

Table 5.2 *Neo-Babylonian and Persian Empires*

DATE B.C.E.	EVENTS IN BABYLON OR PERSIA	EVENTS IN JUDAH
625	Nabopolassar of Babylon (626–605)	
600	Nebuchadnezzar creates New Babylonian Empire (605–562)	First captivity of Jerusalem (598/597)
	Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah (587)	Ezekiel prophecies in Babylon
	Amel-Marduk (562–560)	Fall of Jerusalem and deportation of Jews (587)
	Neriglissar (560–556)	
550	Nabonidus (556–539)	Exile
	Cyrus (550–530) captures Babylon (539); founding of Persian Empire	Second Isaiah in Babylon
		Cyrus's edict freeing Jews (538)
		Jewish remnant returns to Judah
		Zerubbabel, governor of Judah
		Haggai and Zechariah
	Cambyses (530–522) extends Persian Empire to include Egypt	
	Darius I (522–486)	Temple rebuilt (520–515)
500		
	Persia invades Greece; defeated at Marathon (490)	Joel
	Xerxes I (486–465); second Persian invasion of Greece (480–479)	Malachi
	Artaxerxes I (465–424)	
450		
425	Xerxes II (423)	
	Darius II (423–404)	Nehemiah comes to Jerusalem (445)
400	Artaxerxes II (404–358)	
		Ezra's reforms; final (?) edition of Torah promulgated
350	Artaxerxes III (358–338)	
	Arses (338–336)	
	Darius III (336–331)	
	Alexander the Great of Macedonia (336–323); conquers Persia, Egypt, Mesopotamia, western India, etc.; begins Hellenistic period	