

Source sheet #2 - for shiur on: The 'first responsa'

List of Persian Kings found in standard History Books:

538 Cyrus כּוּרֶשׁ

530 Cambyses אֲרֵתַחְשֵׁשְׁתָּא [?]

522 Darius I דָּרְיוֹשׁ [492 Battle of Marathon]

486 Xerxes אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ [479 Battle of Salamis]

465 Artaxerxes אֲרֵתַחְשֵׁשְׁתָּא [Ezra / Nechemia]

.... numerous other kings with similar names, e.g. Darius II, Artaxerxes II etc.

332 - Alexander the Great defeats Darius III

320 - Death of Alexander / fight over successor

312 - Battle of Gaza - 3x division Greece/Syria/Egypt

= Year One "minyan shtarot" - The std. Greek/Roman Year

[Example - Chanuka miracle = Year 148 M.S. = 164 BCE

Or "churban bayit sheni" = Year 380 M.S.]

Calculations of 'Seder Olam' [3rd century CE Tanaaim]

From /Till	Years	Sum	Source
Creation	0	0	Breishit 1:1
Birth of Avraham	1948	1948	Br. Chaps. 5 & 11
Birth of Yitzchak	100	2048	Breishit 21:5
Exodus	400	2448	Breishit 15:13
Building First Temple	480	2928	I Kings 6:1
Destruction First Temple	410	3338	Sefer Melachim
Start 2nd Temple Darius Year 2	70	3408	Zecharya 1:12
Alexander defeats Darius	34	3442	Daniel 11:1-7 (**)
Death of Alexander	6	3448	Seder Olam
"minyan shtarot" begins			An assumption
Second Temple destroyed	380	3928	Chazal / tradition

** Based on '3 more Persian Kings' until Alexander the Great

א ואני בשנת אחת, לְדָרְיוֹשׁ הַמֶּדִי--עֲמָדֵי לְמַחְזִיק וּלְמַעֲזוֹ, לוֹ. ב וַעֲתָה, אָמַת אֲגִיד לְךָ; הִנֵּה-עוֹד שְׁלֹשָׁה מְלָכִים עֲמָדִים לְפָרֶס, וְהָרְבִיעִי יַעֲשִׂיר עֶשֶׂר-גָּדוֹל מִכָּל, וּבְחֻזְקָתוֹ בְּעָשְׂרוֹ, יַעִיר הַכֹּל אֶת מַלְכוּת יוֹן. ג וְעַמָּד, מֶלֶךְ גְּבוּר; וּמִשָּׁל מִמֶּשֶׁל רַב, וְעָשָׂה כְּרָצוֹנוֹ. ד וּבְעַמָּדוֹ, תִּשָּׁבֵר מַלְכוּתוֹ, וְתַחֲזֵן, לְאַרְבַּע רוּחוֹת הַשָּׁמַיִם; וְלֹא לְאַחֲרֵיתוֹ, וְלֹא כְּמִשְׁלוֹ אֲשֶׁר מִשָּׁל--כִּי תִגָּתֵשׁ מַלְכוּתוֹ, וּלְאַחֲרָיִם מִלְּבַד-אֵלֶּה. ה וַיַּחֲזֹק מֶלֶךְ-הַנְּגֹב, וּמִן-שָׂרְיֹו; וַיַּחֲזֹק עָלָיו וּמִשָּׁל, מִמֶּשֶׁל רַב מִמֶּשֶׁלָּתוֹ.

The 'three' Persian Kings, from the book of Ezra:

1. Koresh / 2. Achashverosh (Megillat Esther) / 3. Darius = Artachshasta

The two [intentional (?)] 'gaps' in Sefer Ezra

Year 1 Koresh [Ezra 1:1-7] - the return of the Exile ("shivat tzion")

GAP 'one' [= Achashverosh, according to Seder Olam
Cambyses - according to classic history] >

Year 2 Daryavesh [Ezra 4:4-5] - construction begins on 24 Kislev

Year 6 Daryavesh [Ezra 6:14-15] - construction completed 3 Adar

GAP 'two' [classic history = Achashverosh ;
in Seder Olam - no gap!]

Year 7 Artachshasta [Ezra 6:14 thru 7:7], Ezra makes Aliya from Persia

Year 20 " - Nechemya makes 'aliya' [Nechemya chapter one]

Years 32 & 34 " Nechemya returns [chapter 13]

GAP 'three' [classic history = numerous Persian Kings till Darius III;
in Seder Olam - next year **Alexander the Great** kills Darius = Artachshasta
6 years later - the 'Greek Year' begins

The Greek year systems after Battle of Gaza [= -312 BCE]

Ptolmey in Egypt

Selucuids in Syria

Demetrius in Macedonia

Year 380 of Greek Year ["minyán shtarot"] = the Second Temple is destroyed

In approx. 11th century, European jews start counting to 'Creation'

By adding 2448 + 1000 = 3448 to Greek Year

So .C.E. year + 3448 + 312 = Jewish Year

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A. Yirmiyahu's 70 years vs. Zecharya's -- Seder Olam

Bavel	Event	King Year	Source	Persia
1	Nevuchadnezar reigns	4 Yehoyakim	Yirm 25:1	-
7	Yehoyachin exiled /Exile I	11 Yehoykm	II Kings 24:1-12	-
18	Temple destroyed/Exile II	11 Tzidkyhu	II Kings 25:1-8	-
70	Cyrus Declaration - Return	1 Koresh	Ezra 1:1-3	1
73	Achashverosh begins reign	3 Koresh	Daniel 10:1	3
76	Achashverosh's big party	3 Achashv.	Esther 1:3	6
85	Purim victory / miracle	12 Achashv	Esther 3:7	15
87	Darius succeeds Achashv.	14 Achashv	Midrash	17
88	Work begins on Bayit II	2 Darius	Chagai 2:15	18
	[note overlap of 18 years]	70 since Churbn	Zecharya 1:12	