

|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 537 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darius the Mede dies and Cyrus takes the title of King of Persia</li> <li>• A remnant of the Jews return to Jerusalem. It has been 70 years since the first captivity in 605 counting both the year 605 and 537 and the 68 years between</li> <li>• 800 mile journey from the Chebar River to Jerusalem</li> <li>• Cyrus provided money, orders for people to assist Jews and the temples sacred vessels.</li> <li>• The returning Jews left in Mar/Apr and arrived in Jerusalem in Jun/July</li> </ul>   | Ezra 2<br><b>Jews Return 70 Years After First Captivity</b>   |
| 536 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An angel comes to Daniel after he fasted 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) up through the Macabbean Revolt against Antiochus Epiphanies (168). The prophecy then continues with the rise of the anti-Christ (11:36)</li> <li>• Zerubbabel goes to rebuild the temple</li> <li>• The altar is built and the foundation for the temple is laid.</li> <li>• Samaritan's begin to oppose the Jew's efforts to rebuild the temple (Ez. 4:1-5)</li> </ul> | Daniel 10, 11, 12<br>Ezra 3<br><b>Zerubbabel</b><br><b>Altar Rebuilt</b><br>Ezra 4:1-5<br><b>Jews Opposed</b> |
| 534 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyrus gives his son Cambyses the task of preparing for an expedition against Egypt which will finally be unleashed in 525 BC</li> </ul>   | <b>Cambyses</b>   |
| 530 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 26, at the New Year's festival 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."</li> </ul>  |   |
| 529 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyrus dies on the battle field verse nomadic barbarians</li> <li>• Cyrus was buried in Pasargadae one of the five capital cities (Babylon, Ecbatana, Persepolis, Pasargadae and Susa)</li> <li>• Cyrus had built an enormous empire with roads, postal system and legal codes.</li> <li>• Cambyses secures the throne by murdering his brother Smerdis</li> </ul>   |   |
| 525 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambyses totally defeats Egypt in the eastern delta of the Nile and captures Memphis.</li> <li>• Cambyses desired 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.</li> </ul>  | <b>Cambyses Defeats Egypt</b>   |
| 522 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaumata, a pseudo-Smerdis, claims the throne back in Babylon</li> <li>• Cambyses disappears from history near Mt. Carmel on his return to Babylon</li> </ul>  |   |
| 521 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darius Hystaspes executes Gaumata and takes the throne of the Persian empire</li> <li>• Darius Hystaspes searches the royal archives in Babylon and finds that Cyrus had ordered the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. Opposition stops.</li> <li>• Within two years Darius Hystaspes stabilizes the empire.</li> </ul>  | <b>Darius Hystaspes</b>   |

|     |  |  |
|-----|--|--|
| 520 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The two prophets, Haggia and Zechariah, minister in Jerusalem.</li> <li>• August 29, the word of the Lord comes to Haggai and the book of Haggia begins.</li> <li>• October 17, Haggai 2:1-9 the word of the Lord is a message for Zerrubabel, the governor, Joshua, the high priest, and the remnant of people</li> <li>• Oct/Nov Zechariah records his first message from the Lord in Zechariah 1:1-6</li> <li>• Darius Hystaspes searches the royal archives in Babylon and finds that Cyrus had ordered the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. Opposition stops.</li> <li>• Rebuilding of the temple resumes after opposition had stopped it 16 years earlier. (Ezra 5-6)</li> <li>• December 18, 520, Haggai prophecies blessings on the remnant (Hag. 2:10-23)</li> </ul> | <p><b>Haggai</b></p> <p><b>Zechariah</b></p> <p>Haggai 1:1-15<br/>Haggai 2:1-9<br/>Zechariah 1:1-6<br/>Ezra 5-6<br/>Haggai 2:10-23</p> |
| 519 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 15, in one night Zechariah is given a series of eight night visions in one night:</li> </ul>   | Zechariah 1:7-6:8  |
| 518 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 7, Zechariah receives the word of the Lord in the fourth year of Darius Hystaspes (Zech. 7)</li> </ul>   | Zechariah 7  |
| 516 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The temple is completed by Zerubbabel. It has been 70 years since the temple was destroyed in 586.</li> </ul>   | Ezra 6:13-18<br><b>Temple Rebuilt<br/>70 Years After<br/>It Was<br/>Destroyed</b>  |

## Ezra 4:1-5

### 4:1 – When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the Lord, the God of Israel,

1. “The enemies of Judah and Benjamin” should not thought to be of the same mind and purpose of the exiles that had returned.
  - a. Their gesture seems friendly, cooperative and good hearted with good intentions.
  - b. But, if their goal and their purpose is not the same, then they are in opposition.
  - c. The opposition did not begin when Zerubbabel and Joshua rejected their “kindness”, but it began when they thought they could bring their own agenda to the organization.
  - d. The only way their opposing agenda could be responded to was with rejection
  - e. The alternative would have been compromise, acceptance and the returning exiles would have accepted defeat with this first encounter.
  - f. There will be many more encounters which makes it clear the intention of “the enemies of Judah and Benjamin” were not in the best interests of the Lord or his people.
2. “exiles” is literally “the sons of the captivity” – *bene hagola*
3. Benjamin and Judah were the main two tribes, but besides Levi, the other tribes also had representatives that returned.

**4:2 – they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, “Let us help you build because, like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here.”**

1. “sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria”
  - a. This began in 2 Kings 17:24 when foreign gentiles were forcefully settled in northern Israel.
  - b. They could not have been sacrificing to the Lord at that time since the Temple was still standing in Jerusalem.
  - c. After their arrival both Hezekiah and Josiah had invited northern Israel to join them in worship at the Temple, so these Gentiles had NOT been worshipping the Lord.
  - d. 2 Kings 17:34 says, “To this day they do according to the former manner. They do not fear the Lord...” (read 2 Kings 17:24-36)
  - e. These people were multi-faith polytheist and had no understanding or intention of serving the Lord

**4:3 - But Zerubbabel, Joshua and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel answered, “You have no part with us in building a temple to our God. We alone will build it for the Lord, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us.”**

1. The leaders of Judah knew from the beginning these people:
  - a. did not know what they said they did
  - b. that these people were not willing to change their cultural practices

**4:4 - Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building.**

1. “set out to discourage” does not mean they tried one time or they began, but their efforts faded.
  - a. This was a campaign of harassment.
  - b. The Hebrew indicates “they kept doing these things. These types of words and actions occurred from 537 BC until the prophets Haggai and Zechariah stepped in. And, even then the harassment did not stop.
    - i. “Discourage” – intimidation, mocking, suggesting legal action, etc.
    - ii. “make them afraid” – threatening physical violence, physical assault

**4:5 - They bribed officials to work against them and frustrate their plans during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of Persia.**

1. Persian officials under Cyrus that oversaw the operations of the officials in Lebanon and the whole workforce and supply chain to get the material for the temple was complicated.
  - a. There were many politicians and bureaucrats between Cyrus and the local delivery guy that could be bribed or intimidated
2. Cyrus to Darius was 537 BC until 520 BC

## **Haggai 1:1-15**

**1:1 - In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:**

**1:2 - "Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord."**

**1:3 - Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet,**

**1:4 - "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"**

**1:5 - Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways.**

**1:6 - You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.**

**1:7 - "Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways.**

**1:8 - Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord.**

**1:9 - You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.**

**1:10 - Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce.**

**1:11 - And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."**

**1:12 - Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord.**

**1:13 - Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke to the people with the Lord's message, "I am with you, declares the Lord."**

**1:14 - And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God,**

**1:15 - on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.**