



COMING UP... OCT 27: Haggai NOV 3: Zechariah NOV 10: Esther NOV 17: Nehemiah NOV 24: Malachi CLASS ENDS

EZRA SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: "Rebuild"

THE TIMES ...

Due to covenant disobedience the Lord had scraped Judah and Jerusalem off the map and exiled them to Babylon (605-586 BC)

But they never lost their treasured place in His heart ... in spite of their disobedience

So per His word to Jeremiah (25:11-12), after 70 years, the Lord stirs Cyrus' heart to give the exiles permission to return home in 538 BC

THE EXILES LEAVE BABYLON (see "The Three Returns From Exile" chart below)

THE BASICS ...

Who: Ezra ("help") **When:** postexilic (535-456 BC) **Where:** to the 2nd wave of returning exiles

Why: "... by detailing the lives and labors of the men whose names it bears it provides direction to that community as to how to avoid the covenant violations that had issued in the terrible judgment of the Lord on their fathers in the first place." –Eugene Merrill

LESSON THEME: Avoiding the quagmire of compromise

The First Wave Under Zerubbabel

Cyrus issues an edict in 538 BC (1:1-4)

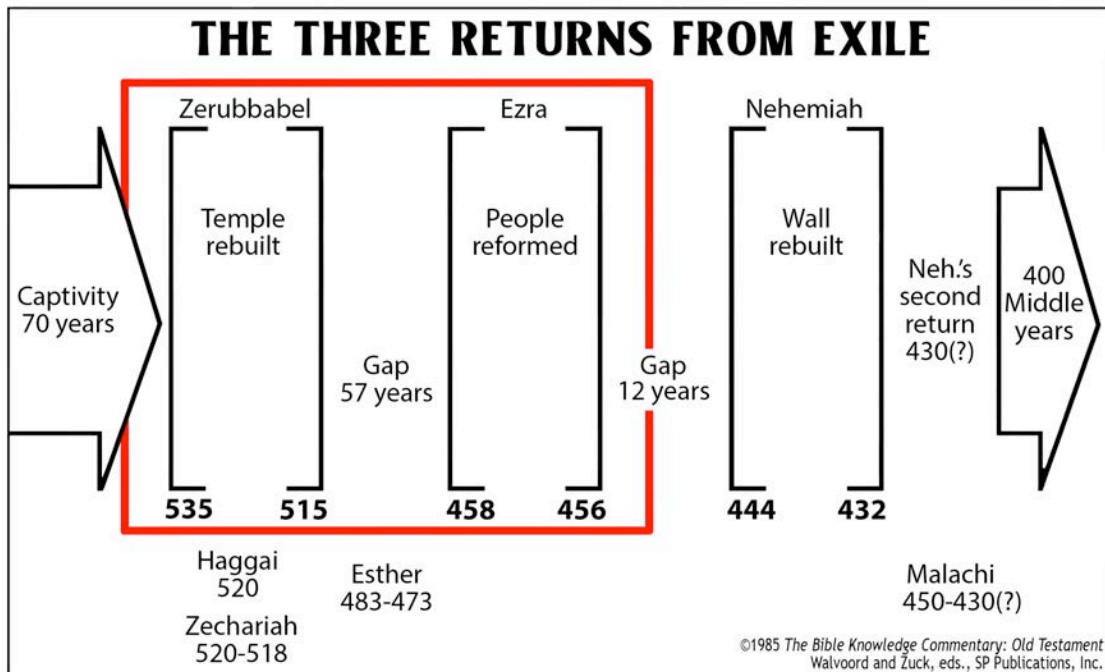
Sheshbazzar of Judah is appointed to lead the exiles back to Israel (1:5-11)

The returning exiles are numbered and listed (2)

Joyful worship is restored in Israel (3)

Opposition to God's work comes (4)

The Temple is finally rebuilt (5–6)



The Second Wave Under Ezra

77 years after the first wave left for Israel, the second wave under Ezra leaves Babylon (7–8)

He finds on arriving that the first wave has already begun to live like their neighbors ... again!

So Ezra calls them back to holiness (9-10)

Confession

Repentance and purification

Summary

The faith of the first wave of returning exiles received God's notice and honorable mention

Their faith was tested as they did His work ... then because of discouragement they stopped working altogether ... but the Word of God finally compelled them on

➤ Though they started well, their faith drifted and they had to be rescued from the quagmire of compromise by Ezra and the Prophets

APPLICATION: Avoiding the quagmire of compromise

Avoiding The Quagmire

Of comfort: Where do you need to leave behind what's comfortable in order to follow God into the "unknown" in faith? (Ezra 2)

Of opposition: Where do you just need to get back to work, obeying God in spite of the opposition you seem to be facing right now?

Do you need to recommit tonight to Whose voice will have the final say in your life?

