

# IMPERIAL TRANSITIONS & THE HEBREW FEAST CALENDAR

A study of major empire successions in the Daniel 2 / 7 sequence, mapped against the Hebrew appointed times (Moedim). Covers primary dates, alternate scholarly datings, key events, and alignment with the Hebrew feast calendar.

#	Empire Transition	Primary Date	Alternate / Key Dates	Key Events in the Fall	Hebrew Month	Hebrew Feast / Season	Theological Significance	Scholarly Notes & Debate
<b>BABYLON → MEDO-PERSIA</b>								
1	Primary Fall Date	Oct 12, 539 BC (Nabonidus Chronicle)	Oct 29, 539 BC (alt. calendar conversion) Oct 6–7 (some reckonings)	Cyrus diverts Euphrates; troops enter under city walls. Belshazzar slain at feast (Dan. 5). Nabonidus captured shortly after.	Tishri (7th Month)	<b>Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) Tishri 15–21</b>	Tabernacles celebrates God's provision & protection. Liberation of Jewish exiles echoes the Exodus. Isaiah named Cyrus ~150 yrs prior (Isa. 44:28–45:1).	Nabonidus Chronicle confirms ~Oct 539. Exact Gregorian conversion disputed ±2 wks. Belshazzar's feast (Dan. 5) may itself have been a Babylonian festival that night.
2	Cyrus Enters Babylon	~Oct 29, 539 BC	17 days after initial capture	Cyrus personally enters city. Issues proclamation of religious tolerance. Cyrus Cylinder records restoration of displaced peoples.	Tishri / Cheshvan border	<b>Post-Sukkot / Shemini Atzeret season</b>	Cyrus's decree allowed Jews to return — fulfillment of Jeremiah's 70-year prophecy (Jer. 29:10). Shemini Atzeret = 'eighth day assembly,' new beginning.	Cyrus Cylinder (British Museum) corroborates biblical account. Shemini Atzeret (Tishri 22) associated with completion and new beginning.
<b>MEDO-PERSIA → GREECE (Alexander)</b>								
3	Battle of Gaugamela	Oct 1, 331 BC (decisive battle)	Some sources: Oct 2 Lunar eclipse anchor: Sept 20, 331 BC (11 days before battle)	Darius III decisively defeated. Persian imperial power broken. Alexander pursues Darius, who flees eastward into Persia.	Tishri (7th Month)	<b>Hoshana Rabbah (Tishri 21) 'The Great Salvation'</b>	Hoshana Rabbah = final sealing of divine judgment on nations. Last day when 'verdicts for nations' are sealed. Water-pouring ceremony symbolizes God's sovereignty over kingdoms.	Date anchored by Babylonian Astronomical Diary lunar eclipse (Sept 20, 331 BC). Arrian & Plutarch confirm battle ~11 days later. Dan. 8 predicted ram (Persia) vs. goat (Greece) explicitly.
4	Persepolis Burned	Jan–Spring 330 BC	Spring 330 BC (some sources) Winter 330 BC (others)	Alexander burns Persian ceremonial capital. Darius III assassinated by Bessus. Achaemenid Empire officially ends.	Tevet / Shevat (10th–11th Month)	<b>No major feast (winter months)</b>	Symbolic end of Persian power. The burning of Persepolis may mirror the destruction of Jerusalem — an act of imperial judgment reversed.	Some historians say burning was deliberate revenge for Xerxes' burning of Athens (480 BC). Not aligned with feast calendar.
5	Death of Alexander	June 10/11, 323 BC	June 323 BC (well-established)	Alexander dies in Babylon at age 32. Empire immediately fractures among Diadochi (successors). Dan. 8:8 — 'the large horn was broken.'	Sivan (3rd Month)	<b>Post-Shavuot (Pentecost = Sivan 6, just days before)</b>	Falls just days after Shavuot — feast of firstfruits and covenant renewal. Dan. 8:8: 'at the height of his power, the large horn was broken off.' Empire split into 4 as predicted.	Death within days of Shavuot is noteworthy. Shavuot commemorates giving of Torah — covenant of national accountability. Alexander's empire split into exactly 4 as Daniel foretold.
