

Persian Kings



(1) **CYRUS THE GREAT** 550 - 530 B.C.

The conqueror and founder of the Persian Empire, who permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel in 538 B.C. (Ezra 1:1-11; 4:3). Cyrus made Gobryas (Gubaru) military governor of Babylon. Many scholars believe that this Gobryas is the Darius the Mede of Daniel 5:31

The Persian kings of the period covered in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther were in the order of their reigns as follows:

(2) **CAMBYSES** 530 - 522 B.C.

(3) **DARIUS THE GREAT** 522 - 486 B.C.

(Hystaspis) The king referred to in Zechariah 1:1 and Haggai 1:1. He is not to be confused with Darius the Mede.

(4) **AHASUERUS** 486 - 465 B.C. Ezra 4:6 Esther 1:1

(5) **ARTAXERXES LONGIMANUS** 465 - 424 B.C. During his reign Ezra and Nehemiah were permitted to return to Jerusalem. Ezra 4:7 Nehemiah 2:1