

----- Cyrus (the conqueror) -----



**3294c AM, 4004 JP, 710 BC**

**672. The Medes had up until now lived without a king. After Dejoces refused to judge their causes and controversies any longer, civil disorder ensued. The Assyrians used this occasion to take possession of many cities and places in Media. {See note on 3283 AM. <<634>>} The people did not like the resulting anarchy and submitted unanimously to Dejoces. This was a hundred and fifty years before Cyrus began his reign, according to Ctesias as cited by Herodotus. {\*Herodotus, l. 1. c. 96-98. 1:127,129} Both Dionysius {\*Dionysius Halicarnassus, Roman Antiquities, l. 1. c. 2. s. 2. 1:7} and Appian, in the beginning of his Roman Histories, agree. {\*Appian, l. 1. c. 0. s. 9. 1:15}**

**3405d AM, 4115 JP, 599 BC**

**798. While the king of Babylon ravaged in Judah, God prepared a worm which in due time would eat out this**

spreading tree, {#Da 4:19-27} for the cry of these suffering people reached the Lord:

"Oh daughter of Babylon, wasted with misery, happy shall he be that shall reward thee, as thou hast served us, who shall take thy children and dash them against the stones."  
{#Ps 137:8}

799. For in this very year, Cyrus, the Media-Persian, was born, whose father was a Persian and his mother a Mede, as I have shown before. Nebuchadnezzar himself, at the hour of his death, as Abydenus had it, uttered this prophecy:

"There shall come a Persian Mule, who shall make use of your devils, as his fellow-soldiers, to bring you into bondage."

800. This was also foretold by that oracle given to Croesus:

"When a mule king shall be born to the Medes..."

801. The Pythian Priests interpreted this to refer to Cyrus, who was to be born of a father and a mother of two different nations, a Persian and a Mede. {\*Herodotus, l. 1. c. 55,91. 1:63,119} However, Isaiah foretold, most plainly and truly, {#Isa 13:1,2} that the Babylonians also should have a time in

**which they were to endure their own hell of slavery. Their children would one day be dashed against the stones before their eyes, {#Isa 13:16} while these miserable, captive Jews would one day be restored to their liberty. Many years before the time of these events, Isaiah called their deliverer by his proper name of Cyrus. {#Isa 44:28 45:1} God gave him the reason for this unusual revelation:**

**"For my servant Jacob and for Israel my chosen's sake, have I called thee by thy name and given thee a surname, though thou hast not known me." {#Isa 45:4}**

**802. As for the age of this Cyrus, Cicero cited it from Dionysius, a Persian writer, as follows: {\*Cicero, De Divinatione, l. 1. c. 23. 20:275} [L125]**

**"The sun appeared to Cyrus in his sleep, standing at his feet. When Cyrus endeavoured to take the sun in his hands three times, the sun turned aside and went away. The Magi, who are counted as wise and learned men among the Persians, said that his three attempts to take hold of the sun meant that he should reign thirty years. This came to pass accordingly, for he started to reign at the age of forty and lived to the age of seventy."**

**803. From which dream perhaps, expounded in this way by the magicians, Cyrus took his name, for, as Ctesias correctly said:**

**"Cyrus, in the Persian language, means the sun."**

**809. In the beginning of Zedekiah's reign, Jeremiah prophesied the captivity and restoration of the Elamites. {#Jer 49:34,39} For Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Astyages the whole province of Elam, including the city of Susa on the Ulai River, and annexed it to his kingdom. {#Jer 25:25 Da 8:1,2} Later, these Elamites combined with the Medes against the Babylonians. {#Isa 21:2} When Belshazzar was overthrown, they recovered their state again under Cyrus, who appointed their chief city of Susa to be the capital of the Persian kingdom. {\*Strabo, l. 15. c. 3. s. 2. 7:157} [L126]**

**3418 AM, 4128 JP, 586 BC**

**865. When Cyrus had lived twelve years or more with his father in Persia, his grandfather Astyages sent for him. He and his mother Mandane went to him in Media. {\*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 1. c. 3. s. 1. 5:27}**

