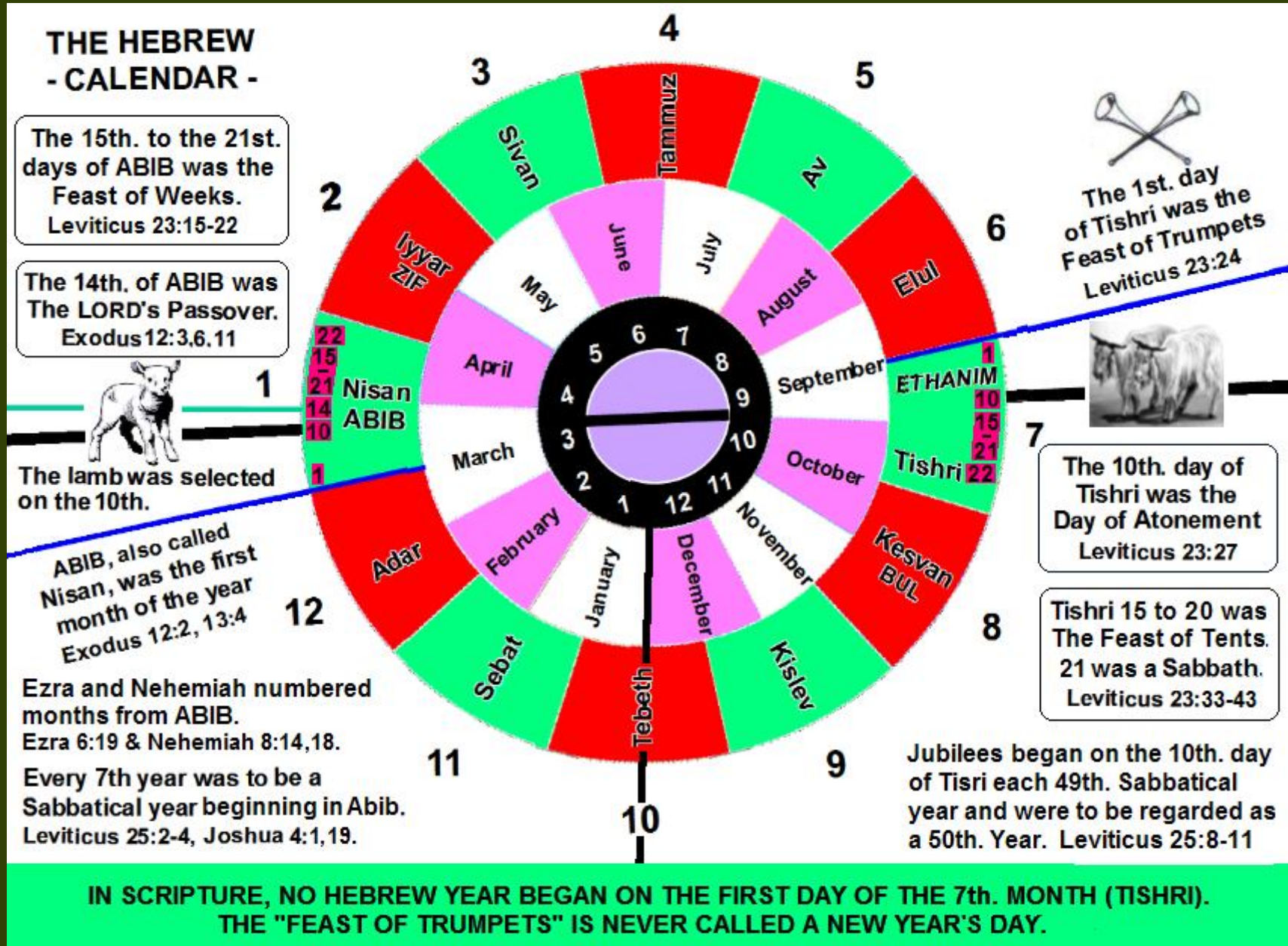


**DATING ARTAXERXES' REGNAL YEAR**

- Artabanus the usurper - Establishing the year Artaxerxes began to reign -

**THE HEBREW YEAR ALWAYS BEGAN IN \*ABIB/NISAN. THE MONTHS