

## ***A time-line of the Ancient Middle-East***

**15000 BC:** end of the ice age

**12000 BC:** small urban centers develop in Mallaha (Jordan valley) and Mureybet (Syria), houses in pits

**9500 BC:** agriculture (sowing and harvesting)

**8500 BC:** walls of Jericho (Jordan valley), houses on the surface of the Ground

**8000 BC:** domestication of animals, pastoral nomadic life

**7500 BC:** Catal Huyuk (Taurus mountains in eastern Anatolia), obsidian trade, no city streets, terraced roofs, wall paintings (bull, woman)

**7000 BC:** Hassuna culture (north Iraq), ceramic pottery, geometric motifs

**6500 BC:** mixed cereal and livestock farming

**6200 BC:** Samarra culture (north Iraq), symbolic motifs on pottery, plannet settlements, egalitarian society, funerary objects

**6000 BC:** Ubaid culture (south Iraq), irrigation, riverside settlements

**4800 BC:** Eridu culture (south Iraq), hierarchical social organization, monumental buildings

**4200 BC:** Susa is founded in western Persia

**4100 BC:** Uruk/Enoch is founded (central Iraq)

**4000 BC:** Sumerians arrive at Ur

**3900 BC:** Susa is founded (western Iran)

**3600 BC:** Akkadians emigrate from Syria to southern Mesopotamia

**3500 BC:** Sumerians control city-states between the lower Euphrates and Tigris rivers: Eridu, Ur, Uruk, Lagash, Umma, Nippur

**3300 BC:** Sumerians of Uruk invent pictographic writing on clay tablets

**3200 BC:** Sumerians invent the wheel

**3100 BC:** Sumerians of Uruk invent cuneiform writing

**3100 BC:** Tables in proto-Elamite script

**3000 BC:** Sumerians employ mathematics on base 60 (360 degrees in a circle, 60 minutes in an hour)

**2900 BC:** Uruk has 40,000 people and is divided in an administrative city and a residential city, while agriculture is delegated to the subjects outside the city

**2800 BC:** Mari is founded on the Euphrates

**2700 BC:** the Sumerian king Gilgamesh rules the city of Uruk

**2700 BC:** a first dynasty creates the Elamite kingdom (non Semitic) in western Persia with capital in Susa

**2550 BC:** Mesanepada establishes the first dynasty of Ur

**2500 BC:** Ur Nanshe establishes the first dynasty of Lagash

**2450 BC:** Ennatum, Ur Nanshe's grandson, expands the kingdom of Lagash in the south

**2400 BC:** the Hurrians settle in Syria and Anatolia

**2371 BC:** Sargon I becomes king of Kish

**2350 BC:** king Lugalzagesi of Umma conquers most Sumerian cities and destroys the kingdom of Lagash

## **PERSIA**

### **KINGS OF MEDIA**

Deioces 728-675

Phraortes 675-653

Cyaxares 653-585

Astyages 585-550

### **KINGS OF LYDIA**

Gyges 685-644

Ardys 644-615

Sadyattes 615-610

Alyattes 610-560

Croesus 560-547

### **ACHAEMENID KINGS**

Achaemenes

Teispes 675-640

Cyrus I 640-600

Cambyses I 600-559

Cyrus II 559-530

Cambyses II 530-522

Darius I 522-486

Xerxes I 486-465

Artaxerxes I 465-424

Xerxes II 424-423

Darius II 423-404

Artaxerxes II 404-359

Artaxerxes III 359-338

Arses 338-336

Darius III 336-330

### **SELEUCID KINGS**

Seleucus I 311 - 281

Antiochus I 281 - 261

**2350 BC:** Bab edh-Dhra and Numeira, two towns in the Dead Sea valley, are destroyed by fire (Sodom and Gomorrah)

**2350 BC:** The Akkadians conquer Susa

**2340 BC:** Sargon I of Kish builds a new capital, Agade (Akkad, later Babylon) and adopts the Semitic language Akkadian instead of Sumerian

**2334 BC:** Sargon defeats Lugalzagesi conquers Uruk, Ur, Lagash and Umma, thus uniting Akkadian and Sumerian peoples, thus becoming the first emperor in history

