

# Zerubbabel and the Second Temple - June 2020

Presented by

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Royal Arch Masons

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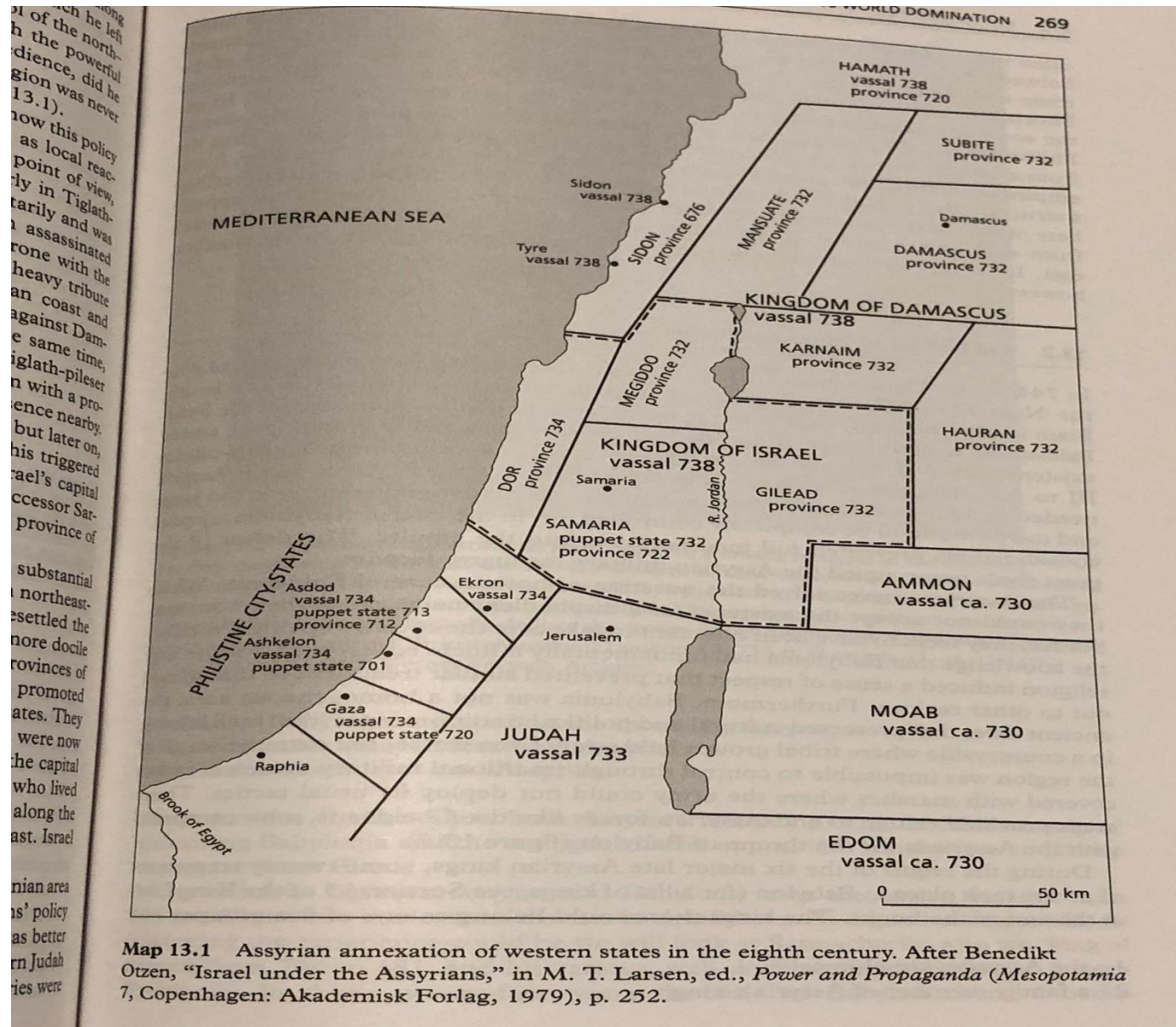
- Ramseses III fights the “Sea People” 1177 BCE
- Assyrian Rule 878 - 610 BCE
- Damascus and Israel combined and rebelled against Assyria in 735 BCE and were defeated in 723 BCE.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings discusses the end of Israel
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles discusses Judah
- Retribution on Israel was great, 27,000 were relocated to NE Syria and Western Iran. Judah was left intact as a vassal state.
- The Assyrians never solved the question of how to control Babylonia. They never took over the country openly (perhaps in similarity to Rome and the Greeks)
- Medes and Babylonians sack Ninevah (capital of Assyria) in 612 BCE
- Nebuchadnezzar II (604-562 BCE) defeats Egyptians at Carchemish in 605 BCE and Jerusalem for the first time in 597 BCE\* (end of Jehoiach(k)in on March 16<sup>th</sup> 597). Beginning of Zedekiah!
- Nebuchadnezzar II sacks Jerusalem again in 587 BCE, destroys first Temple and carries off the best and brightest to Babylon
- Cyrus captures Babylon (capital of Babylonia empire) in 539 BCE and starts the expansion of the Persian Empire.