WERE ALWAYS NUMBERED FROM ABIB/NISAN**

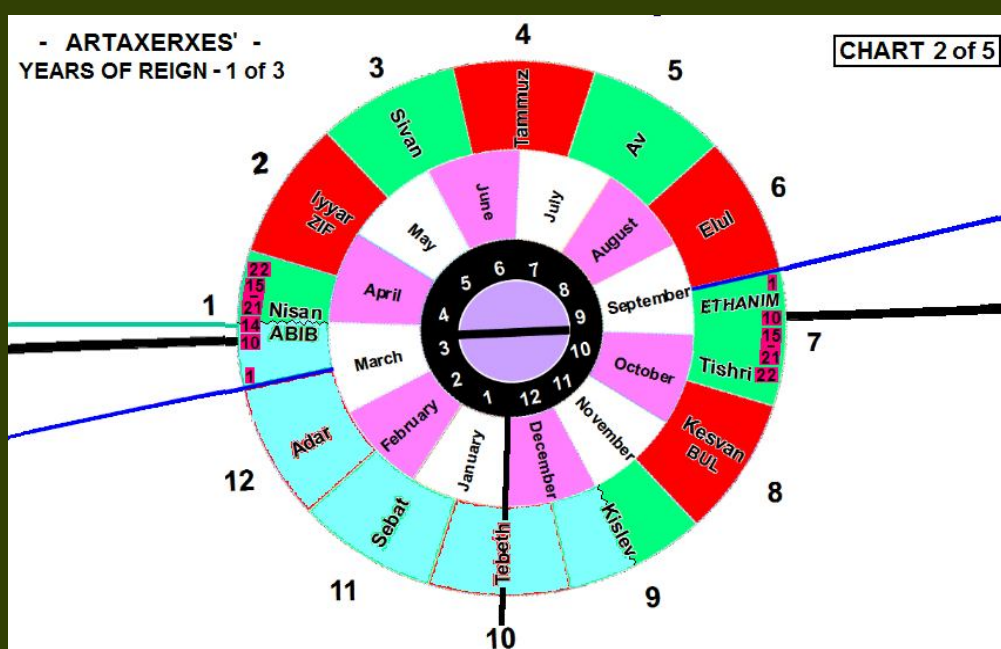
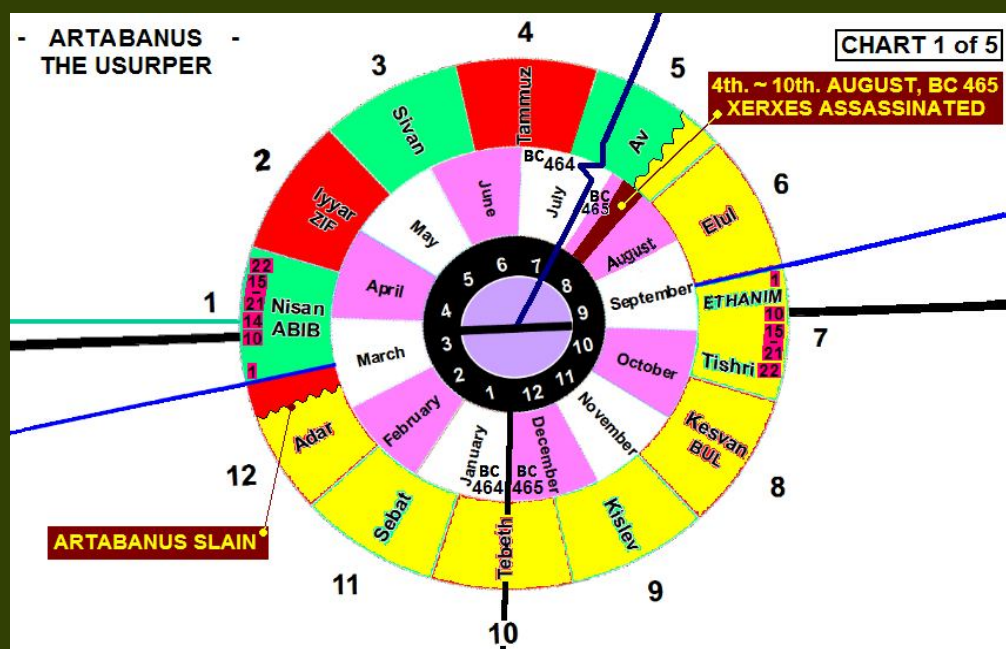
Exodus 12:2, 13:4, Numbers 28:16, Ezekiel 45:21 [\*THERE ARE VARIOUS NAMES FOR MONTHS]