**2330 BC:** Sargon's daughter Enheduanna is a poetess

**2320 BC:** Sargon invades Lebanon and the Taurus Mountains and creates the Akkadian empire

**2300 BC:** the Amorites (Semitic people) migrate from Arabia to Syria

**2278 BC:** Sargon dies and is succeeded by his son Rimush, who sacks Elam

**2254 BC:** Akkadian king Naram Sin, another son of Sargon, further expands the empire, east and north

**2217 BC:** Naram Sin dies and is succeeded by his son Sharkalisharri

**2200 BC:** Royal graves of Alaca Hoyuk (Anatolia, 200 kms northeast of Ankara)

**2180 BC:** the Akkadian empire is destroyed by the Gutti, who invade from the north, and the Elamites of Susa regain their independence

**2150 BC:** the Sumerians of Lagash revolt against the Gutti

**2125 BC:** Gudea becomes king of Lagash and builds the monumental sanctuary of Eninnu

**2116 BC:** the Sumerians of Uruk revolt against the Gutti

**2112 BC:** Ur-Nammu of Uruk recreates the Sumerian empire and rebuilds Ur, including the temple of Nanna and the three-terraced ziggurat

**2100 BC:** the Hurrians settle in the mountains between Mesopotamia and Anatolia and found the holy city of Urkish

**2094 BC:** Ur-Nammu dies and is succeeded by his son Shulgi/Dulgi, who expands the Sumerian empire to Susa and to the north, bordering the Amorites to the west, the Elamites to the east and the Hurrians (Indo- European people) to the north

**2046 BC:** Shulgi dies

**2018 BC:** the Sumerian empire disintegrates

**2017 BC:** the Sumerian governor of Mari, Ishbi Erra, establishes his own dynasty with capital at Isin

**2007 BC:** the Elamites of Susa capture Ur

**2000 BC:** the game of chess ("shatranj") develops in Persia

**1932 BC:** Gungunum becomes king of the Amorites with capital at Larsa, builds the E-Babbar temple and conquers Ur and Elam

**1900 BC:** the cities of Assur and Nineveh form an Assyrian kingdom

**1900 BC:** the Sukkalmah dynasty seizes power in Elam, turning it into a regional power

**1900 BC:** the Epic of Gilgamesh is redacted in the semitic language of Babylon

**1900 BC:** the Assyrians emerge from the holy city of Ashur (north Iraq) to establish colonies in Anatolia with headquarters in Nesa (Kanes, Kultepe)

**1894 BC:** Babylon is conquered by an Amorite dynasty

**1834 BC:** an Elamite, Warad Sin, becomes king of Larsa

**1810 BC:** Amorite dynasties seize power in the cities of Ugarit (Lebanon), Aleppo (Syria), Ashur and Mari

**1809 BC:** Shamshi-Adad conquers the cities of Mari, Ashur and Ekallutum, and thus creates the Assyrian empire

**1800 BC:** the Hittites invent irons and build the first weapons made of iron

Antiochus II 261 - 246  
Seleucus II 246 - 226  
Seleucus III 225 - 223  
Antiochus III 223 - 187  
Seleucus IV 187 - 175  
Antiochus IV 175 - 164  
Antiochus V 164 - 162  
Demetrius I 161 - 150  
Alexander I 152 - 145  
Demetrius II 145 - 138  
Antiochus VI 145 - 140  
Diodotus 140 - 138  
Antiochus VII 138 - 129  
Demetrius II 129 - 125  
Alexander II 129 - 123  
Cleopatra Thea 126 - 125  
Antiochus VII 125- 121  
Antiochus VIII 121 - 96  
Antiochus IX 114- 95  
Seleucus VI 96 - 95  
Antiochus X 95 - 92  
Demetrius III 95 - 87  
Antiochus XI 95-92  
Philip I 95 - 83  
Antiochus XII 87 - 84  
Tigranes 83- 69  
Antiochus XIII 69 - 64  
Philip II 65 - 64