Of compromise: After beginning well with Him have you now drifted "off course?"

Do you need to make a renewed commitment tonight to keep God's standards? (Ps 119:9)

Do you need to manage your mind and minimize the opportunities for temptation? (Jas 1:14-15)

Are you receptive to loving correction from brothers/sisters? (Jas 5:19-20)

Will you make appropriate adjustments as a result?

With Overcoming Faith

Chapter 1

Is sensitive and responsive to the Spirit's work

Lives by promises, not by explanations

Chapter 2

Gives up whatever is necessary in order to be numbered among those who're pursuing God rather than being numbered among the comfortable

Chapter 3

Sacrificially contributes to and gets involved in the work of God

Worships God for what He's doing today rather than looking back and comparing to yesterday

Chapter 4-6

Remains at work by God's grace instead of becoming discouraged and quitting when opposition arises

Chapter 7-8

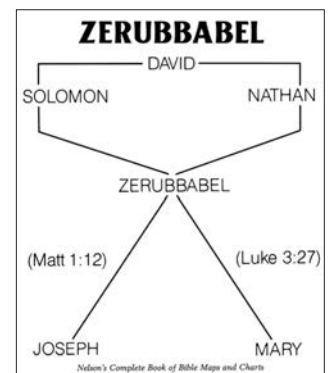
Can't be sustained apart from the Word of God and prayer

Chapter 9

When exposed by the truth of the Word, mourns over sin that was formerly tolerated

Chapter 10

Repents and takes appropriate, measured action against that formerly tolerated sin



EZRA

Temple Is Rebuilt		People Are Rebuilt	
reconstruction		repentance	
First return of 49,897 to Jerusalem	Reconstruction of the temple	Second return of 1,754 to Jerusalem	Repentance of the people
1:1 2:70	3:1 6:22	7:1 8:36	9:1 10:44

© 2017 Dr. John W. Egnor

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

©2024 by Dr. John W. Egnor unless otherwise indicated. All rights reserved.

