

c. Chronology of the activity of the Babylonian period

- (1) 609, Death of Josiah, Jehoahaz reigns
- (2) 608, Jehoiakim rules..11 years
- (3) 605, Battle of Carchemish. Necho of Egypt defeated. Nebuchadnezzar comes to Jerusalem and fulfills predictions of Isaiah 39
- (4) 601, Jehoiachin realigns himself with Egypt. Neb. besieges Jerusalem as a result.
- (5) 597, Jehoiachin dies, Jehoiachin rules for three months. Neb takes city in his 8th year (2 Kings 24:12) and takes young king to Babylon. Zedekiah put to rule in his place.
- (6) 589, Neb, betrayed by Zedekiah, moved on Jerusalem again.
- (7) 586, Neb takes Jerusalem, Zedekiah taken to Babylon. Gedaliah appointed governor.
- (8) 582, Gedaliah slain, Johanan, et al, flee to Egypt.
- (9) 539, Darius the Mede takes Babylon (Daniel 5:31) (For further identification see Whitcomb: DARIUS THE MEDE.
- (10) 538 and after...the decree to return:
  - Ezra 1:1 "the 1st year of Cyrus"
  - Ezra 3:1 "in the seventh month"
  - Ezra 3:8 "in the second year"
  - temple rebuilding begins
  - Daniel 10:1 "in the 3rd year of Cyrus"
- (11) 537 or thereabouts the "decree"
- (12) 530, about, the temple building is halted. This is approximate to the death of Cyrus
- (13) 521, Cambyses dies, an inter-regnum revolt occurs in the Persian Empire under the aspersions of Bardes.
- (14) 521-20, Darius I (Hystaspes) takes Persian throne to 486.

Some of these dates are not universally agreed upon and may vary from book to book from year to year. The general scheme is accurate, however, although little is known of Israel's life in Babylon during this time.