

----- Artaxerxes -----

3531a AM, 4240 JP, 474 BC

1177. Artaxerxes was made viceroy with his father Xerxes in the twelfth year of Xerxes' reign. This time marks the first year of Artaxerxes reign. Ptolemy's Canon does not record viceroy relationships hence starts Artaxerxes reign nine years later when his father died. (Since the time when Ussher wrote his document, this new information has come to light from archaeology. We are thankful for Dr. Floyd Jones for finding the exact source of this information. Editor.) Savile wrote the following: {B. W. Savile, "Revelation and Science", Journal of Sacred Literature & Biblical Record, Series 4, (London: Williams and Norgate Pub. April 1863), p. 156.}

"It is satisfactory to know that the idea entertained by Archbishop Ussher of dating the commencement of Artaxerxes' reign nine years earlier than the canon of Ptolemy allows, grounded upon what Thucydides says of Themistocles' flight to Persia, has been confirmed by hieroglyphic inscriptions in Egypt, showing that Artaxerxes was associated with his father in the twelfth year of Xerxes reign, so that there ought to be no longer any doubt respecting that famous prophecy of Daniel, so far as at least regards the crucifixion."

1179. By Artabanus' plot, Artaxerxes became the next king. {Ctesias} He was a man of mild disposition and full of magnanimity to all. He was surnamed Longimanus, because his right hand was longer than his left. {*Plutarch, Artaxerxes, l. 1. c. 1. 11:129} The first seven months of his reign are attributed to Artabanus. {*Eusebius, Chronicles, l. 1. 1:192} It seems that he ruled everything in Artaxerxes' name for that period of time. Diodorus intimated that Artabanus was immediately executed for his murder of Xerxes and Darius, {*Diod. Sic., l. 11. c. 69. s. 6. 4:307} but some time elapsed before this happened, as appears from the more complete accounts of this by Ctesias and Justin.

3537b AM, 4247 JP, 467 BC

1203. Ezra the priest, a scribe or lawyer skilled in the law of Moses, obtained permission from King Artaxerxes and his seven counsellors to resettle the Jewish state and to reform the religion at Jerusalem. This grant once again made it lawful for all the willing Jews to return to Jerusalem. They could send or carry with them any gold or silver that either the king and his nobles or the Jews wanted to offer to their God. They were also given all kinds of furnishings for the Lord's house. The treasurers beyond the river were ordered to supply them from the king's treasury with everything else they would need. All who worked in the temple would be free

from having to pay tribute. All the people were allowed to live according to the laws of their God. {#Ezr 7:11-26}

3550a AM, 4259 JP, 455 BC

1227. In the twentieth year of the reign of Artaxerxes, in the ninth month called Chisleu, Nehemiah was at Susa, the winter quarters of the Persian kings. {*Athenaeus, l. 12. (514f) 5:311} When he received news of how the wall of Jerusalem was still broken down and the gates burned with fire, he mourned, fasted and prayed to God. He asked that God would forgive the people's sins and give him grace in the eyes of the king. {#Ne 1:1-11}

3550c AM, 4260 JP, 454 BC

1228. In the same twentieth year of the king, in the month of Nisan, Nehemiah's turn came to serve as cupbearer to the king. [L196] Both the king and queen (whom I suppose to be she whom Ctesias called Damaspia) noticed his sorrowful appearance. He presented his request to them and obtained permission from the king to be the governor of Judah and to rebuild Jerusalem. {#Ne 2:1-6} This event marks the start of Daniel's seventy weeks. {#Da 9:24,25} (For the starting date of Artaxerxes' reign, {See note on 3531b AM. <<1184>>} Editor.)

3562 AM, 4272 JP, 442 BC

1262. In this year, all wars ceased throughout Asia, Greece, Sicily, Italy, Gaul, Spain and almost the entire world. {*Diod. Sic., l. 12. c. 26. s. 4. 4:427}

1263. After Nehemiah had governed Judah for twelve years, that is from the twentieth year of the reign of Artaxerxes to the thirty-second of the same, he returned to the king. ({#Ne 5:14 13:6})

3579d AM, 4289 JP, 425 BC

1291. In the interim, Artaxerxes died and his son Xerxes succeeded him for only one year. {*Diod. Sic., l. 12. c. 64. 5:61,62} Xerxes' mother Damaspia died on the same day that her husband Artaxerxes did. Bagorazus, the eunuch, carried the bodies of both Xerxes' father, and mother into Persia. {Ctesias}