

**AN AID TO UNDERSTANDING
Daniel 9:25**

KINGS OF PERSIA

Darius the Mede	538-536 B.C.
Cyrus	536-529 B.C.
Cambyses II	529-522 B.C.
Pseudo Smerdis	522-521 B.C.
Darius I	521-486 B.C.
Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)	486-465 B.C.
Artaxerxes I	464-424 B.C.
Darius II	423-405 B.C.
Artaxerxes II	404-359 B.C.
Artaxerxes III	358-338 B.C.
Arses	337-336 B.C.
Darius III	335-331 B.C.

ANCIENT JEWISH CALENDAR

Month	No. of Days	English Equiv
Nissan	30	March-April
Iyar	29	April-May
Sivan	30	May-June
Tammuz	29	June-July
Av	30	July-August
Elul	29	August-September
Tishri	30	September-October
Cheshvan	29	October-November
Kislev	29	November-December
Tevet	29	December-January
Shevat	30	January-February
Adar	30	February-March
Adar Beit (leap month every 2 or 3 years)	Determined by High Priest or Sanhedrin	February-March

Only 354 days in a normal Hebrew year. A leap month was added every few years to adjust for the shortage of days. Therefore, over the long run, they averaged 365 days in a year.

So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the Prince, there will be seven sevens and sixty-two sevens. – Dan 9:25a

God wants us to calculate:

- $7 \times 7 = 49$ years **and** $62 \times 7 = 434$ years
 $49 + 434 = 483$ years
- The first 49 years deal with the time period of restoring and rebuilding Jerusalem, which was met with much opposition (Ezra 4:23; Neh 4:1,8,17,18). This was prophesied in Dan 9:25b: *it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.*
- The next 434 years deals with the time period leading up to the coming of the Anointed One (the Messiah or the Christ). So we must calculate a total of 483 years from the proper decree to arrive at the year of Jesus' appearance as the Anointed One.
- Calculating from this decree, we figure that Jesus was baptized in late 26 A.D. or early 27 A.D., which marked His appearance as the Anointed One.

HISTORICAL DECREES

Biblical Year of Decree	Actual Year	Purpose	Reference
1 st year of Cyrus	536 B.C.	To rebuild the house of the LORD (the temple)	2 Chr 36:22,23; Ezra 1:1-4
During reign of Darius I	unknown	To resume building temple as Cyrus decreed	Ezra 5:17 – 6:12 ¹
7 th Year of Artaxerxes I	458/457 B.C.	To collect money to buy sacrifices and to use the left over money for whatever seems good; They used the left over money to start rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.	Ezra 7:11-18 Ezra 4:11-16 ²
20 th Year of Artaxerxes I	445/444 B.C.	Nehemiah given verbal permission to rebuild walls. Nehemiah carries letters to pass through countries. Nehemiah carries a letter to Asaph to supply wood for the gates, citadel and his house	Neh 2:1,5-8 ³

● Only the decree of 458/457 B.C. fits the prophetic time frame. In the days of John the Baptist, the Jews were expecting the appearance of the Messiah or the Christ (Lk 3:15; Jn 1:41). There is a variation of one year because the beginning of a king's reign usually does not correspond with our calendar year. For example, the reign of Artaxerxes could have begun in August 464 B.C., which would mean his 7th year would cover from August 458 B.C. to September 457 B.C.

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl}
 458 \text{ B.C. to } 1 \text{ B.C.} & & 1 \text{ B.C. to } 1 \text{ A.D.} & & 1 \text{ A.D. to } 26 \text{ A.D.} & & \\
 457 \text{ years} & + & 1 \text{ year} & + & 25 \text{ years} & = & 483 \text{ years (26 A.D.)}
 \end{array}$$

OR

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl}
 457 \text{ B.C. to } 1 \text{ B.C.} & & 1 \text{ B.C. to } 1 \text{ A.D.} & & 1 \text{ A.D. to } 27 \text{ A.D.} & & \\
 456 \text{ years} & + & 1 \text{ year} & + & 26 \text{ years} & = & 483 \text{ years (27 A.D.)}
 \end{array}$$

EVENTS RELATED TO THE APPEARANCE OF JESUS AS THE ANOINTED ONE

Event	Time frame	Actual Year	Reference
John the Baptist began preaching	15 th year of Tiberius	26 A.D.	Luke 3:1 ⁴
Jesus was baptized by John		Late 26/early 27	Mark 1:9
Jesus fasts in the wilderness	40 days		Mark 1:13
Jesus preaches and chooses disciples	? days, weeks, month		Mark 1:14-20
Jesus attends wedding feast at Cana	Not many days		John 2:1,12
Jesus attends first Passover		April of 27 A.D.	John 2:13

¹ The temple was completed in 516 B.C., the 6th year of Darius I, on the 3rd day of the 12 month of Adar (Ezra 6:15)

² Ezra 4:6-23 is out of order chronologically, but in order topically. The topic is opposition against to rebuilding (4:1-5), which occurred in the reign of Ahaseurus (v. 6) and in the reign of Artaxerxes (vv. 7-22). Verse 23 resumes the chronology from verse 5.

³ Unlike all the previous decrees, this was never called a decree and was never publicly declared by the king. But Nehemiah successfully organized the work to complete the restoring and rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls by the 20th year of Artaxerxes, the 25th day of Elul (Neh 6:15). But the people in Jerusalem were few and the houses were yet to be built (Neh 7:4). According to Daniel's prophecy, seven seven's (49 years) was the time it would take to restore and rebuild Jerusalem completely. We have no historical records to confirm this.

⁴ In 12 A.D. Tiberius became co-regent (joint ruler) with Augustus who was very ill. Some date this co-regency as early as 11 A.D. or as late as 13 A.D.