



Putting things in PERSPECTIVE

Megillas Esther tells of how King Achashveirosh made a party in the third year of his reign and the gemara, in Masechta Megillah, explains that this party was to celebrate Achashveirosh's erroneous belief that the 70 years of exile that Hashem had decreed on His people had lapsed without our being redeemed and that Hashem had, *chas v'shalom*, abandoned us. Achashveirosh wasn't the first to come to this conclusion and to make a celebration; Balshatzar, a previous ruler, had done the same thing. Let's take a closer look at the miscalculations by Balshatzar and Achashveirosh, as well as the correct calculation of the 70 year period of exile. **BY ROBERT SUSSMAN**



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The numbering 0 to 89 refers to the counting of the years from the beginning of Malchus Bavel, the Kingdom of Babylonia, which began with the reign of Nevuchadnetzar (numbers in brackets refer to years in the Hebrew Calendar).

Based on Megillah 11b (with Rashi), The Jewish Timeline Encyclopedia, Charts For Learning The Daily Daf by Kollel Iyun Hadaf, and Seder HaDoros Footnotes and * on pg 44