## **PARTHIAN KINGS**

Arsaces I 250-248

Tiridates 248-211

Artabanus I 211-191

Priapatius 191-176

Phraates I 176-171

Mithridates I 171-139

Phraates II 139-129

Artabanus II 128-124

**1800 BC:** the Babylonians employ a duodecimal system (a system based on 12 and 6) to measure time

**1794 BC:** Larsa (king Rim-Sin) conquers Isin

**1792 BC:** Hammurabi, sixth king of the Amorite dynasty, is crowned king of Babylon

**1787 BC:** Hammurabi conquers the city-states of Uruk and Isin

**1775 BC:** Work begins on the Etemenanki, the ziggurath to god Marduk, in Babylon

**1764 BC:** Hammurabi defeats the Elamites

**1763 BC:** Hammurabi conquers the city-state of Larsa, and thus Ur, Uruk, Isin

**1761 BC:** Hammurabi conquers the city-state of Mari

**1755 BC:** Hammurabi creates the first code of laws using the Babylonian language

**1750 BC:** Hammurabi dies and the Babylonian empire dissolves into city-states

**1725 BC:** Kutir-Nahhunte I revolts against the Babylonians and Elam regains its independence

**1725 BC:** Pithana, king of Kussara, conquers Nesa

**1700 BC:** Babylonians invent the first windmills for the purpose of irrigation

**1700 BC:** Anitta of Kussara, Pithana's son, ruling from Kussara, conquers eastern Anatolia

**1700 BC:** the "Enuma Elish" (creation story of the Babylonians) originates

**1680 BC:** Labarna of Kussara reaches the Mediterranean Sea

**1650 BC:** Hattusili, son or nephew of Labarna, founds the Hittite kingdom, moves the capital from Kussara to Hattusa (150 kms east of Ankara) and adopts the language of Nesa

**1640 BC:** Hattusili fights the kingdom of lamhad (with capital in Aleppo)

**1600 BC:** Hattusili's son Mursili becomes king of the Hittites

**1595 BC:** the Hittites under king Mursili I conquer the kingdom of lamhad (Aleppo) and raid Babylon, thus ending the Amorite dynasty

**1590 BC:** the Hittite king, Mursili, is assassinated by Hantili, who becomes king

**1590 BC:** the Hittites install the Kassite dynasty (originating from the Central Asian steppes) in Babylon

**1530 BC:** the Kassites build a new capital, Durkurigalzu

**1525 BC:** Telipinu becomes king of the Hittites

**1500 BC:** a caravan trader, Abraham, leads nomads from Sumer to Canaan and then on to Egypt (Hebrews)

**1480 BC:** king Parattarna invades the lands of the Hurrians and creates the (Indo-European) Mitanni empire in northern Mesopotamia/Syria with capital in Wassuganni

