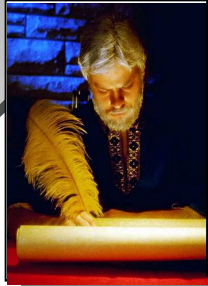


The Command to Restore and Build Jerusalem

Cyrus issues decree to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple



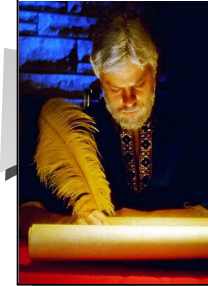
Who *is there* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he *is* the God,) which *is* in Jerusalem. Ezra 1:3

537 BC

And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished *it*, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. Ezra 6:14

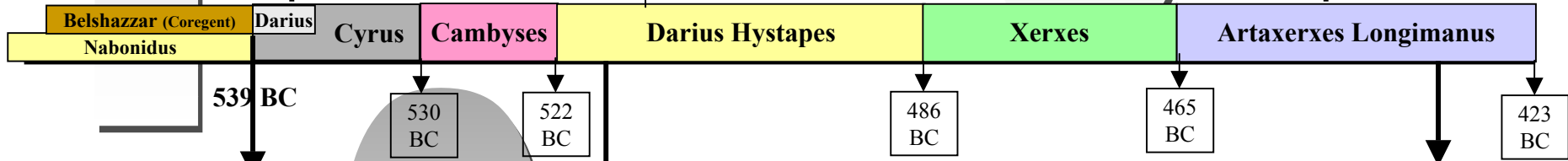
515 BC Temple Completed

Artaxerxes issues decree to enhance the temple and also rights to self government

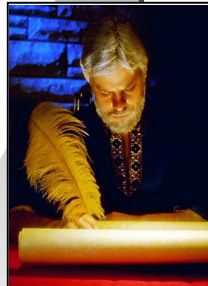


Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect *peace*, and at such a time. I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee. Ezra 7:12,13

457 BC



Babylon Captured



Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place. Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, *even* of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered. Ezra 6:7,8

Darius overturns Samaritan intervention by reissuing Cyrus' decree in stronger terms to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem



Queen Esther before Artaxerxes