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 1:1; 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)