniah. The detachment bearing the name of commander Varizata, also occurs in year 19 and 25 of Artaxerxes (446 and 440 B.C.), and in year 16 and 21 of Xerxes I (432 and 428 B.C.). Mahseiah son of Yedoniah belonged to this detachment during these years. But in year 5 of Artaxerxes I (423 B.C.), probably because of a new commander, he belonged to the detachment of Haumadata. According to the usual chronology he first belonged to Varizata, after that to Haumadata, and then again to Varizata.
- yr.19 Artaxerxes (446 B.C.) Document (C13) is a deed of gift of a house from Mahseiah son of Yedoniah to Mibtahiah his daughter.
- yr.25 Artaxerxes (440 B.C.) Document (C14) is a settlement of claim between Peu son of Pahe and Mibtahiah daughter of Mahseiah.
- yr.28 Artaxerxes (437 B.C.) In this document (K3) Ananiah son of Azariah assigns parts of a house to Tamet and Jehoishma.
- yr.31 Artaxerxes (434 B.C.) Document (K4) is a deed of gift of a part of a house from Ananiah son of Azariah to his wife Tamet.
- yr.16 Xerxes I (432 B.C.) Document (C5) is an agreement between Mahseiah son of Yedoniah, and Koniah son of Zadok, about building rights. The name Koniah son of Zadok also occurs in year 21 of Xerxes I (428 B.C.) and in year 5 of Artaxerxes I (423 B.C.). Phrataphernes son of Artaphernes is mentioned as witness.
- yr.21 Xerxes I (428 B.C.) Document (C6) is an agreement between Dargamana son of Kvarshaina and Mahseiah son of Yedoniah, concerning the right to a piece of property. Reference is made to it in year 5 of Artaxerxes I (423 B.C.) when the property passed to Mibtahiah.
- yr.38 Artaxerxes (427 B.C.) In this document (K5) Meshullam son of Zakkur arranged the manumission of his female slave Tamet, and her daughter Jehoishma, in the case of his death.
- yr.5 Artaxerxes I (423 B.C.) Document (C8) is a deed of gift of a house from Mahseiah son of Yedoniah to his daughter Mibtahiah, who is married for the second time with a man called Jezaniah, son of Uriah.
- yr.3 Darius II (420 B.C.) Document (K6) is a deed of gift of a part of a house from Ananiah son of Azariah to Jehoishma, his daughter.
- yr.4 Darius II (420 B.C.) Document (C20) is a settlement of claim between Menahem and Ananiah, sons of Meshullam son of Shelomen, and Yedoniah and Mahseiah, sons of Eshor (=Nathan) and Mibtahiah.
- yr.4 Darius II (420 B.C.) Document (K7) is Jehoishma's marriage contract drawn up between her groom Ananiah son of Haggai, and her adoptive brother Zakkur son of Meshullam (see at 427 B.C.)

- yr.8 Darius II (416 B.C.) Document (K8) made out to Zakkur son of Meshullam.
- yr.9 Darius II (416 B.C.) Document (C25) is a deed of renunciation between Yedoniah son of Hoshaiiah, the nephew of Jezaniah, and Yedoniah and Mahseiah, sons of Nathan about the house of Jezaniah. The document mentions Mahseiah son of Yedoniah as witness. Apparently Jezaniah and Mibtahiah had died.
- yr.14 Darius II (410 B.C.) Document (C28) mentions Yedoniah and Mahseiah sons of Nathan.
- yr.1 Artaxerxes II (404 B.C.) In this document (K9) Ananiah son of Azariah grants his daughter Jehoishma her title upon his death in exchange for old-age support.
- yr.3 Artaxerxes II (402 B.C.) In this document (K10) Ananiah son of Azariah made over the property (see K9) to his daughter Jehoishma.
- yr.4 Artaxerxes II (401 B.C.) This document (C7), which only bears the Egyptian date 18 Akhet II {18/19 Jan.}, deals with a case of burglary. The name of the defendant, Phrataphernes son of Artaphernes, also occurs 31 years before, and according to the usual chronology 70 years before, in document C5 (see 432 B.C.). The detachment bearing the name of the commander Nabukudurri, also occurs around year 15 of Darius II (409 B.C.).

http://www.archive.org/stream/aramaicpapyrioff00ahikuoft/aramaicpapyrioff00ahikuoft_djvu.txt

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[id=qdrO1O5UcD0C&pg=PA234&lpg=PA234&dq=Vidranga+year+8+Darius&source=bl&ots=o5SR8zSmyH&sig=ydJhI_SCY2y00LQm2UtrSiuQWzM&hl=nl#v=onepage&q=Vidranga%20year%20%20Darius&f=false](http://books.google.nl/books?id=qdrO1O5UcD0C&pg=PA234&lpg=PA234&dq=Vidranga+year+8+Darius&source=bl&ots=o5SR8zSmyH&sig=ydJhI_SCY2y00LQm2UtrSiuQWzM&hl=nl#v=onepage&q=Vidranga%20year%20%20Darius&f=false)

4) From the time of Amasis II, Darius I, and Darius II there are Apis bull stelae. These stelae are so called because they give information over Apis bulls, such as the date of his birth, the date of his inauguration, and the date of his burial. The date of the inauguration and the date of the burial are very useful for the chronology because the inauguration took place on the day which followed after the first visibility of the moon, and the burial on the day which followed after the setting of the full moon. The dates from the stelae confirm the above chronology and disprove the usual chronology because none of these dates fit in the usual chronology.

Stelae of Amasis II record:

Apis inaugurated 18 Shemu II, yr.5 Amasis = 13/14 Oct. 516 B.C.(first visib. moon 12 Oct.)

Apis buried 15 Shemu I, yr.23 Amasis = 6/7 Sept. 498 B.C.(full moon set on 6 Sept.)

Stela of Darius I records:

Apis buried 11 Peret II, yr.34 Darius = 20/21 May 439 B.C.(full moon set on 20 May)

Stela of Darius II records:

Apis buried 13 Shemu III, yr.4 Darius = 14/15 Oct. 420 B.C.(full moon set on 14 Oct.)

In the usual chronology is this stela (Louvre IM.4187) attributed to Darius I, which causes the following problems:

- a) According to the stela the time span was 8 years, and not 7 years, between the birth of the bull in year 5 of an unnamed king and the death of the bull in year 4 of a king Darius. In the usual chronology 525 B.C. is year 5 of Cambyses II, and year 518 B.C. year 4 of Darius I.
- b) Another stela records the death of an Apis bull in year 6 of Cambyses II. The birth of the bull born in year 5 of Cambyses II would then have preceded the death of its predecessor in year 6 of Cambyses II, which is in conflict with the Memphis cult.
- c) The burial dated on 13 Shemu III in year 4 of Darius I does not fall on a day which followed after the setting of the full moon.

Conclusion:

Stela Louvre IM.4187 is from the time of Darius II and the unnamed king is Amyrtaeus, the king of the delta (marshes), who later, according to Thucydides, assisted Inaros in his rebellion against Artaxerxes I. This rebellion took place in 428 and 427 B.C., which corresponds with the years 5 and 6 of Amyrtaeus.

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