# Lineage of Early Rulers

**Chart 7.1** Comparative chronology of the major states of the second half of the second millennium

Date	Mittani	Babylonia	Assyria	Hatti	Egypt
1500	Parrattarna				Amenhotep I
1450					Tuthmose III
1400	Artatama I	Kadashman-Enlil I			
1350	Tushratta	Burnaburiash II	Assur-uballit I		Amenhotep III Akhenaten
	Shattiwaza	Kurigalzu II		Suppiluliuma I	
1300			Adad-nirari I	Mursili II	
	Elam	Kadashman-Enlil II	Shalmanseser I	Muwatalli II	
1250	Untash-Napirisha	Kashtiliashu IV	Tukulti-Ninurta I	Hattusili III Tudhaliya IV Suppiluliuma II	Ramesses II Merneptah
1200	Shutruk-Nahhunte				
1150	Kutir-Nahhunte Shilhak-Inshushinak				Ramesses III
		Nebuchadnezzar I	Assur-resha-ishi I		
1100			Tiglath-pileser I		
1050					

# Assyrian Vassal States



# The path to the Second Temple

- Persians are where Iranians are today
- Cyrus came to power in 559 and in 550 BCE defeated the Medes
- Cyrus died in battle in 530 BCE and was succeeded by his son Cambyses (529-522 BCE)
- Cambyses was deposed (and mysteriously died on his way back to Babylon) by Darius I of Medes (his capital was Ecbatana) and he ruled from 521-486 BCE. He was not directly related to Cyrus but took over from Cambyses true brother who had usurped the throne while Cambyses was away finishing the conquest of Egypt!
- Xerxes was Darius' son and ruled 485-465 BCE
  - Check out Xenophon for all that Greek involvement – Thermopylae 480 BCE (revenge for Darius' defeat at Marathon in 490) to Salamis which ended the attempted conquest of Greece in 479 BCE!
- Three waves back to Jerusalem:
  - First during Cyrus' reign circa 538 BCE under Shesh-bazzar appointed Governor of Judah by Cyrus
  - Second during Darius' reign circa 520 - 515 BCE under Zerubbabel, Governor, perhaps a son of Pediah or Shealtiel? and Jeshua /Joshua the 12<sup>th</sup> High Priest from the first Temple, maybe a son of Johozadak, or a Grandson of Seraiah and descended from Zadok!
  - Third before 445 BCE under Ezra and Nehemiah
    - (Nehemiah was a Persian courtier at Susa after it was rebuilt by Darius who asked King Artaxerxes (reign 464-424) sometime after 465 BCE to rebuild the city as his governor) Archeologically the walls were rebuilt in 445 BCE. There wasn't much building activity within the walls until later.
    - Historically, the southern border at Elephantine was fortified around this time to block the Egyptians!