**NOTE:** SABBATICAL YEARS BEGAN IN THE FIRST MONTH. JUBILEE YEAR STARTED ON THE 10th. DAY OF THE 7th MONTH.

**CHART 1**

WHY DID CROWN PRINCE DARIUS NOT ASCEND THE PERSIAN THRONE WHEN HIS FATHER - XERXES - DIED. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED: THE CHIEF OF THE PALACE GUARD - ARTABANUS - WANTED TO DEPOSE THE ARCHAEMENID DYNASTY AND TAKE OVER THE PERSIAN EMPIRE. BETWEEN THE 4th. AND 10th. OF AUGUST BC 465, IN COLLUSION WITH GENERAL MEGABYZUS, ARTABANUS ASSASSINATED KING XERXES. HE ACCUSED CROWN PRINCE DARIUS OF THE CRIME, HAD HIM EXECUTED FOR PATRICIDE AND RULED THE STATE FOR 7 MONTHS. LEARNING ARTABANUS INTENDED TO KILL ARTAXERXES, THE NEXT SON IN LINE FOR THE THRONE, MEGABYZUS BETRAYED HIM TO ARTAXERXES WHO SLEW ARTABANUS AND HIS SONS IN A FIGHT AND RESTORED THE ARCHAEMENID DYNASTY [eb.com Artabanus]. THAT IS HOW ARTAXERXES CAME TO ASCEND THE THRONE IN BC 464 AND WHY IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH IN BC 465.



**BUT IN WHICH MONTH OF THE YEAR DID ARTAXERXES ACCEDE TO THE THRONE?**

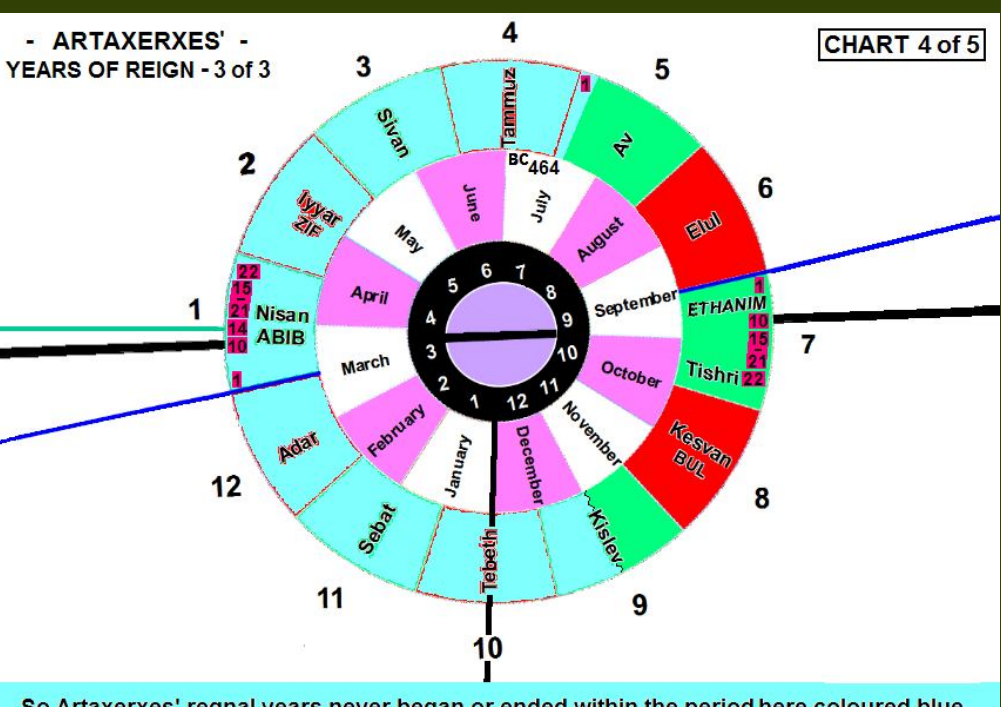
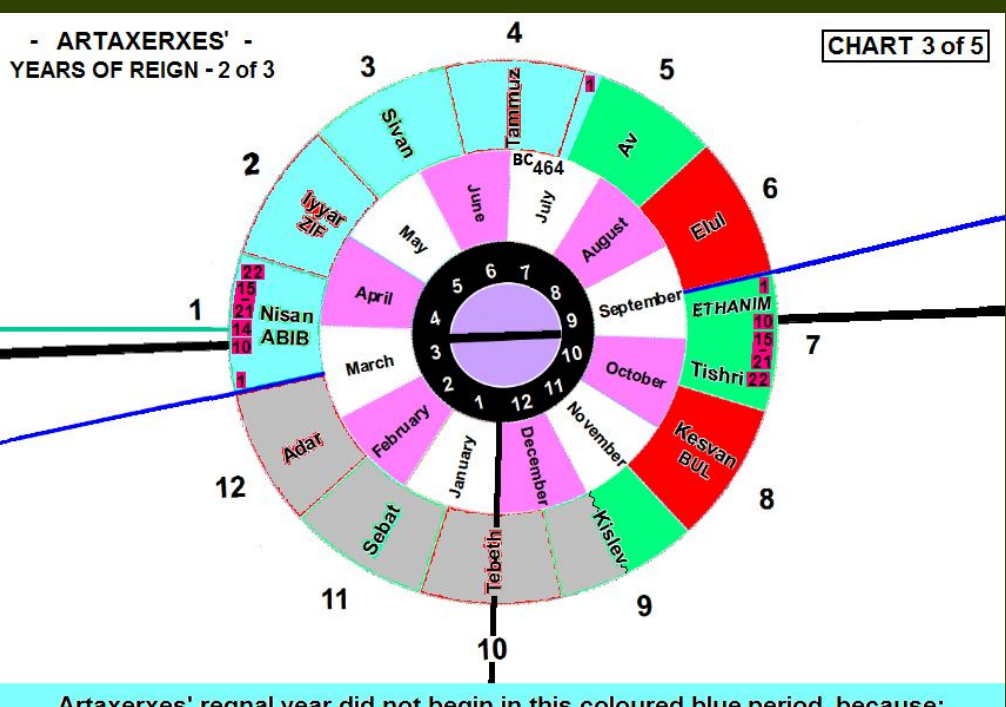
WITHOUT RELIABLE PALEOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE WE CANNOT DETERMINE THE DAY OF REGNAL ANNIVERSARIES FROM SECULAR HISTORY. HOWEVER, SCRIPTURE ENABLES US TO DECIDE WHEN ARTAXERXES' REGNAL YEARS COULD NOT HAVE STARTED.