**1475 BC:** the Mitanni king Parattarna conquers the kingdom of Aleppo and installs Idrimi as a vassal

**1458 BC:** the Egyptian pharaoh Tuthmosis III defeats the Mitannis and conquers Syria

**1400 BC:** the Mitanni king Saustatar conquers Assyria and reconquers Syria

**1400 BC:** the Mitanni king Artatama and the Egyptian pharaoh Tuthmosis IV sign a peace treaty

**1365 BC:** king Asuruballit restores independence to Assyria

**1350 BC:** the city of Ugarit (Syria) employs an alphabet of 32 letters

**1344 BC:** Suppiluliuma becomes king of the Hittites

**1340 BC:** King Untash-Napirisha of Elam founds a new capital at Chogha



## Zanbil

Mithridates II 124-88

Gotarzes I 90-80

Orodes I 80-77

Sinatruces 77-70

Phraates III 70-57

Orodes II 57-39

Mithridates III 57-55

Pacorus I 54-38

Phraates IV 37-3 BC

Tiridates 30-25 BC

Phraates V 3BC-3AD

Orodes III 4-7

Vonones I 7-12

Artabanus III 11-38

Vardanes I 39-45

Gotarzes II 43-50

Vologezes I 50-76

Vologezes II 77-78

Pacorus II 78-86

Artabanus IV 79-80

Vologezes II 89-90

Oroses 89-90

Pacorus II 92-95

Oroses 108-127

Vologezes III 111-146

Pacorus II 113-114

Mithridates IV 130-147

Vologezes IV 148-190

Vologezes V 190-206

Vologezes VI 207-221

Artabanus V 213-227

Artavasdes 226-227

### **SASSANID KINGS**

Ardashir I 224-240

Shapur I 240-272

Hormizd I 272-273

Varahran I 273-276

**1339 BC:** king Suppiluliuma of the Hittites conquers the Mitanni empire and establishes two viceregal kingdoms in Aleppo and Carchemish

**1307 BC:** Adadnirari I becomes king of Assyria and defeats and destroys the Mitanni empire

**1275 BC:** Khumbannumena expands the Elamite empire

**1274 BC:** the Egyptian king Rameses II is defeated by the Hittite king Muwatallis II at the city of Kadesh

**1259 BC:** peace treaty between Egyptians (Rameses II) and Hittites (king Hattusili III)

**1250 BC:** the Hebrews return from Egypt and establish a kingdom in Palestine

**1250 BC:** the Assyrian army employs iron swords, lances, metal armors

**1250 BC:** the Assyrians divide the circle into 360 degrees

**1250 BC:** the Elamites build the ziggurat at Choga Zambil, the largest of all times

**1237 BC:** Hittite king Hattusili III dies and is succeeded by his son Tudhaliya IV, who builds a palace on the acropolis of the capital, Hattusa

**1225 BC:** the Assyrians under king Tukulti-Ninurta I capture Babylon

**1208 BC:** the Assyrian king, Tukulti-Ninurta I, is murdered by his son

**1200 BC:** the Philistines settle along the shores of Palestine

**1200 BC:** the Arameans migrate from Arabia to Syria (Harrans)

**1200 BC:** the Phoenicians move from the Arabian peninsula to the Mediterranean coast

**1185 BC:** the Hittite empire collapses under the invasion of the "Sea Peoples"

**1168 BC:** the Elamites sack Babylon, move Hammurabi's stela to their capital Susa and terminate the Kassite dynasty

**1115 BC:** Tiglat-Pileser becomes king of Assyria

**1105 BC:** Nebuchadnezzar I of Babylon defeats Elam

**1104 BC:** the Phoenicians found Cadiz on the Atlantic coast

**1100 BC:** Assyrian king Tiglat-Pileser conquers Syria from the Arameans and Armenia

**1095 BC:** Arameans migrate into Assyria

**1077 BC:** the Assyrian king Tiglat-Pileser dies while the Arameans increasingly penetrate Assyrian cities

**1050 BC:** Arameans found Damascus and build the temple to the god Hadad

**1020 BC:** the Hebrew king David conquers the Philistines and unifies Israel

**1000 BC:** the Phoenicians control trade in the Mediterranean Sea from their bases in Byblos and Sidon

**965 BC:** Solomon becomes king of Israel, with capital in Jerusalem

**950 BC:** the first temple is built in Jerusalem

**950 BC:** the Phoenicians build the fortified city of Tyre

**934 BC:** Assyrian king Asurdan II fights the Arameans

**922 BC:** king Solomon dies and the Hebrew kingdom splits in two, Israel to the north (capital Samaria) and Judea to the south (Jerusalem)

**911 BC:** Assyrian king Asurdan II dies and is succeeded by Adadnirari II, who restores Assyrian power

**891 BC:** Assyrian king Adadnirari II and is succeeded by Tukulti-Ninurta II

**883 BC:** Assyrian king Tukulti-Ninurta II dies and is succeeded by Ashurnazirpal II

**879 BC:** king Ashurnazirpal II of Assyria moves the capital from Nineveh to Nimrud (Kalhu), for which a citadel and a seven-km wall are built

