

MEDO-PERSIA'S RULERS PER JH ©

SHORT VERSION

PERSIAN EMPIRE (C. 700-329 BC)

- Achaemenes (PE-01) – He ruled Persia for roughly 25 years (c.700-675 BC).
- Teispes (PE-02) - He ruled Persia for roughly 35 years (c.675-c.640 BC).
- Unknown King(s) (PE-03) – He (they) ruled Persia for 41 years (640-599 BC).
- Cyrus I (PE-04) – He ruled Persia for 20 years (599-579 BC).
- Cambyses I (PE-05) - He ruled Persia for 21 years (579-558 BC).
- Cyrus II (PE-06) - He ruled Persia for 29 years (558-529 BC).
- Cambyses II (PE-07) – He ruled Persia for 7 years (529-522 BC).
- Bardiya (PE-08) – He ruled Persia for a few months in 522 BC.
- Darius I (PE-09) – He ruled Persia for 37 years (522-485 BC).
- Cyrus (PE10 per JH) – He ruled Persia for 3 years (485-482 BC).
- Xerxes I (PE-11) - He ruled Persia for 21 years (482-465 BC).
- Artaxerxes I (PE-12) - He ruled Persia for 41 years (465-424 BC).
- Xerxes II (PE-13) - He ruled Persia for less than a year in (424-423 BC).
- Sogdianus (PE-14) - He ruled Persia for less than a 1 year (424-423 BC).
- Darius II (PE-15) - He ruled Persia for 18 years (423-405 BC).
- Artaxerxes II (PE-16) - He ruled Persia for 46 years (405-359 BC).
- Artaxerxes III (PE-17) - He ruled Persia for 21 years (359-338 BC).
- Arses (PE-18) - He ruled Persia for 2 years (338-336 BC).
- Darius III (PE-19) - He ruled Persia for 6 years (336-330 BC).

LONG VERSION

---ERA 4 – THE TURBULENT WORLD (1464-665 BC)---

---Phase 4A – The Reign of Venus (1464-1008 BC)---

---Period 4A-1 - Ice Age 1 (1464-1413 BC)---

- The *Joshua Disturbance* in 1413 BC.

--- Period 4A-2 - Ice Age 2 (1413-1261 BC)---

- The *Othniel Threat* in 1363 BC.
- The *Ehud Threat* in 1312 BC.
- The *Deborah Disturbance* in 1261 BC.

--- Period 4A-3 - Ice Age 3 (1261-1058 BC)---

- The *Gideon Threat* in 1210 BC.

- The **Jair Threat** in 1160 BC.
- The **Elon Threat** in 1109 BC.
- The **Samuel Disturbance** in 1058 BC, which caused the *Flood of Ogyges* in Egypt and the *Flood of Deucalion* in Greece.

--- **Period 4A-4 – Ice Age 4 (1058-1008 BC)**---
---*Sojourn in Egypt without Joseph (1608-1464 BC)*---

- The **David Disturbance** in 1008 BC.

---**Phase 4B – War in the Sky (1008-754 BC)**---
---*Period 4B-1 – Late Helladic IIIa (1008-957 BC)*---

- The **Solomon Disturbance** (Cosmic Battle #1) occurred in 957 BC.

---*Period 4B-2 – Late Helladic IIIb (957-855BC)*---

- The **Asa Threat** occurred in 906 BC.
- The **Jehoram Disturbance** (Cosmic Battle #2) occurred in 855 BC.

---*Period 4B-3 – Late Helladic IIIc (855-754 BC)*---

- The **1st Jehoash Threat** occurred in 841 BC.
- The **2nd Jehoash Threat** in 826 BC.
- The **3rd Jehoash Threat** occurred in 812 BC.
- The **1st Amaziah Threat** occurred in 805 BC.
- The **2nd Amaziah Threat** occurred in 797 BC.
- The **1st Azariah Threat** 768 BC.
- The **Commotion in the Days of Uzziah** & the **Azariah Disturbance** (Cosmic Battle #3) occurred in 754 BC.

---**Phase 4C – The Reign of Mars (754-665 BC)**---
---*Period 4C-1 – Respite (754-695 BC)*---

- The **2nd Azariah Threat** occurred in 739 BC.
- The **1st Jotham Threat** occurred in 724 BC.
- The **2nd Jotham Threat** occurred in 710 BC.

PERSIAN EMPIRE (C. 700-329 BC), of which 5 years (700-695 BC) fell in this period.

- **Achaemenes (PE-01)** – He ruled Persia for roughly 25 years (c.700-675 BC), of which the first 5 years (c.700-695 BC) fell in this period.
- The **Ahaz Disturbance** occurred in 695 BC.

---*Period 4C-2 – Ice Age 6 (695-680 BC)*---

PERSIAN EMPIRE (C. 700-329 BC), of which 15 years (695-680 BC) fell in this period.

- **Achaemenes (PE-01)** – He ruled Persia for roughly 25 years (c.700-675 BC), of which the middle 15 years (c.695-680 BC) fell in this period.
- The **1st Hezekiah Disturbance** occurred in 680 BC.