# From Zedekiah to Zerubbabel

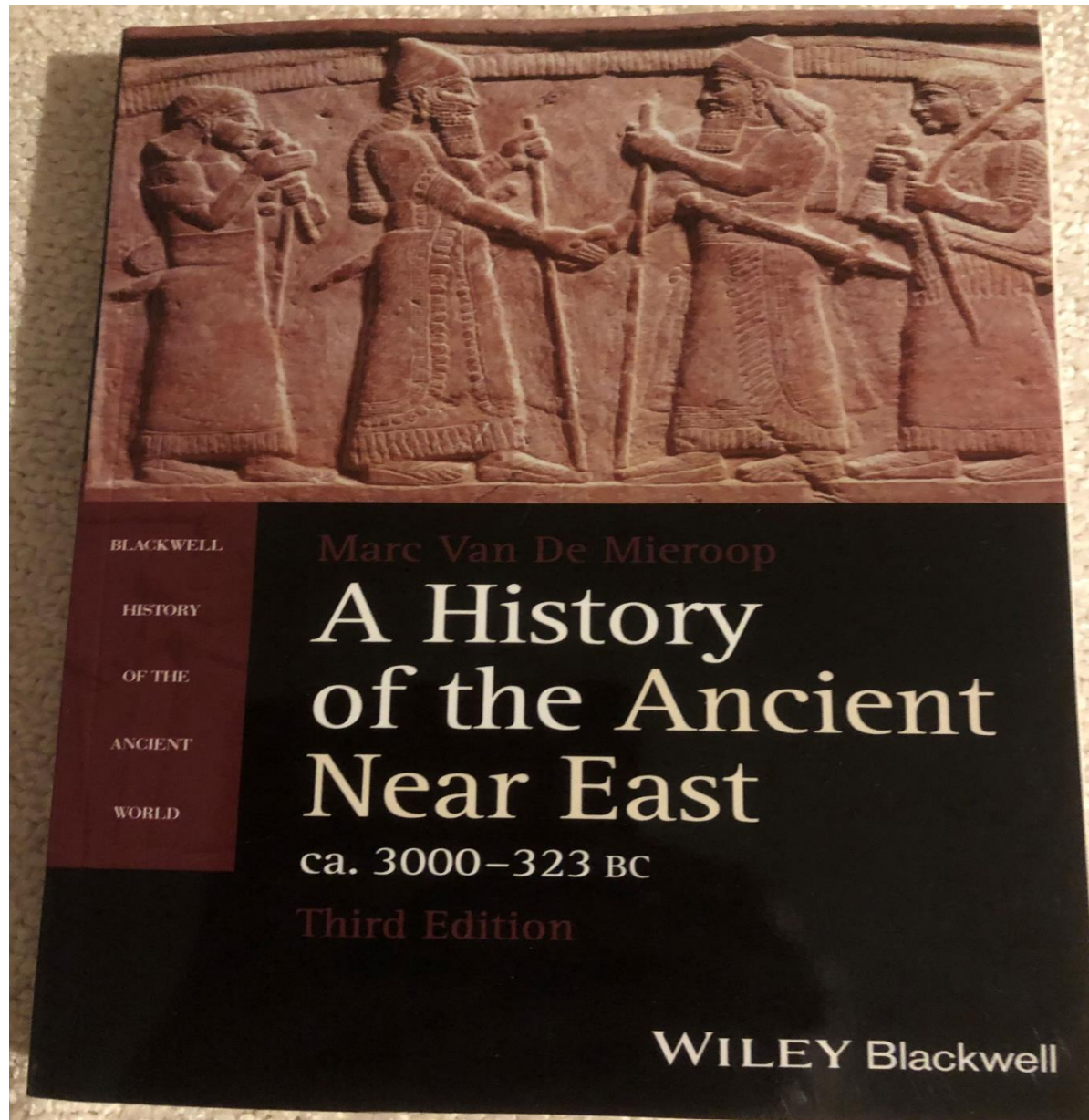
## (It's really about the Prophets!)

- Jeremiah and Jehoiach(k)in never agree on much! Jeremiah predicts fall of the Temple before Zedekiah becomes King of Judah! Jehoiachin is exiled (actually pensioned off in exile by Nebuchadrezzar II ) after the fall of Jerusalem (the first time).
- Zedekiah rebels by Not paying tribute to Nebuchadrezzar II, but Jeremiah remains on the Babylonian side throughout! Daniel (the Prophet) is late to write the story and gets many of the dates and characters wrong! The recall of the memory of others may perhaps be flawed?
- The siege lasted 2 years and they ran out of food! Zedekiah flees and is caught near Jericho. Bad things happen after that!
- The fall of Jerusalem (again) led to the Judean diaspora started by the Babylonians in 723 BCE in Israel.
- Jeremiah stayed in Israel with Gedaliah who was assassinated by Ishmael whereupon he was carried away to Egypt! Ezekiel prophesized from Babylon during most of the captivity and Isaiah at the end predicting the Persian invasion.
- Haggai and Zechariah were active in the first years of Darius' reign. They are the ones that cast Zerubbabel in the role as the Governor of Judah during the rebuilding of the Temple. He was prophesized to deal with the contentions between the returnees and the existent Yahweh worshipers still in Jerusalem.
- Hard to trace Zerubbabel's lineage, son of Pedaiah?, son of Shealtiel? Davidic lineage not mentioned by any of the prophets, therefore he is unlikely to be of the Davidic line of Judah which would rule out both Pedaiah and Shealtiel as his father!
- He is likely a non-Davidic Jewish leader in exile that knew Darius, Haggai and Zechariah in exile and was chosen by them to succeed Shesh-bazzar in Jerusalem as Governor! Darius was weeding out the non-loyal followers of Cambyses!
- Non returning Yahweh worshipers who included Samaritans sought to assist in the rebuilding of the Temple but were rebuffed by the returnees (contentions among the workmen in the Temple at the introduction of 'strangers' among the workmen). The issue was over property rights between those that left and those that stayed and took over!
- After the work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple winds down (not fully completed or fully ornamented), but before it is dedicated in 515 BCE, Zerubbabel simply disappears from history!? Speculation ensues! Killed, died, removed...? Joshua wears the crown as the only "anointed" (messiah) in the community at its dedication!
- And so it goes on with the third wave in 445 BCE until 323 BCE when the Hellenistic period begins and Alexander becomes King in the region!