**3421 AM, 4131 JP, 583 BC**

**868. Cyrus was now almost sixteen years of age. Evilmerodach, the king of Assyria's son, was about to marry a wife called Nicotris. He went with a large army of cavalry and foot soldiers to the borders of Media. There he did as he pleased while hunting in the country. Astyages, with his grandson Cyrus and with Cyaxares, marched out and engaged him in a battle with the cavalry. Cyrus was just old enough to bear arms. They defeated the Assyrians and drove them from their borders of Media. {\*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 1. c. 4. s. 18-23. 5:61-69}**

**3444d AM, 4154 JP, 560 BC**

**902. In the kingdom of Media, when Astyages or Assuerus died, {#/ Apc Tob 14:15} he was succeeded by his son Cyaxares, Cyrus' mother's brother. {\*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 1. c. 5. s. 2. 5:77} This was in the beginning of the first year of the 55th Olympiad, thirty-one years before the death of Cyrus. Daniel called Cyaxares Darius the Mede, the son of Assuerus.**

**3445 AM, 4155 JP, 559 BC**

**...Cyrus was made general of the Persian army by his father Cambyses and all the council of the kingdom. He was sent to**

**Media with thirty thousand soldiers and a thousand commanders all of equal authority under his command. {\*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 1. c. 5. s. 2. 5:77} When he came, he was made general of the Median forces by his uncle Cyaxares, who had sent for him, and was placed solely in charge of the war against the Babylonians.**

**3445c AM, 4155 JP, 559 BC**

**904. The thirty years of Cyrus' reign started from this time, from the end of the first year of the 55th Olympiad. {Julius Africanus, l. 3.} {\*Diod. Sic., l. 9. c. 21. 4:31} Thallus, Castor, Polybius, Phlegon, and other chronologers also count this as the beginning of the reign of Cyrus, as cited by Eusebius. {\*Eusebius, Gospel, l. 10. c. 10. (488c) 1:523}**

**3448c AM, 4158 JP, 556 BC**

**908. Cyaxares and Cyrus marched against the Babylonian king, Croesus and the rest of the confederates, and gained a major victory over them. The king of Babylon fell in the battle and Croesus, with those who were left, broke his camp by night and fled.**

**3448c AM, 4158 JP, 556 BC**

**912. Cyrus came to invade the country of Babylon. He stood outside the walls of the city and challenged the new king to a duel. Gadatas was a noble man of whom this new king was jealous, because the king's wife admired him, so he defected to Cyrus.**

**3464c AM, 4174 JP, 540 BC**

**932. When Cyrus had subdued Asia Minor, he immediately made war on the Assyrians. He marched with his army against Labynitus or Nabonidus their king. (Herod. l. 1. c. 178, 188.) The news of this came to Babylon two full years before the city was besieged. Jer 51:46 When Cyrus was marching toward Babylon, he was delayed at the river Gnides which runs into the Tigris. For want of boats, he could not cross over it. While he stayed there, one of the white horses which were consecrated to the sun, went into the river and drowned in its swift current. Cyrus was furious about this event and stopped his march to Babylon. That summer he had the river divided into 360 channels. He intended to make it so that a woman may pass through it and not get her knees wet. (Herod. l. 1. c. 189, 190, 202. l. 5. c. 52.)**

**3465b AM, 4175 JP, 539 BC**

**934. The next year Cyrus marched to Babylon. Here Cyrus defeated Belshazzar, or Nabonidus.**

**3466b AM, 4176 JP, 538 BC**

**936. When Cyrus had spent much time in this work with little to show for it, he finally made a ditch from the river to that vast lake, about forty to fifty miles wide, which Belshazzar's mother, Nicotris, had ordered to be dug. Then he opened the mouths of this and another of various ditches which he had recently built about the city, and let the river flow into them. In this way he made the channel, which was not more than four hundred yards wide, passable for his men to enter into the city. {\*Herodotus, l. 1. c. 190,191. 1:237,239} {\*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 7. c. 5. s. 15-17. 6:267,269} {#Jer 50:38 51:32,36}**

**937. Cyrus, with his army, went through the water gates in the wall and got into the city on a festival day, while all the men were banqueting. {\*Herodotus, l. 1. c. 190,191. 1:237,239} {\*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 7. c. 5. s. 26. 6:271} {#Jer 51:39,57} So vast was that city that, as the inhabitants reported, when the people on its outskirts were surprised and taken by the enemy, those who lived in the heart of the city never heard of it. {\*Herodotus, l. 1. c. 191. 1:239} [L145] Jeremiah alluded to this when he said:**