**CHART 2**

IN NEHEMIAH 1:1 and 2:1 THE 9th. MONTH (CHISLEU/KISLEV\*) IS FOLLOWED BY THE 1st. MONTH (NISAN) IN THE SAME REGNAL YEAR. SO THERE WERE NO REGNAL NEW YEARS' DAYS IN THAT PERIOD. [\*THERE ARE ALSO VARIOUS SPELLINGS OF MONTHS]

**CHART 3**

IN EZRA 7:1, 6-9 THE 1st. DAY OF THE 1st. MONTH AND THE 1st. DAY OF THE 5th. MONTH ARE IN THE SAME REGNAL YEAR.



**CHART 4**

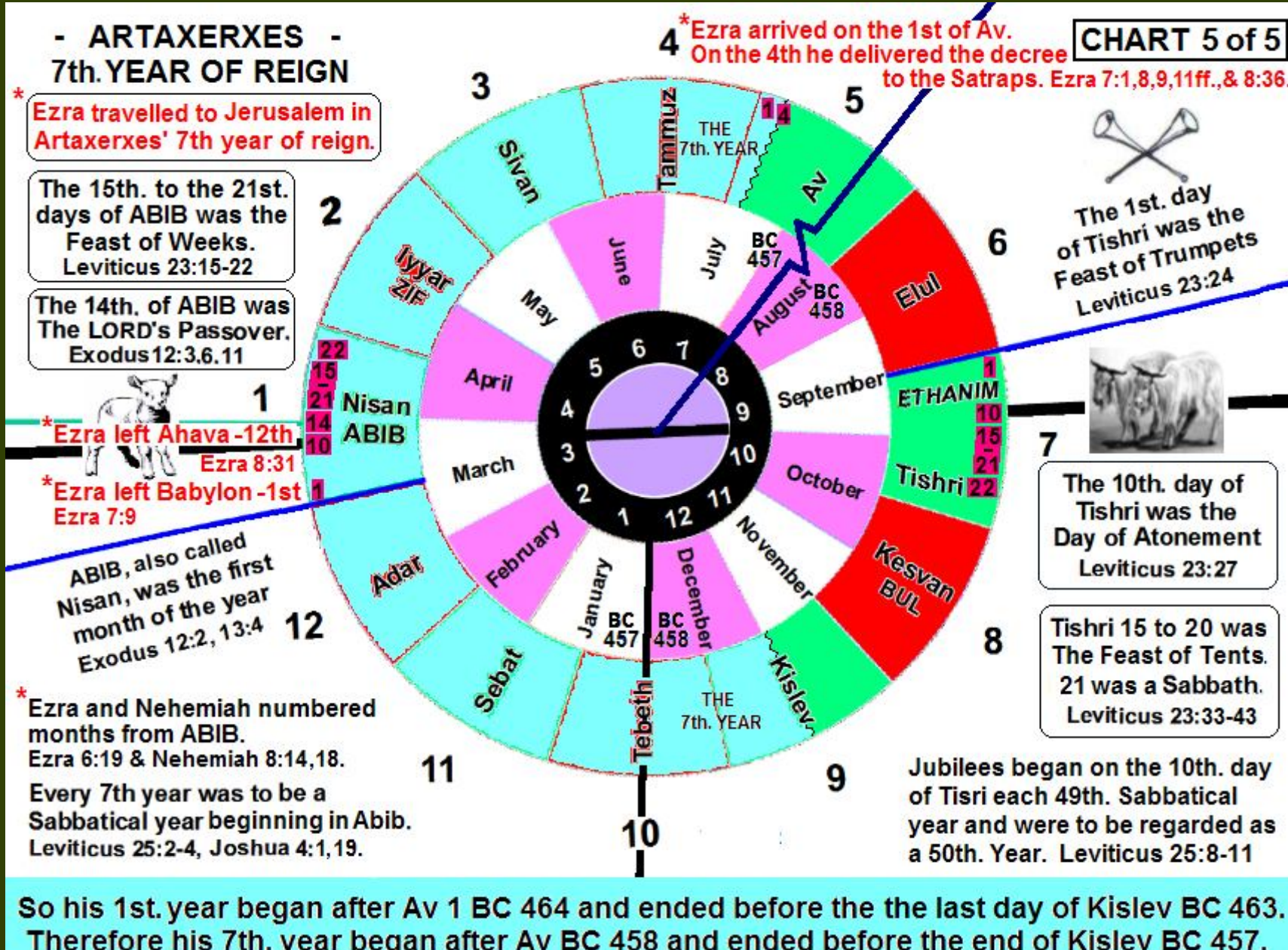
FROM CHART 2 WE LEARN THERE WERE NO REGNAL NEW YEARS' DAYS FROM THE LATTER DAYS OF MONTH 9 TO THE 1st. DAY OF MONTH 1. FROM CHART 3 WE LEARN THERE WERE NO REGNAL NEW YEARS' DAYS FROM THE 1st. DAY OF MONTH 1 TO THE 1st. DAY OF MONTH 5.

PUTTING BOTH FINDINGS TOGETHER IT FOLLOWS THAT: THERE WERE NO REGNAL NEW YEARS' DAYS FROM THE LATTER DAYS OF MONTH 9 (KISLEV) TO THE 1st. DAY OF MONTH 5 (AV).

NEHEMIAH AS WELL AS EZRA RECOGNISED THE NUMBERING MONTHS BEGAN WITH ABIB/NISAN. NEHEMIAH THE GOVERNOR AND EZRA THE PRIEST, BOTH GREW UP IN BABYLONIA AND WORKED TOGETHER IN JERUSALEM. Nehemiah 8:9,12:26 NEHEMIAH 8:14 STATES THAT "THE FEAST OF TENTS (BOOTHES)" WAS OBSERVED IN THE "7th. MONTH." THIS WAS THE MONTH TISHRI/ETHANIM. IT FOLLOWS THAT THEY BOTH RECKED BY THE SAME SYSTEM OF NUMBERING MONTHS, BEGINNING WITH NISAN AS THE FIRST MONTH.

