

# BIBLICAL CHRONOLOGY

Vol VII, No. 10

(c) James B. Jordan, 1995

October, 1995

## Daniel: Historical & Chronological Comments (XI)

by James B. Jordan

### 19. The Chronology of the 7 Weeks

538 BC

*2nd Quarter:* Cyrus 1P (Persian). **Cambyases** becomes co-regent with Cyrus of Babylon.

*4th Quarter:* Cyrus U. At the beginning of the quarter, Daniel's calculations lead him to the prayer of Daniel 9. At end of quarter, **Cambyases** is removed as "king of Babylon," and Gabriel strengthens Cyrus (Dan. 11:1). This is the **beginning** of the 70 weeks of years, and thus also of the 7 weeks of years. Jubilee Year.

537 BC

*1st Quarter:* **Cyrus**, having removed **Cambyases**, who opposed the Jews, decrees that the Jews are to rebuild the Temple.

*2nd Quarter:* Jews travel to **Palestine**.

*3rd Quarter:* Jews settle in.

*4th Quarter:* Cyrus 2J. Feast of Tabernacles celebrated (Ezra 3), but foundations of Temple not yet laid. This begins the "second year of their coming to Jerusalem," Ezra **3:8**.

536 BC

*2nd Quarter:* Work begun on Temple in the second month, Ezra **3:8**.

*4th Quarter:* Cyrus 3J. Opposition to rebuilding project arises, Ezra 4:1-3.

535 BC

*1st Quarter:* Opposition discourages Jews from working on the Temple. Adversaries at Cyrus's court begin to **frustrate** the position of the Jews and Daniel, Ezra **3:4-5**.

*2nd Quarter:*

1st month, 4th day: Apparently **Cambyases** became co-regent with Cyrus and stood against the Jews.

1st month, 24th day: God appears to Daniel after he mourns three weeks, because of opposition to Temple building, Daniel 10:14.

*4th Quarter:* Cyrus 4J.

534 BC

*4th Quarter:* Cyrus 5J.

533 BC

*4th Quarter:* Cyrus 6J.

532 BC

*4th Quarter:* Cyrus 7J. Sabbath year.

531 BC

*4th Quarter: Cyrus 8J.*

w

530 BC

*4th Quarter: Cambyses 1J.* This begins the 9th year of the 70 weeks.

\* \* \* \* \*

525 BC

*4th Quarter: Cambyses 6J.* Sabbath year.

522 BC

3rd *Quarter:* In July, Pseudo-Smerdis seized the throne. **Cambyses**, on his way back from Egypt, dies, possibly by suicide. On September 29, Darius overthrew him and took the throne.

*4th Quarter:* Darius **1J**. This begins the 17th year of the 70 weeks. The Persian Empire is in turmoil, and Darius must reconquer almost **all** of it.

521 BC

2nd *Quarter:* Darius 1P.

3rd *Quarter:*

6th month, last day: End of 70 years of God's desolation of the Temple.

*4th Quarter:* Darius 2J. Beginning of 18th year of 70 weeks. By the end of this year, Darius had reconquered most of the empire.

520 BC

2nd *Quarter:* Darius 2P. **Haggai** and Zechariah, possibly because their books deal with the rebuilding of the Temple, use the religious calendar and date Darius's reign from spring to spring.

3rd *Quarter:*

6th month, 1st day: **Haggai** rebukes the Jews for letting a year go by without rebuilding the Temple, **Haggai** 1:1.

*4th Quarter:* Darius 3J. Beginning of 19th year of 70 weeks.

7th month, 21st day: God promises to glorify the Temple, **Haggai** 2:1-9.

8th month: **Zechariah** calls on Jews to repent, **Zechariah** 1:1-6.

9th month, 24th day: **Haggai** prophesies because the Temple foundation has been anew, **Haggai** 2:10, 18, 20.

519 BC

1st *Quarter:*

10th month, 10th day: 70th anniversary of the initial investiture of the Temple, when the cities of Judah were distressed by Nebuchadnezzar's army.

1 1th month, 24th day: Beginning of third or "resurrection" month after Temple foundation **relaid**. **Zechariah** mentions that the cities of Judah have been distressed 70 years (Zech. 1:12), and sees God cleanse the Temple and renew the covenant. **Zechariah** 1:6-6:8.

*2nd Quarter:* Darius 3P. Possibly in connection with New Year festivities, Darius/Ahasuerus begins a 6-month festival, Esther 1:34.

*4th Quarter:* Darius 4J. Beginning of 20th year of 70 weeks.

7th month (?): Darius/Ahasuerus gives a 7day feast for everyone in **Susa**, Esther 1:5. Shortly thereafter, Vashti is deposed as senior queen.

518 BC - Darius campaigns in Egypt.

2nd *Quarter:* Darius 4P

*4th Quarter:* Darius 5J. Year 21 of the 70 weeks begins. Sabbath year.

9th month, 4th day: Zechariah answers questions about fasting, **Zechariah** 7:1. This is in the 71st year after the investiture of Jerusalem.

17 BC

2nd *Quarter*: Darius 5P.

3rd *Quarter*: 70th anniversary the burning of the Temple.