<b>GREECE (Macedon) → ROME</b>								
6	Battle of Pydna	June 22, 168 BC (decisive Macedonian defeat)	June 22 confirmed by lunar eclipse record (precisely anchored)	Rome crushes Macedonia. Perseus, last Macedonian king, captured. Macedonian monarchy abolished. 150,000 Epirotes enslaved.	Tammuz (4th Month)	<b>17th of Tammuz (fast day — walls of Jerusalem breached)</b>	17 Tammuz is a major Jewish fast commemorating the breach of Jerusalem's walls. Associated with national catastrophe and divine judgment on empires.	Lunar eclipse of June 21, 168 BC anchors date precisely (Livy). 168 BC is also the year Antiochus IV begins Temple desecration — extraordinary convergence of Hebrew significance.
7	Destruction of Corinth	Oct 4, 146 BC (Grokopedia / detailed sources)	Summer 146 BC (EBSCO) Spring siege began 146 BC Some: late Sept 146 BC	Lucius Mummius destroys Corinth. Men killed, women and children enslaved. Same year Carthage destroyed. Greece becomes Roman province.	Tishri (7th Month) if Oct 4 holds	<b>Yom Kippur (Tishri 10) or Sukkot (Tishri 15–21) — if Oct 4 date confirmed</b>	If Oct 4 date holds: falls at Yom Kippur / Sukkot — feast of divine judgment and atonement. Polybius (eyewitness) records the sack.	Primary date disputed: EBSCO says 'summer,' Grokopedia gives Oct 4. Oct 4 date needs further verification. If summer, feast alignment is weaker.
<b>WESTERN ROME → GERMANIC KINGDOMS</b>								
8	Deposition of Romulus Augustulus	Sept 4, 476 AD (precise, well-established)	Aug 28: Odoacer defeats Orestes at Ticinum Sept 4: official abdication 480 AD: Julius Nepos murdered (alt. 'last emperor')	Odoacer deposes teenage Romulus Augustulus. Western imperial regalia sent to Constantinople. Odoacer becomes first King of Italy. Western Roman Empire ceases.	Elul (6th Month) ~Elul 20–25	<b>No feast — but Elul is the 40-day season of repentance &amp; preparation, 10–15 days before Rosh Hashanah</b>	Elul = 'The King is in the field' — month of divine searching before High Holy Days. Shofar blown daily. Falls on the immediate eve of the Feast of Trumpets / Judgment.	Sept 4, 476 is one of history's most precisely dated events. The last emperor bore both founding names: Romulus (first king) + Augustus (first emperor). Edward Gibbon used this date as the fall.
9	Sack of Rome — Visigoths	Aug 24–27, 410 AD	Aug 24, 410 (traditional) Alaric enters Aug 24 Sack lasts 3 days	First sack of Rome in 800 years. Alaric and Visigoths loot city. Massive psychological blow to Roman world. Augustine writes City of God in response.	Av / Elul border (5th–6th Month)	<b>Tisha B'Av (9th of Av) Most mournful fast day — if Aug 24 = 9 Av</b>	Tisha B'Av historically accumulates major destructions: both Temples, expulsion from Spain (1492), and more. If Aug 24 = 9 Av in 410, this convergence is extraordinary.	If Aug 24 = ~9 Av in 410 AD, alignment is powerful. Needs precise Hebrew calendar verification for that year. Tisha B'Av is the quintessential day of imperial/national catastrophe.
10	Sack of Rome — Vandals	June 2–16, 455 AD	June 2: Genseric enters Rome Sack lasts 14 days Empress & daughters taken	Vandals sack Rome for 14 days — more thorough than 410. Pope Leo I negotiates to spare burning. Imperial women taken captive to Carthage.	Sivan (3rd Month)	<b>Near / post-Shavuot (Pentecost ~Sivan 6)</b>	Shavuot = covenant feast. A second major Roman sack near Shavuot suggests a pattern of covenant judgment surrounding Rome's fall.	Genseric's motivation was partly dynastic (marriage dispute). The two sackings (410 and 455) bookend Rome's final decline before the official fall in 476.