---Period 4C-3 – Ice Age 7 (680-665 BC)---

PERSIAN EMPIRE (C. 700-329 BC), of which 15 years (680-665 BC) fell in this period.

- **Achaemenes (PE-01)**, who was probably the father of Teispes – He was the king of Persis and ruled Persia for roughly 25 years (c.700-675 BC), of which the last 5 years (680-675 BC) fell in this period.
- **Teispes (PE-02)**, who was the son of Achaemenes and the father of Cyrus I and Ariaramnes (the grandfather of Darius the Great¹ and the king of Parsa) - He ruled Persia for roughly 35 years (c.675-c.640 BC), of which the first 10 years (675-665 BC) fell in this period.
- The **2nd Hezekiah Disturbance** occurred in 665 BC.

---ERA 5 – THE EARLY HISTORIC WORLD (665-2 BC)---

---Part 5D – Sacred History in the Early Historic Era

---Period 5D-1 – The Neo-Babylonian Supremacy (665-487 BC)---

PERSIAN EMPIRE (C. 700-329 BC), of which 168 years (665-487 BC) fell in this period.

- **Teispes (PE-02)** – He ruled Persia for roughly 35 years (c.675-c.640 BC), of which the last 25 years (665-640 BC) fell in this period.
- **Unknown King(s) (PE-03)** – He (they) ruled Persia for 41 years (640-599 BC).
- **Cyrus I (PE-04)**, who was the son of Teispes, the brother of Ariaramnes, and the father of Cambyses I – He was the King of Anshan and ruled Persia for 20 years (599-579 BC).
- **Cambyses I (PE-05)**, who was the son of Cyrus I and the father of Cyrus II - He was also known as Cambyses the Elder. He was the king of Anshan and a vassal to Astyages, the king of Media, He ruled Persia for 21 years (579-558 BC).
- **Cyrus II (PE-06)**, who was the son of Cambyses I and the father of Cambyses II – He was also known as Cyrus the Great. He ruled Persia for 29 years (558-529 BC). He conquered Media in 548 BC and Lydia in 546 BC.
- **Cambyses II (PE-07)**, who was the son of Cyrus II, the Great, and the older brother of Bardiya – He ruled Persia for 7 years (529-522 BC). He conquered Egypt in 525 BC.
- **Bardiya (PE-08)**, who was the son of Cyrus II, the Great, the younger brother of Cambyses II, and therefore the legitimate heir to the throne – He ruled Persia for a

¹ Ariaramnes was the father of Arsames, the grandfather of Arsames' son Hystaspes, and the grandfather of Hystaspes' son Darius I, the Great.

few months in 522 BC, but was overthrown by his fourth cousin, Darius the Great, with whom he shared a great-great-grandfather.

- **Darius I (PE-09)**, who was the son of Hystaspes, the fourth cousin of Bardiya, and the father of Xerxes I. – He was also known as Darius the Great and Darius the Mede. He usurped the throne and ruled Persia for 37 years (522-485 BC), of which 35 years (522-487 BC) fell in this period. He reconquered Egypt in 520 BC, invaded the Indus Valley in 516 BC, lost to the Greeks at Naxos in 499 BC and at Marathon in 490 BC, and conquered Babylon in 487 BC, bringing an end to the Neo-Babylonian Empire.
- The *Fall of Babylon* in 487 BC.²

---Period 5D-2 – The Persian Supremacy (487-330 BC)---

PERSIAN EMPIRE (C. 700-329 BC), of which 157 years (487-330 BC) fell in this period.

- **Darius I (PE-9) continued** – He ruled Persia for 37 years (522-485 BC), of which 2 years (487-485 BC) fell in this period. The Scriptures are clear that both (a) the Fall of Babylon and (b) the start of Darius I’s 2-year reign in Babylon occurred in year 68 of Israel’s exile in Babylon – i.e. 487 BC. The Scriptures are also clear that in the next year – i.e. 486 BC – which is year 69 of the exile and year 36/1 of Darius, an angel spoke to Daniel. Finally in the next year – i.e. 485 BC – which was year 70 of the exile and year 37/2 of Darius, the latter died, and Cyrus succeeded to the Persian throne.³

² Much effort has been devoted to reconstructing the Fall of Babylon, and the various versions of it differ considerably and are stricken with inconsistencies. I start with the Bible. Daniel 5 describes how Belshazzar, the son and co-regent of King Nabonidus, was giving a feast for “a thousand of his lords” (v. 1), and he commanded his servants to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar took from the Temple in Jerusalem into the dining hall so that his guests might drink wine from them. Thus, his guests “drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone” (v.4). Suddenly the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and wrote on a wall, “MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN” (V.25), and Belshazzar was greatly troubled. He called upon his wise counselors to tell him what the words meant, but they could not. Then he called upon Daniel, who first reminded him that he had given the vessels from the Temple to his guests for drinking wine and had praised the gods of inanimate metals, but had not glorified “the God in whose hands thy breath is” (v.23). Thus, this God had “weighed him in the balance, found him wanting” (v.27), and decreed that his kingdom was “finished” (v.26). That night, Babylon fell to Darius the Mede (v.31) and Belshazzar was slain (v.30). This account completely disqualifies such stories as Cyrus-the-Great besieging the city and diverting the Euphrates to gain access to it. If that were true, Would the Babylonians have been feasting in the palace while an immense Persian army was clambering at their walls and gates? Furthermore, it completely contradicts the identity of the story’s central character: Babylon fell to Darius the Mede, not Cyrus the Great.