**CHART 5**

IN THE 7th. YEAR OF ARTAXERXES, EZRA ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM ON THE 1st. DAY OF THE 5th. MONTH. HE PRODUCED ARTAXERXES' DECREE, AUTHORISING THE RESTORATION OF THE CITY, TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE PERSIAN OFFICIALS AND GOVERNORS. Daniel 9:25, Ezra 8:36.



**CONCLUSION**

THE BEGINNING AND END OF ARTAXERXES OF REIGN WERE BETWEEN THE 1st. OF THE 5th. MONTH AND THE END OF THE 9th. MONTH.

SO THE BEGINNINGS AND ENDS OF EVERYONE OF DANIEL'S 70x7 YEARS WERE NECESSARILY BETWEEN THE 1st. OF THE 5th. MONTH AND THE END OF THE 9th MONTH.

IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO PROVE FROM SECULAR HISTORY THAT THEY COINCIDED WITH THE FESTIVITIES IN THE 7th. MONTH (TISHRI).

MAYBE RELIABLE PALEOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE WILL COME TO LIGHT THAT WILL ADD FURTHER CLARIFICATION.

HOWEVER THE VERIFIABLE COINCIDENCES OF THE PREDICTED 70X7s ARE SO ASTOUNDING THEY HAVE TO BE OF DIVINE ORIGIN.