**860 BC:** king Ben-Hadad II creates a coalition of Aramean cities against the

## Assyrians

Varahran II 276-293

Varahran III 293

Nerseh 293-302

Hormizd II 302-309

Shapur II 309-379

Ardashir II 379-383

Shapur III 383-388

Varahran IV 388-399

Yazdagird I 399-421

Varahran V 421-439

Yazdagird II 439-457

Hormizd III 457-459

Peroz 459-484

Valash 484-488

Kavad I 488-496

Zamasp 496-498

Kavad I 498-531

Khusro I 531-579

Hormizd IV 579-590

Khusro II 591-628

Kavad II 628

Ardashir III 628-629

Boran 629-630

Hormizd V 630-632

Khusro III 630-632

Yazdagird III 632-651

**859 BC:** king Ashurnazirpal II of Assyria dies and is succeeded by his son Shalmaneser II

**855 BC:** Assyrian king Shalmaneser II expands the empire through a campaign against the Arameans

**841 BC:** Assyrian king Shalmaneser II invades the Syrian-Phoenician coast of the Arameans

**836 BC:** Shalmaneser II, King of Assyria, defeats the Medes, who rule in Persia

**835 BC:** Assyria annexes Media (northeastern Iran)

**824 BC:** king Shalmaneser III of Assyria dies after conquering Palestine, Turkey, and southern Mesopotamia

**823 BC:** Shalmaneser III's son, Shamshi-Adad V of Assyria, conquers Babylon and extends the empire from the Gulf to the Mediterranean

**814 BC:** the Phoenicians found Carthage in Africa

**750 BC:** the Scythians, a pastoral nomadic group, settle between the Danube and the Carpathians

**745 BC:** Aramaeans' language, Aramaic, becomes a lingua franca of the Middle East

**745 BC:** Tiglath-Pileser III becomes king of Assyria and extends the borders

**743 BC:** the Assyrians of Tiglathpileser III defeat the Hittites of Urartu

**732 BC:** the Assyrians of Tiglathpileser III conquer the Arameans (and therefore Syria)

**729 BC:** Tiglath-Pileser III appoints himself king of Babylon, thus reigning over both Assyria and Babylon

**727 BC:** Tiglath-Pileser III dies and is succeeded by Shalmaneser V, who conquers Israel

**722 BC:** Dayauku/Deioces founds the Median dynasty in Persia

**721 BC:** Sargon II seizes power in Assyria and forcefully relocates Jews (Jewish diaspora)

**720 BC:** King Sargon II of Assyria builds the new capital of Khorsabad (Dur Sharrukin)

**717 BC:** the Hittites of Urartu are destroyed by Sargon II of Assyria and the

Phrygians submit to Assyrian rule

**710 BC:** Darius I founds the new capital of the Medes/Persians at Ecbatana (Hamadan)

**709 BC:** Sargon II of Assyria conquers Babylon

**705 BC:** Sargon II of Assyria dies and is succeeded by his son Sennacherib, who moves the capital back to Nineveh and builds a royal palace

**700 BC:** Achaemenes founds the Achaemenid dynasty of Persia in Anshan, subject to Media

**689 BC:** Assyrian king Sennacherib raids Babylon to quell an insurrection

**681 BC:** Assyrian king Sennacherib dies and is succeeded by his son Esarhaddon, who rebuilds Babylon

**675 BC:** Khshathrita/ Phraortes unites the Median tribes and expels the Assyrians from northeastern Iran

**674 BC:** the Scythian king Partatua marries an Assyrian princess

**671 BC:** king Esarhaddon of Assyria captures the Egyptian capital of Memphis

**669 BC:** king Esarhaddon of Assyria dies and is succeeded by his son Ashurbanipal

**664 BC:** Assyrian king Ashurbanipal conquers Thebes

**653 BC:** the Scythians invade the Median empire (northeast Persia)

**653 BC:** king Ashurbanipal of Assyria destroys the Elamite kingdom and its capital Susa

**649 BC:** king Ashurbanipal of Assyria raids Babylon to quell another insurrection

**646 BC:** king Ashurbanipal of Assyria raids the Elamite capital Susa in Persia

**630 BC:** king Ashurbanipal of Assyria assembles in the city of Nineveh a library of tablets from all the literature of Mesopotamia

