

Annotations to Table XXI

Part (I) Concerning the Chronology from Nabopolassar to Cyrus Inclusive.

Table XXI establishes the date of Cyrus independent of the data of **Table XVII Annotations A**. The beginning of the reign of Cyrus is given by Ptolemy as 538 B.C. Ptolemy gives no astronomical data to confirm this as he does in the case of Nabopolassar and Cambyses. Between the 5th year of Nabopolassar and the 7th year of Cambyses, Ptolemy gives no astronomical data. Dual datings, such as those of **Table XX**, and overlapping datings due to coregencies would in consequence, confuse the chronological statement of Ptolemy. Because Ptolemy is correct in all cases where he has had astronomical datings to check his chronological statement, does not mean that he is right where he has had no such astronomical statements. He is certainly wrong in the statement of the period from Nabopolassar to Cyrus inclusive, as the comparative statement of **Table XXI** shows.

Table XXI Col. (I) shows that Nabopolassar had a double system of datings, as Tiglath-Pileser III and Sargon. **Col. (II)** compared with Ptolemy's List confirms this. Nabopolassar had an earlier system of dating from the beginning of his reign as the Babylonian viceroy of Assyria under Assur-etililani. The dating of the 5th year of Nabopolassar in Ptolemy's Almagest -- recording the eclipse observed in that year at Babylon -- belongs to this earlier method of dating. The records of the later years of Nabopolassar, when the yoke of Assyria had been definitely shaken off, date from the assertion of Nabopolassar's independence in 623 B.C. His recorded 21 years of rule are dated from this datum (623 B.C.) as a Babylonian Epoch.

Basing on the dates given by Ptolemy for Nabopolassar and Cyrus, historians, without paying much critical attention to the question, have considered that the last two dynasties of Berosus -- 8 Assyrians for 121 years, followed by 6 Chaldaeans for 87 years to Cyrus -- necessarily should begin at Nabonassar (747 B.C.) as Table XX and end at 539 B.C.; the latter being the supposed date of the overthrow of Nabonidos prior to the Spring of 538 B.C., the supposed beginning of the 1st year of Cyrus.

But if Berosus had dated from Nabonassar he would have stated "Babylonians" and not "Assyrians" as he has done. Moreover, there are 8 Assyrians from Tiglath-Pileser III to Assur-etililani, inclusive (as **Table XXI col. 2**) whereas there are 19 kings of Babylon from Nabonassar inclusive, prior to Nabopolassar, as in right-hand column of **Table XX**.

THE ESSENTIAL FACTS ARE:

- I**
- (1.) That Berosus gives 8 Assyrians for 121 Years
 - (2.) That the 1st of these is Tiglath-Pileser and the last Assur-etililani.
 - (3.) That the astronomically fixed beginning of the 1st year of Tiglath-Pileser is Spring B.C. 744.
 - (4.) That, in consequence, the 121 years ended at Spring, B.C. 623.
 - (5.) That the rule in Babylon then passed from Assur-etililani to Nabopolassar, the founder of the Babylonina-Chaldaeian Monarchy.

- II**
- (1.) That Berosus gives 6 Chaldaeans for 87 years.
 - (2.) That the 6 Chaldaeans are Nabopolassar to Nabonidos inclusive.
 - (3.) That Cyrus therefore began his 1st year in Spring, B.C. 536

- III**
- (1.) That the Babylonian Dynastic Tablet gives 194.5 years from Yukin-zira to overthrow of Nabonidos.
 - (2.) That Yukin-zira's 1st year, Astronomically fixed, began in Spring, B.C. 731.
 - (3.) That Nabonidos, therefore, was overthrown in Summer, B.C. 537.
 - (4.) That, in consequence, 1st year Cyrus began Spring, B.C. 536

Annotations to Table XXI

Part (II) --- The Known Data Concerning the Reigns of Cyrus and Cambyses.

The Certain Facts are:

1. That the records and other data from native sources fix the 1st year of Cyrus as beginning Spring, B.C. 536.
2. That the known duration of the reign of Cyrus is 9 yrs. ---- from records of Cyrus and Ptolemy's Canon of Kings.
3. That Strassmeier's Babylonian Eclipse record mentions a lunar eclipse on 14th Tammuz in 7th year Cambyses; this being the lunar eclipse of 16th July (Julian) B.C. 523, and 14th Tammuz agreeing with 16th July (Julian) in this year.
4. That Ptolemy's List (Almagest) of Chaldaeian Eclipses gives the same eclipse in the same 7th year of Cambyses as occurring on 18th Phamenoth of the Egyptian vague year calendar; the Egyptian month date agreeing with 16th July (Julian) in B.C. 523.
5. That the 1st year Cambyses, according to the regnal year reckoning adopted for the eclipse record, began in Spring, B.C. 529, 7 years after the 1st year of Cyrus began in Spring, B.C. 536, according to the data of the Dynastic Table of Babylon and the data of Berosus.
6. That, agreeing with this, Xenophon states that Cyrus reigned 7 years.
7. That, therefore, the 8th and 9th years of the reign of Cyrus coincided with the 1st and 2nd years of Cambyses as co-rer, according to the reckoning followed in dating the Eclipse record.
8. That Herodotus confirms this by stating that Cyrus appointed Cambyses co-rer.
9. That the dated records of Cambyses, according to the reckoning followed in the Eclipse record, go down to the end of his 8th year.
10. That, accordingly, the sole years of Cambyses after the death of Cyrus were 6 years to the end of his 8th year by the former reckoning.
11. That confirming this, Josephus gives 6 years as the duration of the reign of Cambyses and that the statement of 6 years for the reign of Cambyses occurs on the Hammamat inscriptions in Egypt of the Persian noble Ataiuhi, who lived during his reign, in Persia, and -- being taken as a youth to Egypt after the Persian Conquest -- lived afterwards in Egypt.
12. That the latter method of dating was in use is proved by the fact that Cyrus, dying in the Spring of B.C. 527, caused a record inscribed as beginning his 10th year to be altered, after his death, to the 1st year of Cambyses. This record -- on one of the Egibi tablets at Babylon -- was formerly read as the "11th year Cambyses," until Prof. E. Meyer explained the matter as above.
13. That, prior to his conquest of Babylon, Cyrus had reigned successively as king of Ansan, and then as king of Persia, Herodotus giving his total reign (including over Babylon) as 29 years, and Severus, and the Ecclesiastical authorities generally, as 31 years; again indicating the two years co-regency of Cambyses.

Thus the reign is made up as follows:

Cyrus over Ansan & Persia	-----	22 yrs.
Cyrus, sole reign, Babylon	-----	7 yrs. as Xenophon
Total sole reign	-----	29 yrs. as Herodotus
Cyrus, with Cambyses co-rer	-----	2 yrs.
Cyrus, Total reign	-----	31 yrs. as Severus and others.

According to this, the total reign of Cyrus (Ansan-Persia) began in Spring, B.C. 558.

14. That Julius Africanus states that the 20th year of Artaxerxes Longimanus fell in the 115th year of the reign of Cyrus in Persia (Ansan-Persia) and that also fell in the 4th year of Olympiad 83.

Now	4th year Olympiad 83 =
Midsummer,	B.C. 445 - 444 = 115th year.
Add	114 - 114 114 deduct

Hence 1st yr. Cyrus (Ansan-Persia) = Midsummer,
B.C. 559 - 558 = 1st year,
this including Spring of B.C. 558, when the total reign of Cyrus began as (13) above.