## SUMMARY: FEAST ALIGNMENT ACROSS ALL TRANSITIONS

Each major imperial transition in the Daniel sequence examined for its relationship to the Hebrew appointed times (Moedim). Alignment strength reflects quality of date anchoring and proximity to feast dates.

Empire Transition	Primary Date	Hebrew Month	Feast / Season	Feast Theme	Alignment Strength	Daniel Reference	Notes
<b>Babylon → Persia (539 BC)</b>	Oct 12, 539 BC	Tishri (7th)	Sukkot — Feast of Tabernacles Tishri 15–21	Divine provision, protection, liberation	■ Strong (anchored by Nabonidus Chronicle)	Dan. 2:32 Dan. 5:30–31 Dan. 7:4	Isaiah named Cyrus by name ~150 years prior. Jewish exiles freed shortly after.
<b>Persia → Greece (331 BC)</b>	Oct 1, 331 BC (Gaugamela)	Tishri (7th)	Hoshana Rabbah Tishri 21 'The Great Salvation'	Final sealing of judgment on nations	■ Strong (lunar eclipse anchor Sept 20, 331 BC)	Dan. 2:32 Dan. 8:5–8 Dan. 7:6	Dan. 8 explicitly names Persia (ram) and Greece (goat). Battle anchored by Babylonian Astronomical Diary.
<b>Greece → Rome Battle of Pydna (168 BC)</b>	June 22, 168 BC	Tammuz (4th)	17th of Tammuz (fast day) Walls of Jerusalem breached	National catastrophe, divine judgment on empires	■ Strong (lunar eclipse anchor June 21, 168 BC)	Dan. 2:33 Dan. 7:7	168 BC also = Antiochus IV begins Temple desecration. Extraordinary convergence. Date anchored by Livy.
<b>Greece → Rome Corinth destroyed (146 BC)</b>	Oct 4, 146 BC (per Grokipedia)	Tishri (7th) — if Oct 4 holds	Yom Kippur / Sukkot Tishri 10–21	Atonement, judgment, covering	■■ Disputed (EBSCO says 'summer'; Oct 4 needs verification)	Dan. 2:33 Dan. 7:7	Same year as destruction of Carthage. If summer date, feast alignment is weaker.
<b>Rome — Visigoth Sack (410 AD)</b>	Aug 24, 410 AD	Av (5th)	Tisha B'Av (9th of Av) — if Aug 24 = 9 Av	Day of accumulated national catastrophe	■■ Needs Hebrew calendar verification for 410 AD	Dan. 2:33 Dan. 7:7	First sack of Rome in 800 years. Tisha B'Av historically accumulates major destructions. Needs exact conversion.
<b>Rome — Vandal Sack (455 AD)</b>	June 2, 455 AD	Sivan (3rd)	Post-Shavuot (Pentecost ~Sivan 6)	Covenant renewal; accountability of nations	■■ Approximate alignment	Dan. 2:33 Dan. 7:7	14-day sack. Pope Leo I negotiates against burning. Second major sack bookending Rome's fall.
<b>Rome Falls — Official End (476 AD)</b>	Sept 4, 476 AD (Romulus Augustulus deposed)	Elul (6th)	Elul — 40-day season of repentance 10–15 days before Rosh Hashanah	Eve of divine judgment; 'The King is in the field'	■ Strong (precisely dated; Elul shofar season)	Dan. 2:33 Dan. 7:7	Last emperor bore both founding names: Romulus + Augustus. Gibbon's traditional date. Shofar blown daily in Elul.

**Notes on methodology:** Hebrew calendar conversions for ancient dates are approximate, based on scholarly reconstructions. Exact feast alignments depend on precision of Gregorian/Julian-to-Hebrew calendar conversion for each specific year. The pattern spans ~1,000 years (539 BC – 476 AD). Primary sources: Nabonidus Chronicle, Babylonian Astronomical Diaries, Livy, Polybius, Arrian, Plutarch, and the Hebrew scriptures. Dates marked ■■ require additional calendar verification.