

הַיּוֹם בַּאֲשֶׁר קוֹמַם יֵשׁוּעַ  
הַמָּשִׁיחַ מִן־הַמָּוֶת



**The Resurrection Day  
Of Messiah Yeshua**

*When It Happened*

According To The Original  
Texts

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reckoning.<sup>326</sup> The Babylonian tablets know no successor except Artaxerxes I, and the Egyptian documents know only of Artaxerxes as succeeding Xerxes.<sup>327</sup> BM 32234 is solid archaeological evidence that renders all attempts to date Artaxerxes accession after Tishri 465 B.C. unparsimonious. The usual Judean rule then is that up to Tishri 1 that year is Artaxerxes accession year, which is not counted, and is rather assigned as the 21st of Xerxes, even though the new king completed this year.

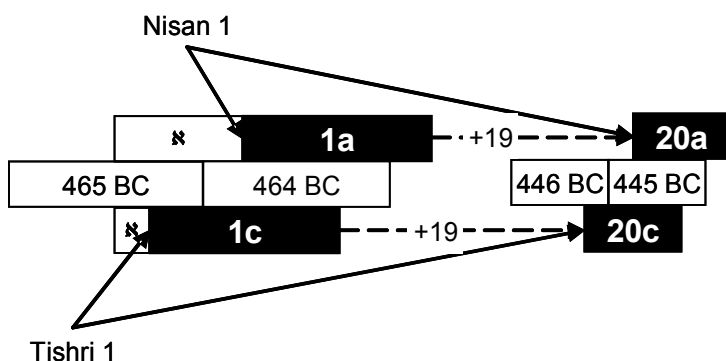
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<sup>326</sup> That a Tishri reckoning existed outside of Nehemiah is shown at Elephantine, Kraeling 6, pg. 137, Horn, *The Chronology of Ezra 7*, 1953, and by evidence from Solomon, Josiah, and Nebuchadnezzar's reigns as reported in the book of Kings.

<sup>327</sup> *From Cyrus to Alexander: A History of the Persian Empire*, Pierre Briant, pg. 566, 2006. In the archaeological record Artaxerxes directly succeeds Xerxes with no one else mentioned. Centuries later (ca. A.D. 160-240) Africanus tells us Xerxes' murderer Artabanus reigned for seven months. So also Eusebius (A.D. 263-339). And these two seem to rely on Manetho from the second century B.C. Briant tells us that this is not credible. Artabanus was not from the Achaemenid royal line, and could not be considered an heir, nor did he lead an open revolt against the Archaemenids. His plotting was in secret and was brought to justice by Artaxerxes' discovery of it. A secret plotter does not claim regnal years or months. So Briant has to be correct. There was no seven month rule of Artabanus recognized by the people. Furthermore, Africanus' king list is elsewhere unreliable. He assigns 42 years for Artaxerxes II rather than the correct 46, a most glaring err, and he puts the first year of Cyrus in 560/559 B.C., failing to count from Cyrus' accession in Babylon in 539 B.C. Eusebius' list also includes Artabanus but he likewise errs with Artaxerxes II (40 years). And Manetho is horribly inaccurate. From BM 32234 to AP (Aramaic Papyri) #6 from Elephantine, that is Aug. 465 to Dec. 465 are only five months. Since there are not seven months needed for Artabanus, the whole conjecture of Artabanus' seven months "rule" must be dismissed. It could be that Artabanus' plot was turned into a seven month reign in Egypt as a piece of political propaganda to justify Egypt's plans to revolt against Persia, that is to embolden the rebels in Egypt. Egypt was supported by Greece during the revolt, and we may expect the Greek sources of the palace plot in Susa to be sympathetic to Artabanus' treason.

That Artaxerxes 1st year began with Tishri 465 B.C. by Jewish reckoning is also confirmed by Aramaic Papyri 8. The only interpretation of AP 8 that requires no emendation is that November 460 B.C. was the sixth year of Artaxerxes by Jewish reckoning. Again, this suggests that year one begins with October 19, 465 B.C. Horn and Wood, who plead for the Tishri epoch to follow the Nisan epoch, say "the dates as given can be made to agree by no known methods, so that a scribal error must be involved," pg. 128, but then

**Figure 69: The Accession of Artaxerxes I**



The accession method with the Tishri new year translates 1c to 20c, and the accession method with the Nisan new year translates 1a to 20a. Therefore, the assumption of the A.D. 33 advocates is incorrect. It is only proper for 20c to precede 20a (by six months). This also means that 20c is in fact very close to the anniversary year of Artaxerxes I, and the 9th month of 20c precedes the 1st month of 20c as in Neh. 1:1:

It should be noted that Nehemiah omits “of Artaxerxes” in Neh. 1:1 when he says “the twentieth year.” This is because he knew quite well that the official “twentieth year of Artaxerxes” began on Nisan 1 (Neh. 2:1). Neh. 1:1 does not designate the official Persian “twentieth year”, but either a Judean translation of it, or possibly a date by anniversary years, or Jubilee cycle. What needs to be noticed,

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confess on the next page, “If the date line of the papyrus needed no emendation to achieve agreement with the astronomical facts, we should have proof here that the Jews of Elephantine had failed to observe a second Adar in harmony with the Babylonian year.” Or I may add failing to follow it as in Judea. It is reasonable that they should so miscalculate because from 463 - 454 Egypt was revolting against the Persian Empire, and with quite a bit of success at first.

The seven months assigned to Artabanus by Africanus and Eusebius have the appearance of being engineered by the chronologers themselves to fill a hole in the chronology left by their assumption that Xerxes reigned only 20 years instead of 21 according to BM 32234. The difference between the quality of BM 32234 and Africanus or Eusebius is that BM 32234 is much closer to the events.

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