4th *Quarter*: Darius 6J. Year 22 of 70 weeks begins.

16 BC

1st *Quarter*: Esther selected for trial as queen, Esther 2:12.

12th month, 3rd day: Temple completed, Ezra 6:15. This in the 71st year **after** the fall of Jerusalem and the burning of the Temple.

2nd *Quarter*: Darius 6P.

4th *Quarter*: Darius 7J. Year 23 of 70 weeks begins.

15 BC - Darius campaigns in India.

1st *Quarter*:

10th month: Esther becomes queen, Esther 2:16.

2nd *Quarter*: Darius 7P.

1st month, 1st day: Ezra prepares to depart for Jerusalem, Ezra **7:8-9**.

1st month, 9th day: Ezra and his people gather at the river to depart, Ezra 8:15.

1st month, 12th day: Ezra departs for Jerusalem, Ezra 8:31.

3rd *Quarter*:

5th month, 1st day: Ezra arrives in Jerusalem, Ezra **7:8-9**.

5th month, 4th day: Ezra's **gifts** given in Jerusalem, Ezra **8:32-33**.

4th *Quarter*: Darius 8J. Year 24 of 70 **weeks** begins.

9th month, 17th day: Ezra calls the people to assemble, Ezra **10:8**.

9th month, 20th day: The assembly under Ezra, Ezra **10:9**.

10th month, 1st day: Courts convene to assess marriages, Ezra 10:16.

BC

2nd *Quarter*: Darius 8P.

1st month, 1st day: Assessments of marriages concluded, Ezra 10:17.

4th *Quarter*: Darius 9J. Year 25 of 70 weeks begins.

13 BC

2nd *Quarter*: Darius 9P.

4th *Quarter*: Darius 10J. Year 26 of 70 weeks begins.

12 BC

2nd *Quarter*: Darius 10P.

4th *Quarter*: Darius **11J**. Year 27 of 70 weeks begins.

11 BC

2nd *Quarter*: Darius 11P.

4th *Quarter*: Darius **12J**. Year 28 of 70 weeks begins. Sabbath year.

10 BC

2nd *Quarter*: Darius 12P.

1st month: Darius promotes **Haman**. Mordecai refuses to acknowledge King's decree. **Haman** casts lots. Decree issued to exterminate Jews, Esther 3.

2nd month, 18th or 19th day: The last time Esther had visited Darius, Esther 4: 1-1.

3rd month, 20th day: Mordecai reports the bad news to Esther. Esther's fast, Esther 4:16, 5:1.

3rd month, 22nd day: Esther's first feast, Esther **5:4, 8**.

3rd month, 23rd day: Esther's second feast. **Haman** condemned. Darius issues decree that Jews may defend themselves, Esther **8:9**.

4th *Quarter*: Darius 13J. Year 29 of 70 weeks begins.

*1st Quarter:*

12th month, 13-14 days: Jews defend themselves, Esther 9.

12th month, 14-15 days: Jews rest and rejoice, Esther 9:17-18.

2nd *Quarter:* Darius 13P.

4th *Quarter:* Darius 14J. Year 30 of 70 weeks begins.

508 BC

2nd *Quarter:* Darius 14P.

4th *Quarter:* Darius **15J**. Year 31 of 70 weeks begins.

\* \* \* \* \*

504 BC

2nd *Quarter:* Darius 18P.

4th *Quarter:* Darius **19J**. Year 35 of 70 weeks begins. Sabbath year.

503 BC

2nd *Quarter:* **Darius** 19P.

4th *Quarter:* Darius 20J. Year 36 of 70 weeks begins.

9th month: Nehemiah hears of the distress of Jerusalem, Nehemiah 1:1.

502 BC

2nd *Quarter:* Darius 20P.

1st month: Nehemiah given permission to go to Jerusalem, Nehemiah 2:1.

*3rd Quarter:*

4th month, end: Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem, Nehemiah 2:11.

5th month, beginning: Wall restoration begun, Nehemiah 6:15.

4th *Quarter:* Darius 21J. Year 37 of 70 weeks begins.

7th month, day 1: Feast of Trumpets. Covenant renewal at the Water Gate, Nehemiah 8:1.

**7th** month, day 2: Ezra's Bible study, Nehemiah 8:13.

7th month, days 15-22: Feast of Tabernacles, Nehemiah 8:18.

7th month, day 24: Day of fasting and prayer, Nehemiah 9:1.

\* \* \* \* \*

497 BC

2nd *Quarter:* Darius 25P.

4th *Quarter:* Darius 26J. Year 42 of 70 weeks begins. Sabbath year.

\* \* \* \* \*

491 BC

4th *Quarter:* Darius 32J. Year 48 of 70 weeks begins. Sometime in this year, Nehemiah returns to Darius.

490 BC

2nd *Quarter:* Darius 32P.

4th *Quarter:* Darius 33J. Year 49 of 70 weeks begins. Sabbath year. Nehemiah away.

489 BC

2nd *Quarter:* Darius 33P.

4th *Quarter:* Darius 34J. Year 50 of 70 weeks begins. Year of Jubilee. On the basis of the wording of Nehemiah 13:30-31, I place Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem in this year.