**626 BC:** Ashurbanipal dies and the Assyrian empire declines

**626 BC:** the Medes/Persians defeat the Scythians

**625 BC:** Median king Cyaxares moves the capital to Ecbatana (Hamadan)

**625 BC:** Chaldean chief Nabopolassar seized power in Babylon

**615 BC:** the Medes capture Assyrian cities

**616 BC:** Chaldean king Nabopolassar captures Babylon

**612 BC:** the Babylonians, led by king Nabopolassar, and their allies the Medes, led by Cyaxares, destroy the Assyrian capital of Nineveh (as well as Nimrud) and split the Assyrian empire (Mesopotamia to Babylon and Elam to Media) while Egypt recovers control of Palestine and Syria

**612 BC:** Youstol Dispage

**605 BC:** Nabopolassar's son Nebuchadnezzar II leads the Babylonians to conquer Carchemish and defeat the Egyptian army

**604 BC:** Nabopolassar dies and his son Nebuchadnezzar II succeeds him as king of Babylon

**600 BC:** Zarathustra forms a new religion in Persia

**600 BC:** Phoenicians circumnavigate Africa

**600 BC:** spread by merchants, Aramaic is the "lingua franca" of Syria and Palestine

**587 BC:** Nebuchadnezzar II conquers Judea (southern kingdom of the Hebrews), destroys Jerusalem and deports thousands of Jews (second Jewish diaspora)

**580 BC:** Nebuchadnezzar II builds eight monumental gates, the Esagila complex, the seven-storey ziggurat, and the Hanging Gardens

**574 BC:** Babylonia conquers the Phoenician cities

**562 BC:** Nebuchadnezzar II dies

**560 BC:** Lydian king Croesus conquers Ionia

**559 BC:** Cyrus Achaemenian unifies Elam, defeats the Chaldeans and moves the capital of the Achaemenids to Susa

**550 BC:** Cyrus Achaemenian defeats Astyages, emperor of the Medes, conquers its capital Ecbatana (Hamadan), and unifies Media and Elam in the Persian empire

**546 BC:** Cyrus overthrows Croesus of Lydia

**539 BC:** Cyrus of Persia sacks Babylon and frees the Jews

**530 BC:** Cambyses becomes king of Persia

525 BC: Cambyses of Persia conquers Egypt at the battle of Pelusium

522 BC: Cambyses dies and civil War erupts in Persia

521 BC: Darius becomes king of Persia and divides Persia into satrapies

521 BC: Darius of Persia expands the Persian empire beyond the Indus River

518 BC: Darius founds the new capital of Persia, Persepolis

514 BC: the Persian king Darius invades Scythia

500 BC: Darius makes Aramaic the official language of the Persian empire

490 BC: Darius of Persia attacks mainland Greece

485 BC: Darius dies and Xerxes becomes king of Persia

480 BC: the Greeks expels the Persians from Europe

465 BC: Artaxerxes I Longimanus becomes king of Persia

425 BC: Phoenician explorer Himilco travels from Carthage to Brittany

424 BC: Xerxes II becomes king of Persia

404 BC: Artaxerxes II Mnemon becomes king of Persia

360 BC: king Atheas unites all Scythian tribes and expands their territory to the border with Macedonia

358 BC: Artaxerxes III Ochus becomes king of Persia

339 BC: Atheas of Scythia is killed in the war against Philip of Macedonia

336 BC: Darius Codomannus becomes king of Persia

336 BC: Alexander becomes king of Macedonia

334 BC: Alexander defeats the Persian army at the Dardanelles

333 BC: Alexander invades the Persian empire from Syria to Palestine

332 BC: Alexander the Great conquers Egypt

331 BC: Alexander the Great conquers Persia (battle of Gaugamela) and destroys Persepolis, ending the Achaemenid dynasty

329 BC: Artaxerxes V dies, last of the Achaemenians



**324 BC:** Alexander invades the Punjab in India

**323 BC:** Alexander the Great dies at Babylon and his empire is carved into three empires: Cassander rules over Greece and Macedonia, Lysimachus rules over Thracia and Asia Minor, Ptolemy rules over Egypt, Judea, Syria, Mesopotamia and India

