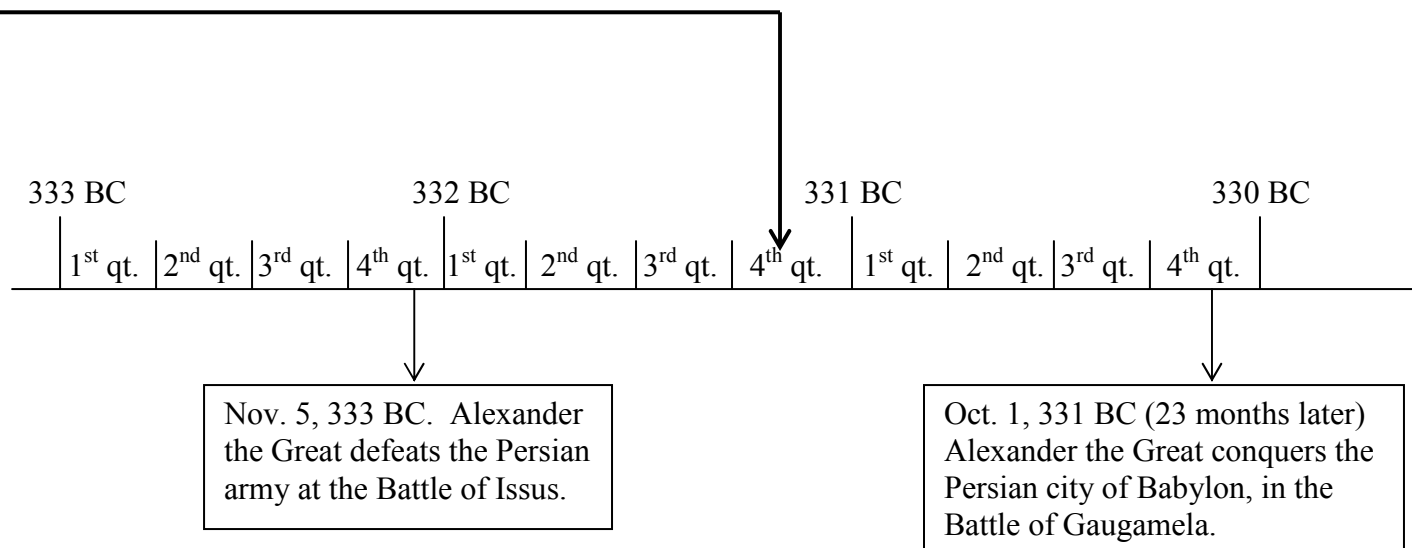


187 years from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 519 ends during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 332.



Based on Jordan’s chronology, the third year of Darius I, who was the “Chief of Rulers” (i.e. Ahasuerus), occurred in 519 BC. During the fourth quarter of that year the Persians concluded their party of 187 days.

In the Bible the number of days of an action sometimes corresponds with the number of years of an era. After spying out the land of Canaan for 40 days, and refusing to enter, God judged the nation with 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Also, Ezekiel spent a *total* of 430 days lying on his side and eating bread made out of seeds (Ez.4). Those days, which started in 593 BC, corresponded to the 430 years beforehand which started back in 1023 BC. This was around the time the temple was built. Most likely this was the same year that David took the unlawful census of the people, and God’s plague stopped at the threshing floor of Araunah. This was significant because that was the location of where Solomon built the temple (IIChr.3:1). The temple location identified with David’s sin, also culminated 430 years of temple sins, which God laid on Ezekiel for 430 days. Whatever the 430 days precisely correspond to, we do know that God said to Ezekiel, “I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days.” (Ez.4:5)

Also, when God gave Daniel a vision of when the Messiah would come, He said it would be over a period of 70 weeks. Literally, God said seventy sevens. The seven days of a week represent seven years. Therefore 70 weeks represents 490 years. Certainly, some of these weeks of years should be literally and figuratively understood. Nevertheless, one day clearly represents a year – whether literally or figuratively.

These examples of days representing years (Numbers 14:33,34; Ez.4:5; Dan.9:24-27) helps to substantiate my theory that the 187 days in Esther 1 (Darius’ 3<sup>rd</sup> year in 519) corresponds to the 187 years remaining for the dominance of the Persian Empire. The Persian Empire fell in stages. Initially, the Persian army was defeated in the Battle of Issus in Nov. of 333 BC. Finally, the Persian capital city of Babylon fell in Oct of 331 BC in the Battle of Gaugamela. These 23 months (almost 2 years) was the era in which the Persian Empire fell. The 187 years since Darius’ 187 day party falls right between these two battles. The fourth quarter of 332 BC is the center point of that era in which Greece conquered Persia.