

----- Darius -----

3668c AM, 4378 JP, 336 BC

1688. When Bagoas, the eunuch, knew that Arses was plotting revenge against him, he killed Arses and all his children, in the third year of his reign. When the king's family had been utterly destroyed, he set up Darius, his friend and the son of Arsames, who was a brother to Artaxerxes. Darius claimed the crown as next of kin. {*Diod. Sic., l. 17. c. 5. s. 4-6. 8:131,133} [E200] However, Justin spoke of him in this manner: {Justin, Trogus, l. 10. c. 3.}

"Codomannus, in regard for his outstanding virtue, was made king by the people and the name of Darius was given him for majesty's sake."

1689. Alexander the Great, is quoted in Curtius as having said the following: {*Curtius, l. 6. c. 4. s. 9,11. 2:33,35}

"For Darius did not come to the crown by succession, but by the mere procurement and favour of Bagoas, the eunuch."

1690. Again, in a letter Alexander sent to Darius, he charged him: {*Arrian, Anabasis, l. 2. c. 14. s. 5. 1:175,177}

"As a murderer, Bagoas had Darius made king. Darius obtained that kingdom wrongfully and not according to the laws of the Persians, but by great injustice."

1691. Strabo said: {*Strabo, l. 15. c. 3. s. 24. 7:189}

"When Bagoas had murdered Arses, he set up Darius, who was not of the king's blood, in his place."

1692. Lastly, Plutarch introduced him as speaking in this manner: {Plutarch, Fortune of Alexander, l. 1. c. 1. 4:383,385}

"Darius, who was a slave and a courier of the kings, you (Bagoas) made king of the Persians."

3674c AM, 4384 JP, 330 BC

1942. When Bessus and his consorts found that Alexander was on their heels, they went to Darius where he was in his poor closed cart. [L324] They wanted him to get onto a horse and save himself by fleeing, but when he refused to do this, Satibarzanes and Barzaentes each shot an arrow and wounded him. They also houghed the horses that drew the cart, so that they would go no farther, and killed his two servants, who were still attending Darius. {*Arrian,

Anabasis, l. 3. c. 21. s. 10. 1:299} {*Curtius, l. 5. c. 13. s. 13-17. 1:421,423} Only his dog stayed with him. {*Aelian, History of Animals, l. 6. c. 25. 2:43,45} [E231]

3674d AM, 4384 JP, 330 BC

1945. Meanwhile the horses which drew Darius' cart wandered from the road, as there was no one to drive them. When they had gone about half a mile, they stopped in a certain valley, exhausted from the hot weather and sore from the injuries they had received. There was a spring of water close by. Polystratus, a Macedonian, heard about this spring from the local inhabitants and exhausted from the heat and his wounds, went there to quench his thirst. As he was taking up water in his helmet, he noticed the javelins in the bodies of the horses that drew the cart. {*Curtius, l. 5. c. 13. s. 18. 1:423} When he came nearer, he saw Darius lying in the cart, seriously wounded but not quite dead. Darius called to him for a little water. When he had drunk it, he asked him to thank Alexander for the favour he had shown to his mother, wife and children. He begged nothing for himself but a decent burial. He desired no revenge, but said that if Alexander neglected to avenge his death, it might prove both dishonourable and dangerous for him. The first concerned Alexander as being a matter of justice, the other concerned his personal safety. Darius, as a token of his sincerity, gave

Polystratus his right hand and told him to pass the handshake on to Alexander, as a pledge of Darius' faith, and then, having taken hold of Polystratus' hand, he died. {Justin, Trogus, l. 11. c. 15.} {*Plutarch, Alexander, l. 1. c. 43. s. 2. 7:351,353} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 18. c. 9. s. 3. (328,329) 9:189}

1946. So Darius died at the age of fifty, in the year when Aristophontes was archon in Athens, in the month of Hekatombaion. {*Arrian, Anabasis, l. 3. c. 22. s. 2,6. 1:301,303} He had reigned for six years. Two hundred years had passed from the year of the death of Cyrus, who founded the Persian Empire, until now, which was the very beginning of the third year of the 112th Olympiad. From this time, Calippus (a man held in high regard by Aristotle who was at that time famous in his school at Athens, {Aristotle, Metaphysics, l. 12.}) began his epoch or account of seventy-six years, as we discover from various astronomical observations of Ptolemy, {Ptolemy, Great Syntaxis} [L325] although Strabo said that Darius lost his empire at the battle of Gaugamela, fought nine months earlier. {*Strabo, l. 16. c. 1. s. 3. 7:197} This was confirmed by Justin, who said that Alexander took the empire of Asia from Darius at that time. {Justin, Trogus, l. 11.} However, since it appears that Darius was murdered by his relatives, he lost his life and his kingdom at one and the same time. {Justin, Trogus, l. 10.

fin.} We cannot doubt that Calippus, aware of the founding of Alexander's Empire, made this the starting point of his epoch. (We were unable to find the time from the battle of Gaugamela to the death of Darius in Strabo. Editor.)

The Macedonian Empire