**312 BC:** Ptolemy's general in Syria, Seleucus Nicator, declares himself satrap of Babylon

**307 BC:** Ptolemy founds the library of Alexandria

**306 BC:** Lysimachus general Antigonus Monophthalmos declares himself king of Phrygia

**305 BC:** Seleucus Nicator establishes a kingdom ranging from Syria in the west to India in the east and founds the Seleucid dynasty with capital in Seleucia (Iraq)

**303 BC:** Seleucus grants Punjab and Afghanistan to Chandragupta Maurya

**302 BC:** Mithridates I, a subject of Lysimachus, declares the kingdom of Pontus

**301 BC:** Antigonus is defeated by Lysimachus

**283 BC:** Philataerus, a subject of Lysimachus, seizes the fortress of Pergamum (Pergamon)

**282 BC:** Seleucus defeats and kills Lysimachus and thereby conquers Asia Minor

**281 BC:** Seleucus is murdered by the king of Thracia and is succeeded by his son Antiochus who transfers the capital to Antiochia

**265 BC:** Antiochus I founds Antiochia in old Margiana (Mara, Merv) to guard from invasions of the Parni

**263 BC:** Eumenes, son of Philataerus, proclaims the kingdom of Pergamum and begins the Attalid dynasty

**261 BC:** Antiochus II (Seleucid) fights the Egyptians

**250 BC:** Diodotos, a Macedonian ruler of the satrapy of Bactria (Afghanistan), declares its independence from the Seleucids

**250 BC:** the Parni invade the satrapy of Parthia (northern Iran) and found the Parthian empire with capital in Ctesiphon (near Seleucia) and Arsaces as ruler (founder of the Arsacid dynasty)

**248 BC:** Tiridates leads the Parthians to independence from the Seleucids

**246 BC:** defeated by Ptolemy III Euergetes, the Seleucid empire loses eastern lands to the Parthians and to Pergamum

**241 BC:** Attalus, son of Emenes, defeats the Galatians

**239 BC:** Bactria declares independence from the Seleucids

**225 BC:** the Celts in the west and the Sarmatians in the east destroy the Scythian kingdom

**211 BC:** Tiridates dies and Artabanus I becomes ruler of the Parthians

**204 BC:** Ptolomy IV of Egypt dies

**198 BC:** the Seleucids under Antiochus III conquer Palestine and Phoenicia from the Ptolemaics

**192 BC:** the Seleucids under Antiochus III are defeated by the Romans in Thracia

**190 BC:** Bactrian king Euthydemus defeats Seleucid king Antiochus III at Magnesia

**188 BC:** Pergamum conquers the Seleucid lands of Lydia, Phrygia, Lycaonia, Pisidia

**185 BC:** Parthians under Priapatius expand into Seleucid eastern Iran

**175 BC:** Mithraism (an offshoot of Zoroastrianism that worships Ahura Mazda as the sole and creator god) is born in Bactria

**170 BC:** Batrian king Demetrios I expands Bactria to northwestern India

**165 BC:** the Maccabeans revolt in Palestine and gain independence from the Seleucids

**159 BC:** the new king Eumenes II of Pergamum inaugurates a library that would compete with Alexandria's

**155 BC:** Bactrian king Menander invades northwestern India

**145 BC:** the Kushan (Yuezhi), nomadic tribes expelled from China by the Hsiungnu (Huns), overthrow the kingdom of Bactria (last Greek kingdom in Cental Asia) and push the Scythians south to Iran and India

**141 BC:** the Parthians of Mithradates I conquer Media and Elam from the Seleucids, while Edessa becomes de-facto independent

**135 BC:** the Kushan establish their capital in Kabul

**133 BC:** Attalus III of Pergamum wills his kingdom to Rome

**127 BC:** the Parthians under Phraates II are defeated by the Scythians

**126 BC:** the Parthians under Artabanus II conquer Babylonia from the Seleucids, who now control only Syria

**124 BC:** the Parthians under Artabanus II are defeated again by the Scythians and Mithridates II succeeds Artabanus II as king of Parthia

