

## DETAILED CHRONOLOGY OF EZRA, NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER

| Day | Mth   | Yr      | King       | Reference    | Event  |
|-----|-------|---------|------------|--------------|--|
| -   | ..... | .....2  | Darius     | Ezra 4:24    | Rebuilding of temple commenced                       |
| -   | ..... | .....3  | Ahasuerus  | Est. 1:19-22 | Vashti deposed                                       |
| 4   | ..... | 9.....4 | Darius     | Zech. 7:1    | Instructions regarding fasts                         |
| -   | ..... | .....6  | Ahasuerus  | Est. 2:8-16  | Esther brought to Shushan                            |
| 3   | ..... | 12....6 | Darius     | Ezra 6:15    | Temple completed                                     |
| 14  | ..... | 1....7  | Darius     | Ezra 6:19    | Passover observed                                    |
| -   | ..... | 10....7 | Ahasuerus  | Est. 2:16-18 | Esther's marriage                                    |
| 1   | ..... | 1....7  | Artaxerxes | Ezra 7:1-9   | Ezra leaves Babylon                                  |
| 9   | ..... | 1....7  | Artaxerxes | Ezra 8:15-21 | Ezra halts 3 days at Ahava                           |
| 12  | ..... | 1....7  | Artaxerxes | Ezra 8:31    | Ezra leaves Ahava                                    |
| 1   | ..... | 5....7  | Artaxerxes | Ezra 7:9     | Ezra arrives at Jerusalem                            |
| 4   | ..... | 5....7  | Artaxerxes | Ezra 8:33    | Vessels delivered to the temple                      |
| 20  | ..... | 9....-  | Artaxerxes | Ezra 10:9    | Assembly at Jerusalem                                |
| 1   | ..... | 10....- | Artaxerxes | Ezra 10:16   | Assize begun to assess heathen marriages             |
| 1   | ..... | 1....-  | Artaxerxes | Ezra 10:17   | Assize finished                                      |
| -   | ..... | 1....12 | Ahasuerus  | Est. 3:7     | Haman casts lots                                     |
| 13  | ..... | 1....12 | Ahasuerus  | Est. 3:12    | Posts go out   |
| 15  | ..... | 1....12 | Ahasuerus  | Est. 5:1-8   | Esther's appeal                                      |
| 16  | ..... | 1....12 | Ahasuerus  | Est. 5:8     | Esther's banquet                                     |
| 23  | ..... | 3....12 | Ahasuerus  | Est. 8:9-14  | Mordecai's posts                                     |
| 13  | ..... | 12..12  | Ahasuerus  | Est. 9:1-12  | Massacre day   |
| 14  | ..... | 12..12  | Ahasuerus  | Est. 9:15-17 | First Purim  |
| 15  | ..... | 12..12  | Ahasuerus  | Est. 9:18-27 | Second Purim   |
| -   | ..... | 9...20  | Artaxerxes | Neh. 1:1     | Hanani's report                                      |
| -   | ..... | 1...20  | Artaxerxes | Neh. 2:6     | Nehemiah leaves for Jerusalem                        |
| 25  | ..... | 6...20  | Artaxerxes | Neh. 6:15    | The wall is finished                                 |
| 1   | ..... | 7....-  | Artaxerxes | Neh. 8:2     | Public reading of Law by Ezra                        |
| 2   | ..... | 7....-  | Artaxerxes | Neh. 8:14    | They read of dwelling in booths                      |
| 15  | ..... | 7....-  | Artaxerxes | Neh. 8:18    | Feast of Tabernacles                                 |
| 21  | ..... | 7....-  | Artaxerxes | Neh. 8:18    | Completion of Feast                                  |
| 22  | ..... | 7....-  | Artaxerxes | Neh. 8:18    | Day of solemn assembly                               |
| 24  | ..... | 7....-  | Artaxerxes | Neh. 9:1-2   | Heathen wives put away                               |
| -   | ..... | -...32  | Artaxerxes | Neh. 13:6    | Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem after leave of absence |

The above chronology, which gathers together most of the references to time periods in these contemporary books, is based upon the suggestion that *Darius*, *Ahasuerus* and *Artaxerxes* are titles assumed by one king — *Hystaspes*. A slight confusion is apparent in a few cases where months are numbered according to their position on the calendar instead of from the time when the king began to reign. For example, "*Adar*" of Ezra 6:15 is the twelfth month of the sacred year, whereas the "*first month*" of v. 19 is the first month of the ensuing year. But both occurred in the sixth year of Darius, for his sixth year overlapped the Jewish sacred year. The above chronology is an attempt to synchronise the events of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther, and appears the most logical and consistent when all problems are considered. It also explains some very interesting facets of this period of Bible history, as will be revealed as our story of the period unfolds.