FROM ETERNITY TO ETERNITY

CREATED & PRODUCED BY RICHARD L. S. GAN • PROPHETIC*REVELATION GHIM MOH P. O. BOX 333 REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE 912742 • © 1993, 2012

§NOTE:

The "B.C." dates used in this chart are approximate dates. Historians often are unable to agree with one another on the exact date of any given historical event. This is so among Christian scholars and writers such as Usher, Jarvis, Newton, Clinton, Browne, Anstey and Panin.

Using the information available in the Scriptures, the dates of historical events can be ascertained by tracing chronologically forward from the Creation of adam. Unfortunately, historians and chronologers often rely on information recorded in the many unreliable secular chronicles of the misty past to fix chronological events with world history. Hence, this gave rise to confused and vague chronology.

Claudius Ptolemaeus, better known as Ptolemy, is the famous Egyptian author of the Ptolemaic System of Astronomy. Ptolemy left a record of a "Canon" which contains a list of Persian kings from Cyrus to Alexander the Great of Macedon. This list has been used by almost all modern chronologers and historians in their chronicles and records. But Ptolemy was not a contemporary historian. He lived in the 2nd Century, some seven hundred years after the reign of Cyrus. Apparently, the accuracy of his work was never verified. Ptolemy's Canon contains nothing more than a list of names of supposed Persian kings with the number of the years each was supposed to have lived and reigned.

While some historians felt that Ptolemy's Canon had neither contradicted Biblical events nor harmonized with them, others felt that he had stretched the Persian Empire some 80 years too long because of "extra" kings that did not ready exist. Ptolemy estimated that there were ten Persian kings from Cyrus (whose reign was partly concurrent with Darius the Mede) to Xerxes the last of the Persian kings. Others estimated that there were only six kings. (The Bible records five, from Cyrus to Xerxes – *Dan.10:1; 11:2.*) He estimated that the "ten" kings altogether reigned a total of 205 years. In contrast with his estimates, the Jewish and Persian traditions showed that the Persian Empire lasted for a period of 52 years.

However, many prophetic students of the Bible use Ptolemy's Canon as the basis for their calculations and interpretations of the first 69 weeks of years (483 years) of the prophecies of Daniel's Seventy Weeks. The modern day calendar was designed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 to correct the Julian Calendar that was then in use. One calendar year consists of 365.25 days.

The Jews from the time of Moses used a 365-day calendar. Each month had 30 days with the exception of the 6th (Elul) and the 12th (Adar) months which had an additional 3 and 2 days respectivity. The calendar did not show a fixed weekly Sabbath, such as the Saturday of every week of every year. According to the Scriptures, the Sabbaths were found to be fixed days of the year and would change (against the Gregorian calendar) every year.

Bible students have generally been taught that "a prophetic year" consists of 360 days, with 30 days per month, based upon such figures as 1260 days, 1290 days and 42 months found in the Scriptures. In fact, such basis is only an assumption.

Even today, we normally think in terms of a 30-day month. Because of the assumption of a 360-day "prophetic year", some chronologers tried to supply "missing links" in the chains of chronology by means of eclipses and astronomical calculations.

How reliable then are men's dating of historical events prior to the Christian Era?

The various methods used by man certainly leave much to be desired as one could see from the following few examples of the conflicting opinions of chronologers and historians in respect of certain historical events:

1. Was the Pyramid of Giza built before the Great Deluge or after the Great Deluge?
2. When did the Revolt of the Ten Tribes (after the death of King Solomon) take place — 975 B.C., 931 B.C. or 903 B.C.?
3. When did the Northen Kingdom of Israel fall to the Assyrians — 732 B.C. or 640 B.C.?
4. Was Astyages the Ahasuerus *of Esther 1:1* and the father of Darius the Mede *of Daniel 5:31*? Was he the same person who fathered Cyrus who fulfilled the prophecy *of Isaiah 44:28-45:1*? Or, was the Darius *of Daniel* Darius Hystaspes who preceeded the mighty Xerxes?
5. Did the story of Esther take place during the period before Cyrus' Decree or after the Decree?

Nevertheless, Bible prophecies are precisely true to the ordained plan of the Almighty God. Time is divided into ages and alloted to the unfolding of certain events as predestinated by God. He moved forward from the beginning of creation to the coming of the Messiah. And we, who are in Christ, are now looking forward to His return and the dawn of the Eternal Age. The Word of God stands true and sure. Amen.

[Present Hebrew Day Calendar fixed and formulated in 359 A.D.]