**106 BC:** Mithridates II signs a treaty with Chinese emperor Wu-Ti to open the "silk road"

**96 BC:** Tigranes becomes king of Armenia

**92 BC:** Mithridates II signs a peace treaty with Rome

**69 BC:** Rome invades Tigranes' Armenian kingdom and destroys its capital, Tigranocerta

**80 BC:** the Scythians (Saka) under Bhumaka conquer northwestern India from Bactria

**71 BC:** Mithridates VI of Pontus is conquered by Rome

**64 BC:** Syria and the the Phoenician cities are conquered by Roman general Pompey and the Seleucid dynasty ends

**63 BC:** Pompeus captures Jerusalem and annexes Palestine to Rome

**53 BC:** the Parthians led by Orodes II defeat the Romans at Carrhae (Syria)

**20 BC:** a treaty between Rome and the Parthians fixes the boundary between the two empires along the Euphrates river (Iraq)

**50 AD:** Christianity emerges from Palestine

**78 AD:** Kanishka, king of the Kushan, enlarges the kingdom from Bactria into Uzbekistan, Kashmir, Punjab, moves the capital to Peshawar and promotes Buddhism

**116:** Roman emperor Trajan defeats the Parthian king Vologezes III and conquers Mesopotamia, including the Parthian capital Ctesiphon

**224:** Ardashir, descendant of the priest Sassan, seizes the throne of Persia/Parthia, ends the Arsacid dynasty, and becomes the first Sassanid king with capital in Istakhr (near Persepolis) and Zoroastrianism as the official religion

**225:** Ardashir I Sassanid defeats Artabanus V, last Parthian ruler, and moves the capital to Ctesiphon

- 233: Ardashir I Sassanid conquers Kushan
- 244: Shapur I becomes king of the Sassanids and attacks Rome
- 250: Shahpur I establishes the library of Jondi Shahpur, one of the largest in the world
- 256: the Persians/Sassanids conquer Dura Europus in Mesopotamia
- 241: Mani, a thinker from Ecbatana, begins to preach in Seleucia-Ctesiphon
- 276: Mani is crucified by the Sassanids for trying to incorporate Judaism, Christianity and Zoroastrianism into one religion ("manicheism")
- 298: the Sassanids sign a peace treaty with Rome
- 298: Youstol Dispage
- 363: the Sassanid king Shapur II defeats the Roman emperor Julian and recapture Nisibis and Armenia
- 379: Shapur II died after conquering Arabia and reaching the border with China
- 380: Buddhist monks carve two giant Buddha statues in the rock at Bamiya, Bactria (Afghanistan)
- 451: Zoroastrian Persia (Sassanids) defeats Christian Armenia
- 460: Persian king Firuz persecutes Jews, who emigrate to Arabia
- 484: Zoroastrian Persia and Christian Armenia sign a treaty that allows the Armenians to keep their religion
- 528: the Sassanid intellectual Mazdak advocates the abolition of private property, the division of wealth, nonviolence and vegetarianism
- 531: Khusro I ascends to the Sassanid throne and is influenced by Mazdakism
- 560: the Sassanid king Khusro I builds the Palace of the Great Arch in Ctesiphon
- 579: the Sassanid king Khusro I dies and is succeeded by Khusro II
- 590: the Sassanid king Khusro II launches a new attack against Byzantium
- 600: the Zoroastrian high priest Tanar establishes the canon of the Avesta
- 614: the Sassanids capture Jerusalem from Byzantium
- 619: the Sassanids capture Egypt from Byzantium

**623:** Byzantine troops destroy the fire temples of Persia (in revenge for the Persian desecration of Jerusalem)

**626:** the Sassanids besiege Byzantium

**627:** the Sassanid king Khusrau II is defeated by Roman emperor Heraclius at Niniveh

**628:** Khusrau II is assassinated by his troops while the Romans retake Syria from the Sassanids

**632:** the Sassanid queen Purandokht signs a peace treaty with Byzantium

**636:** the Arabs capture Ctesiphon, the last Sassanid is assassinated in Merv and the Sassanid empire ends