

## Important Intertestamental Dates

The following dates and events are a quick reference for the most important historical events concerning the nations that ruled over the Jews in relation to the books of Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, and the gospels.

### The Assyrian Empire

745 BC Tiglath-pileser III (745–727 BC) defeated Babylon and established the Assyrian empire.

734 BC Tiglath-pileser III took control of the Northern kingdom of Israel (2 Kgs. 15:29).

722 BC Sargon II (722–705 BC) deported the Northern Kingdom of Israel (2 Kgs. 17:1-6).

### The Babylonian Empire

625 BC Nabopolassar (625–605 BC) allied himself with the Medes and began to conquer the Assyrians.

612 BC Nabopolassar, with his son Nebuchadnezzar II, conquered Assyria's capital, Nineveh.

605 BC Nebuchadnezzar II (605–562 BC) defeated the allied forces of Assyria and Egypt.

605 BC Nebuchadnezzar II put Judah under his control and took some royal and noble captives to Babylon including Daniel (Dan. 1:1-3), plus some of the vessels from Solomon's temple (2 Chron. 36:7).

597 BC Nebuchadnezzar II attacked Jerusalem again.

586 BC Nebuchadnezzar II destroyed the city walls of Jerusalem, burned down the temple, and took the remaining people of Israel into captivity (2 Kgs. 24:18-25:24).

562 Nebuchadnezzar II died, and the Babylonian empire began to decline under the four successive kings.

### The Median Empire

625 BC Cyaxares (625–585 BC) united the Iranian tribes and allied himself with Babylon to overthrow the Assyrian empire.

585 BC Astyages (585–549 BC) continued to expand the Median empire.

600 BC Astyages married his daughter Mandane to the Persian king Cambyses I (580–559 BC) who gave birth to Cyrus II.

### The Persian Empire

550 BC Cyrus II (559–530 BC) defeated Astyages and united the Medes and Persians into one kingdom.

539 BC Cyrus II defeated the Babylonian empire and established the Persian empire.

539 BC Cyrus II issued an edict that allowed all displaced peoples under the reign of the previous empires to return to their homes with their captured gods and rebuild the kingdoms (2 Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4).

539 BC Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel led a group of Jews back the territory of Judah.

515 BC the temple was rebuilt in Jerusalem.

483 BC the Festival of Purim is established under the authority of queen Esther.

458 BC Ezra lead a second group of Jews back to Judah.

445 BC Nehemiah led a third group do Jews back to Judah.

444 BC the city walls of Jerusalem was rebuilt.

## **The Greek Empire**

334 BC Alexander III (356–323 BC) moved into Asia Minor and began his conquest of the Persian empire.

331 BC Alexander III defeated the Persian Empire and conquered Asia all the way to the Indian border.

334 BC Alexander III died, and his empire was split among his four generals Ptolemy I (Egypt and Syria), Seleucus I (Asia), Lysimachus (Thrace), and Cassander (Macedonia).

167 BC Antiochus IV, a descendant of Seleucus I, made the Jewish festivals, and sacrifices illegal, and he desecrated the temple and sacrificed pigs to Zeus in it.

167 BC the Jewish Hasmonean family led a revolt against Antiochus IV called the Maccabean revolt.

164 BC the Hasmoneans took back and cleansed the temple, drove the Seleucids out of Judah, and began to retake the land of Israel.

142 BC the Hasmonean family gained the independence of Israel.

## **The Roman Empire**

148 BC Rome defeated the Macedonians in Greece in a series of battles known as the Macedonian Wars (214-205, 200-196, 171-167, 150-148 BC).

146 BC Rome defeated Carthage in north Africa in series of battles known as the Punic Wars (262-241, 218-201, 149-146 BC).

67 BC Rome captured Jerusalem and put Israel under its control.

44 BC Julius Caesar became the first dictator of the Roman empire. His assassination that same year threw Rome into a series of civil wars.

37 BC Herod I, the Great (37–4 BC) became king of Israel. He killed the male infants in Bethlehem around 5 BC.

27 BC Augustus (Octavian) (27 BC–14 AD) became emperor of the Roman empire and brought peace to the empire.

4 BC Herod Antipas (4 BC–39 AD) became king over Israel. He killed John the Baptist and crucified Jesus.

14 AD Tiberius (14–37 AD) became emperor of the Roman empire.

26 AD Pilate (26–36 AD) Pilate became Prefect of Israel.