



Appendix 2 – Chronology of the Post-Exilic Period

- 559 to 530 BC **Cyrus the Great** reigns, founds the Medo-Persian Empire.
- 539 **Babylon falls** to the Persians.
- 538 **Cyrus allows the first wave of Jews to return to Jerusalem** (Ezra 1:1-4).
- 537-520 **Temple rebuilt in Jerusalem** (Ezra 5:1; Haggai 2:18).
- 530-522 Cambyses, king of Persia (alluded to in Daniel 11:12).
- 520s to 518 **Haggai's prophecy** (to 520 BC), **Zechariah's prophecy** 520-518 BC)
- 521-486 Darius I Hystaspes, king of Persia (Ezra 5:5).
- 486-465 **Xerxes I (King Ahasuerus; Ezra 4:6)**. His second queen was **Esther**.
- 464-424 **Artaxerxes I Longimanus**
- 458 **Ezra receives authorized by Artaxerxes to rebuild the Temple** (Ezra 7)
- 445 **Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem to repair its walls** (Nehemiah).
- 424-405 Darius II, king of Persia.
- 404-359 Artaxerxes II, king of Persia
- 338-336 Arses, king of Persia
- 336-331 Darius III, king of Persia
- 334-323 Alexander the Great conquers Persia, begins Greek Empire (Daniel 8:5, 21)

For dates see K.A. Kitchen, *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (Eerdmans, 2003), pp. 70-79; E.M. Yamauchi, "Ezra and Nehemiah, Books of," in Bill T. Arnold and H.G.M. Williamson, *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books* (abbreviated DOTHB; InterVarsity Press, 2005), pp. 284-295.