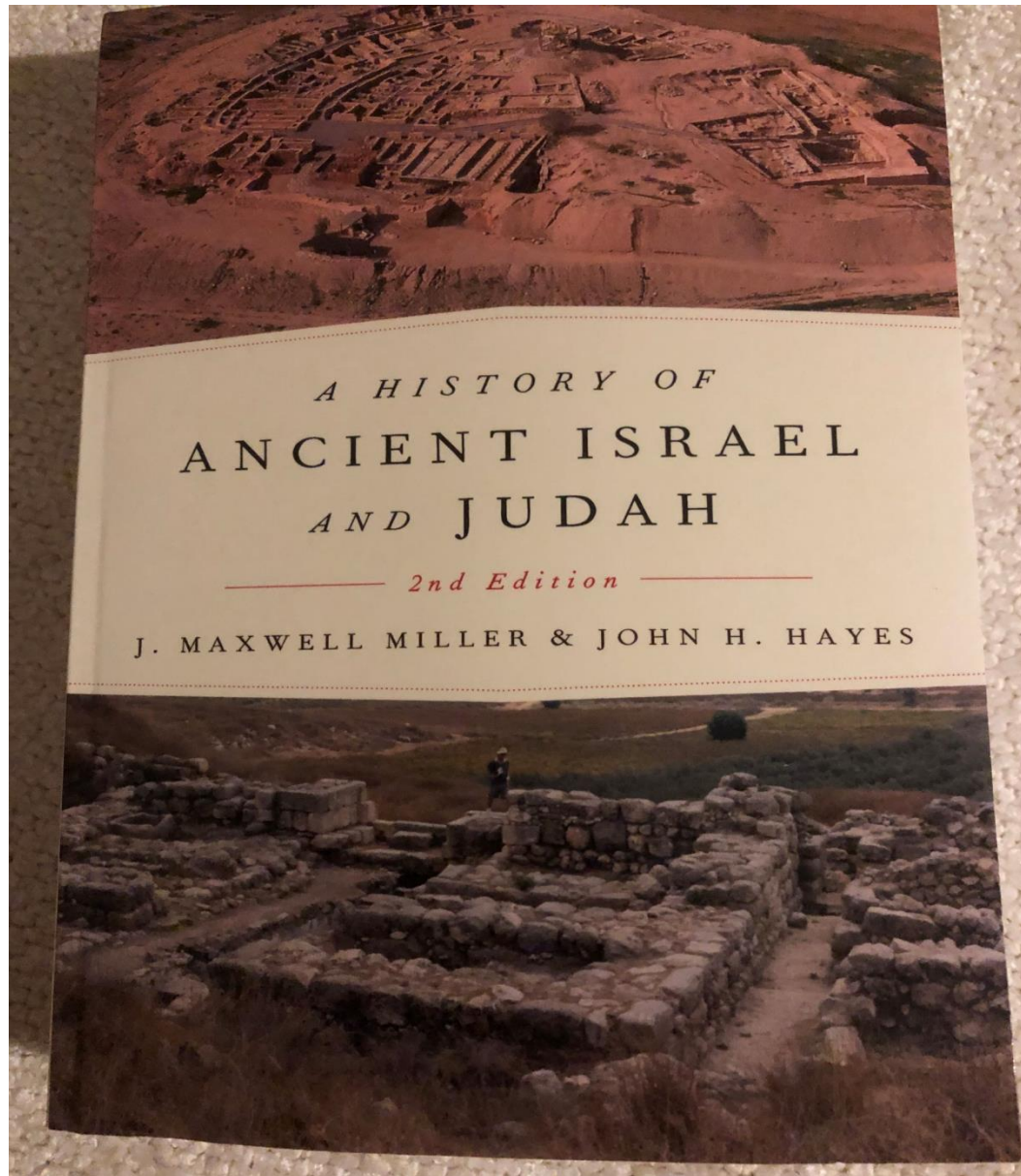
Very Respectfully Submitted – S. Goad, Grand Lecturer Royal Arch Masons of California.



# References - 2



# References -1





# References - 3

