109 OVER-VIEW: TIMELINES OF FOREIGN KINGS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Kings reported in the Bible are in large print. Underlined kings are major characters. All dates are B.C.

1. NEO-ASSYRIAN KINGS
745-727 Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul
727-722 Shalmaneser V
722-705 Sargon II
705-681 Sennacherib
681-669 Esarhaddon
668-627 Ashurbanipal
A few more minor kings before their defeat to Babylon

2. NEO-BABYLONIAN KINGS
626-605 Nabopolassar
605-562 Nebuchadnezzar II
562-560 Evil-Merodach/Amel-Maduk/Merodach-Baladan
560-556 Neriglissar
556 Labashi
556-539 Nabonidus
552-539 Belshazzar (Co-regent with Father Nabonidus)
Defeated by Medes and Persians in 539

3. MEDIAN KINGS
727-674 Deioces
675-653 Phraortes
653-625 Scythian rule
625-585 Cyaxares I
585-547 Ahasuerus/Xerxes/Astyages
547-538 Darius the Mede/Cyaxares II (Ruled over Babylon for 1-2 years.)
538 Merger of Medes & Persians through marriage after Darius's death 538 or 537.

4. PERSIAN KINGS
580-559 Cambyses I
559-530 Cyrus the Great (Began to rule Medo-Persia abt 538 or 537.)
536-522 Cambyses II—co-regent with Cyrus (536-530)
522 Bardiya/Smerdis
522-486 Darius the Great
486-465 Ahasuerus/Xerxes I
465-424 Artaxerxes I
424-404 Darius II
404-359 Artaxerxes II
359-338 Artaxerxes III
338-330 Darius III
330 Persia fell to Alexander the Great

5. GREEK (Hellenist) RULERS
330-323 Alexander the Great
305-30 Ptolemaic Dynasty
312-63 Seleucid Empire: 173-164 Antiochus Epiphanes IV
141-63 Judea won its independence

NOTE #1: JUDEA was independent 141-63 BC.

NOTE #2: EGYPTIAN KINGS AFTER THE EXODUS
? 943–922 Shishak was Shosheng I or Ramesses II (disputed)
730-716 King So/Osorkon IV
690–664 Tirkakah/Taharqa of Kush (Ethiopia):
610–595 Necho/Neco II
589–570 Hophra/Apries

SHORT SUMMARIES AND REFERENCES

1. ASSYRIAN KINGS
Tiglath-Pileser III/Pul: Made incursions into the Northern Kingdom. See 2 Kg 15,16.
Shalmaneser V: Known for the three year-long seizure of the capital of the Northern Kingdom, Israel, and deportation of the people. See 2 Kgs 17,18.
Sargon II: Although not stated directly, he is credited with completing the conquest of Samaria in 722. See Isa 20:1
Sennacherib: Carried out military campaigns against Judah during the reign of King Hezekiah. His siege of Judea was famously thwarted by the divine intervention of the angel of Yahweh. See 2 Kgs 18 & 19, 2 Chr 32, Isa 37.
Esarhaddon: Successor after Sennacherib's assassination. Known for rebuilding and expansion of the Assyrian Empire. See 2 Kings 19:37, Isa 37:38.
Ashurbanipal: Presided over the empire at its height culturally and militarily. (May be Osnapper in Ezra 4:10.)

2. NEO-BABYLONIAN KINGS
Nebuchadnezzar II: Prominent actor in Daniel ch 1-4. Responsible for the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BC and taking of exiles including Daniel. See 2 Kings 25:17-20.
Evil-Merodach/Amel-Maduk: Known for his kindness to Judean King Jehoiachin. See 2 Kings 25:27-28, Jer 21:31-32.
Nabonidus: Not named in the Bible, but was king while his son, Belshazzar, ruled in Babylon as a co-regent.
Belshazzar: Co-regent with father, Nebonidus. Ruler in Babylon when it fell to the Medes and Persians in 539 BC. See Daniel 5 for the "writing on the wall" incident.

3. MEDIAN KINGS (Do not confuse with Persian kings with same names.)
Ahasuerus/Xerxes/Astyages: Brief mention in Dan 9:1.
Darius the Mede/Cyaxares II: Was the conquering king of Babylon in 539 BC. Ruled for 1-2 years. He was the king in the "Daniel in the Lion's Den" account in Dan 6. Darius the Mede has been erased from modern secular history. Please see P.P. #108" Attack on the Book of Daniel".

4. PERSIAN KINGS (Do not confuse with Median kings with same names.)
Cyrus: is celebrated for his decree that enabled the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. See Dan 1&10, 2 Chron 36, Ezra 1-3, Isa 44-45,
Darius the Great: Is known for the continuation of the rebuilding efforts in Jerusalem reaffirming Cyrus's original edict. Cited in Ezra, Neh, Zeph, Hag, Zech.
Ahasuerus/ Xerxes I: the king through-out the book of Esther.
Artaxerxes I: Found in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah and known for his support of the Jewish community in Jerusalem. Granted Ezra and Nehemiah permission to return to Jerusalem with ample resources. Ezra 7:11-26

5. GREEK RULERS
Alexander the Great: Conquering ruler who created one of the largest empires in history. Represented by the male goat with four horns (four divisions of his empire). See Dan 8.
Ptolemaic Dynasty/ "king of the south": See Daniel 11.
Seleucid Empire/ "king of the north": See Daniel 11.
Antiochus Epiphanes IV: Seleucid king. Most detested and oppressive king of the Greek era. Not named In the text, but described. See Dan 8:9-14, 23-26, 11:21-35 (perhaps to verse 45).

NOTE #1: The Hasmonean Dynasty aka "Maccabees": This family led the resistance against Greco-Syrian domination. Judea enjoyed independence from 141 to 63. See Dan.11:33-35. Fell under Roman vassalage in 63 BC. JUDEA was independent for 78 years making it the 4th Kingdom of the statue in Daniel 2 that was crushed by the supernatural stone upon the setting up of the kingdom of God in 70 AD.

NOTE #2: EGYPTIAN KINGS AFTER THE EXODUS
Shishak: is Shoshenq I or Ramesses II (disputed): invaded Judea and looted the temple. I Kgs 11:40, 2 Chr 12.
King So/Osorkon IV: King Hoshea of Israel asked him for help against Assyria. 2 Kgs17:4
Tirkakah/Taharqa of Kush: Marched to fight Sennacherib during reign of Hezekiah. 2 Kgs 19:9
Necho/Neco II: Defeated and killed good King Josiah of Judah at the Battle of Megiddo. 2 Kgs 23:29.
Hophra/Apries: Failed to support Jerusalem against Babylon during Zedekiah's reign. Jer 44:30