**"post upon post and messenger upon messenger shall run to tell the king of Babylon that all the outskirts of the city were possessed by the enemies." {#Jer 51:31} [E101]**

**940. Darius the Mede, son of Ahasuerus (or Cyaxares, the son of Hystages), took over the kingdom which Cyrus had conquered and given to him. {#Da 5:31 9:1}**

**941. When Cyrus had set everything in order at Babylon, he returned through Media into Persia to his father Cambyses, and Mandane, his mother, who were still living. From there, he returned into Media and married the only daughter and heir of Cyaxares. As a dowry, he was given the whole kingdom of Media. After the marriage, he left for Babylon, taking his new wife with him. From Babylon, he sent governors into all his dominions....**

**3467a AM, 4176 JP, 538 BC**

**948. When Cyrus had spent one whole year with his wife in Babylon, he assembled his entire army. It was said to be made up of a hundred and twenty thousand cavalry, two thousand scythe-bearing chariots and six hundred thousand foot soldiers. When he had outfitted his troops, he undertook that campaign in which he was said to have subdued all the**

**countries from Syria to the Red Sea. {\*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 8. c. 6. s. 19. 6:419,421}**

**3468a AM, 4177 JP, 537 BC**

**949. After Cyrus' father Cambyses died in Persia, Cyaxares in Media held all the empire of the east. It was from this year that Xenophon {\*Xenophon, Cyropaedia, l. 8. c. 7. s. 1. 6:423} reckoned the beginning of the seven years of Cyrus' reign. Based on the records of the Medes and Persians, the Bible reckoned this as the first year, and stated that it was in this year that Cyrus, king of Persia, made that famous edict of his:**

**"Into my hand hath God given all the kingdoms of the earth..." {#Ezr 1:2}**

**950. This was the year which marked the end of the seventy years of the Babylonian captivity, just as had been foretold by Jeremiah and in line with the prophecy of Isaiah, who had mentioned Cyrus by name. {#Isa 44:28 45:13} He gave permission for all the Jews living anywhere in his empire to return to their own country. He ordered those who returned to rebuild the temple of God, leaving them free to build it as large as they wished. {#Hag 2:3} They could use the resources from the king's treasury, and Cyrus restored all**

**the vessels of the house of God which Nebuchadnezzar had removed from there. {#2Ch 36:22,23 Ezc 1:1,2,7 5:13,14 6:2-5} [L147]**

**951. Cyrus made Sheshbazzar captain of the Jews who were returning to Jerusalem. In line with Cyrus' orders, Mithredath, the treasurer, gave to Sheshbazzar all the vessels belonging to the temple, for the purpose of returning them to Jerusalem. {#Ezc 1:7-11 5:14,15} Sheshbazzar was his Chaldean name, but his Hebrew name was Zerubbabel. {#Ezc 3:8,10 5:16}**

**3468c AM, 4178 JP, 536 BC**

**952. ... After this first year of Cyrus, all the Israelites are said to have lived in their own cities. {#Ezc 2:70} In the sixth year of Darius, they are said to have been present at the dedication of the temple, and there to have offered twelve male goats for the sin of all Israel. {#Ezc 6:16,17} ...**

**3470c AM, 4180 JP, 534 BC**

**957. The Samaritans, by bribing certain courtiers of Cyrus, disrupted the Jews in their work of building the temple. {#Ezc 4:5} This was the reason for the three weeks of mourning by the prophet Daniel. He continued his fast,**

**which he had begun about the third day of the first month in the third year of Cyrus, throughout the whole time of the Feast of the Passover. {#Da 10:1-4} After this, on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while he stood on the bank of Hiddekel or the Tigris River, he had the vision of the kings of Persia, of Alexander the Great and his successors and their kingdoms. This is recorded in Daniel and was the last vision that he had, shortly before his death. {#Da 10:1-12:13}**

**3475b AM, 4185 JP, 529 BC**

**960. Cyrus died at the age of seventy years. He had first been made general of the Median and Persian armies a full thirty years earlier. He took Babylon nine years before his death and reigned for seven years, plus a month or so.**