³ The orthodox chronology dates the end of the Neo-Babylonian Empire to 539 BC, which it indicates was year 17 of the Babylonian king Nabonidus and year 1 of the Persian king Cyrus II. It also dates the first two years of Darius I’s reign to 522-520 BC, during which he was forced to dispose of two members of the Babylonian royal line, Nebuchadnezzar III and Nebuchadnezzar IV, each of whom claimed to be a son of Nabonidus and entitled to the Babylonian throne. The foregoing is surprising in that Darius I’s trouble occurs 17 years after the end of the Babylonian Empire. On the other hand, if my chronology is correct, and the Fall of Babylon occurred in 487 BC, this trouble occurred in the last two years (487-485 BC) of Darius I’s reign, exactly where I would expect it. Moreover it would have added to the confusion surrounding the transition from Darius I to the next Persian king, whom I claim was the Cyrus of the Bible, not Xerxes I.

- **Cyrus of the Bible (PE10 per JH)** – He is mention 23 times in Scripture as the king of Persia who succeeded Darius in the latter’s year 2 in Babylon and ruled Persia for 3 years (485-482 BC).⁴ Since he does not appear in the Persian king lists between Darius I and Xerxes I, I suspect that he was a son of Darius I⁵ and an older brother of Xerxes I, who probably (a) served as his co-regent for 3 years (485-482 BC), (b) disposed of him at the end of those 3 years,⁶ and (c) expunged his name from the royal records. At the beginning of his reign in 485 BC, he brought forth the golden loot which Nebuchadnezzar had removed from the Temple in Jerusalem and issued the Proclamation that urged the Jews to return to Judea and rebuild Jerusalem and its Temple.
- **Xerxes I (PE-11)**, who was the son of Darius I, probably the younger brother of Cyrus, the father of Artaxerxes I, and also known as Xerxes the Great - He ruled Persia for 21 years (482-465 BC). He held a feast in 479 BC and married Esther - probably in 475 BC.
- **Artaxerxes I (PE-12)**, who was the son of Xerxes I, the father of Xerxes II, Sogdianus, and Darius II, and also known as Artaxerxes Longimanus. He ruled Persia for 41 years (465-424 BC).
- **Xerxes II (PE-13)**, who was the son of Artaxerxes I and the brother of Sogdianus, who killed him, and Darius II - He ruled Persia for less than a year in (424 BC).
- **Sogdianus (PE-14)**, who was the son of Artaxerxes I and the brother of Xerxes II and Darius II, who killed him - He ruled Persia for less than a 1 year (424-423 BC).
- **Darius II (PE-15)**, who was the son of Artaxerxes I and the brother of Exerxes II and Sogdianus, whom he killed. He was also known as Nothus and Ochus. He ruled Persia for 18 years (423-405 BC).
- **Artaxerxes II (PE-16)**, who was the son of Darius II, the father of Artaxerxes III, and also known as Mnemon. He ruled Persia for 46 years (405-359 BC).
- **Artaxerxes III (PE-17)**, who was the son of Artaxerxes II and also known as Ochus - He ruled Persia for 21 years (359-338 BC).
- **Arses (PE-18)**, who was the son of Artaxerxes III and also known as either Artaxerxes IV or Xerxes III (I have seen both). He ruled Persia for 2 years (338-336 BC).
- **Darius III (PE-19)**, who was the son of Arsames, the grandson of Ostanes, and the great grandson of Darius II, and also known as Codomanus. He ruled Persia for 6 years (336-330 BC). He was decisively beaten by Alexander the Great at Gaugamela in 331 BC and then killed by his cousin Artaxexes V in 330 BC), who was in turn killed by Alexander the Great a few months later, which effectively brought an end to the Persian Empire.

⁴ Daniel 10:1.

⁵ Since Darius stole the throne from the legitimate heir, Bardiya, who was a son of Cyrus II and a great-grandson of Cyrus I, he may have named his son Cyrus to help legitimize his right to the throne.

⁶ My suspicion of fratricide here is strengthened by the pattern of killing-to-obtain-the-throne that runs in the royal family, of which all members of the family must have been acutely aware. Darius I disposed of his distant cousin Bardiya, and Artaxerxes I’s sons, Xerxes II, Sogdianus, and Darius II disposed of one another seriatim. That Xerxes I followed his father’s example and disposed of his brother Cyrus-of-the Bible, thereby setting an example for his grandsons, is highly likely.

- The *Fall of Persepolis* in 330 BC.

---Period 5D-3 – The Macedonian Supremacy (330-146 BC)---

---Period 5D-4 – The Roman Supremacy BC (146-2 BC)---