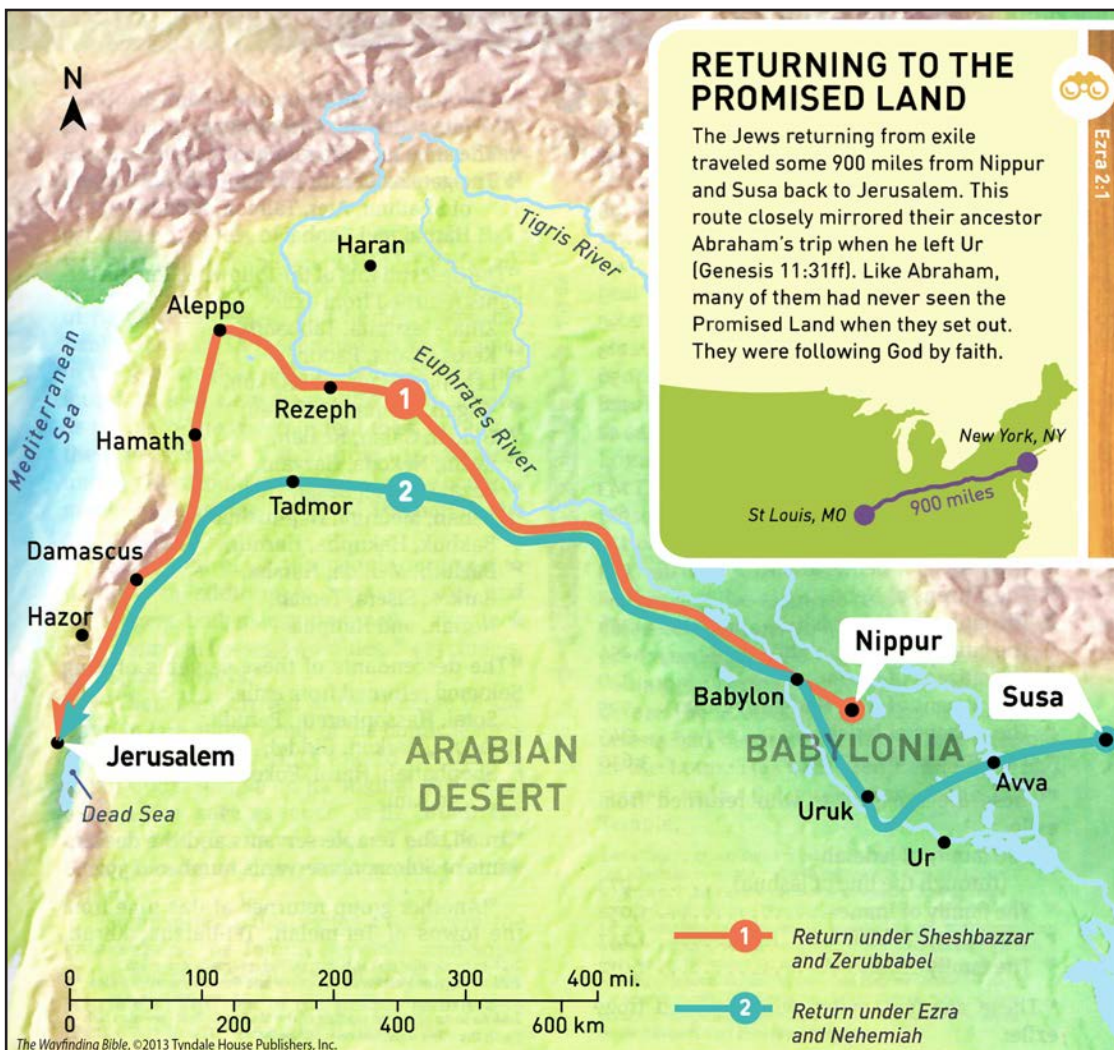
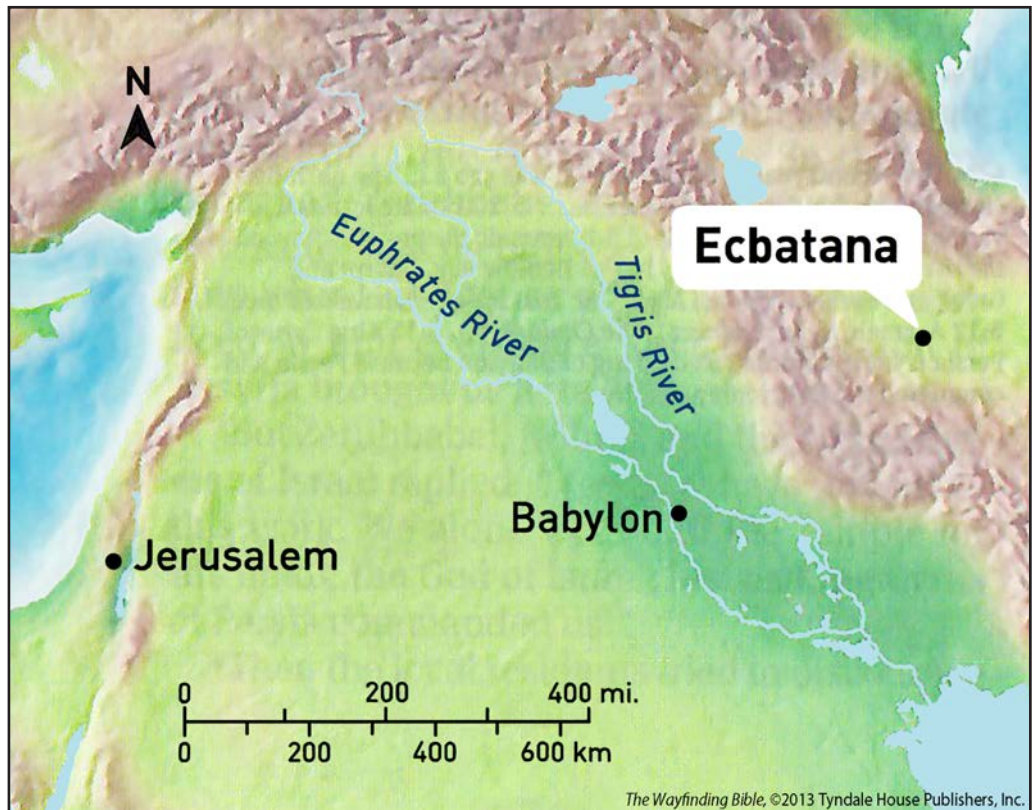
CONTACT: BillE@christchapelbc.org ADMIN: LaurieE@christchapelbc.org

YOUTUBE VIDEOS + HANDOUTS www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjfAlhYpqc2XYXZJXiwut_8g7P3qhF

PODCAST: <https://feeds.transistor.fm/old-testament-survey>

EZRA 6:1-5

Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in Babylonia, in the house of the archives where the documents were stored. And in **Ecbatana**, the citadel that is in the province of Media, a scroll was found on which this was written: "A record. In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king issued a decree: Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be rebuilt, the place where sacrifices were offered, and let its foundations be retained. Its height shall be sixty cubits and its breadth sixty cubits, with three layers of great stones and one layer of timber. Let the cost be paid from the royal treasury. And also let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that is in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and brought back to the temple that is in Jerusalem, each to its place. You shall put them in the house of God."



RETURNING TO THE PROMISED LAND

The Jews returning from exile traveled some 900 miles from Nippur and Susa back to Jerusalem. This route closely mirrored their ancestor Abraham's trip when he left Ur (Genesis 11:31ff). Like Abraham, many of them had never seen the Promised Land when they set out. They were following God by faith.

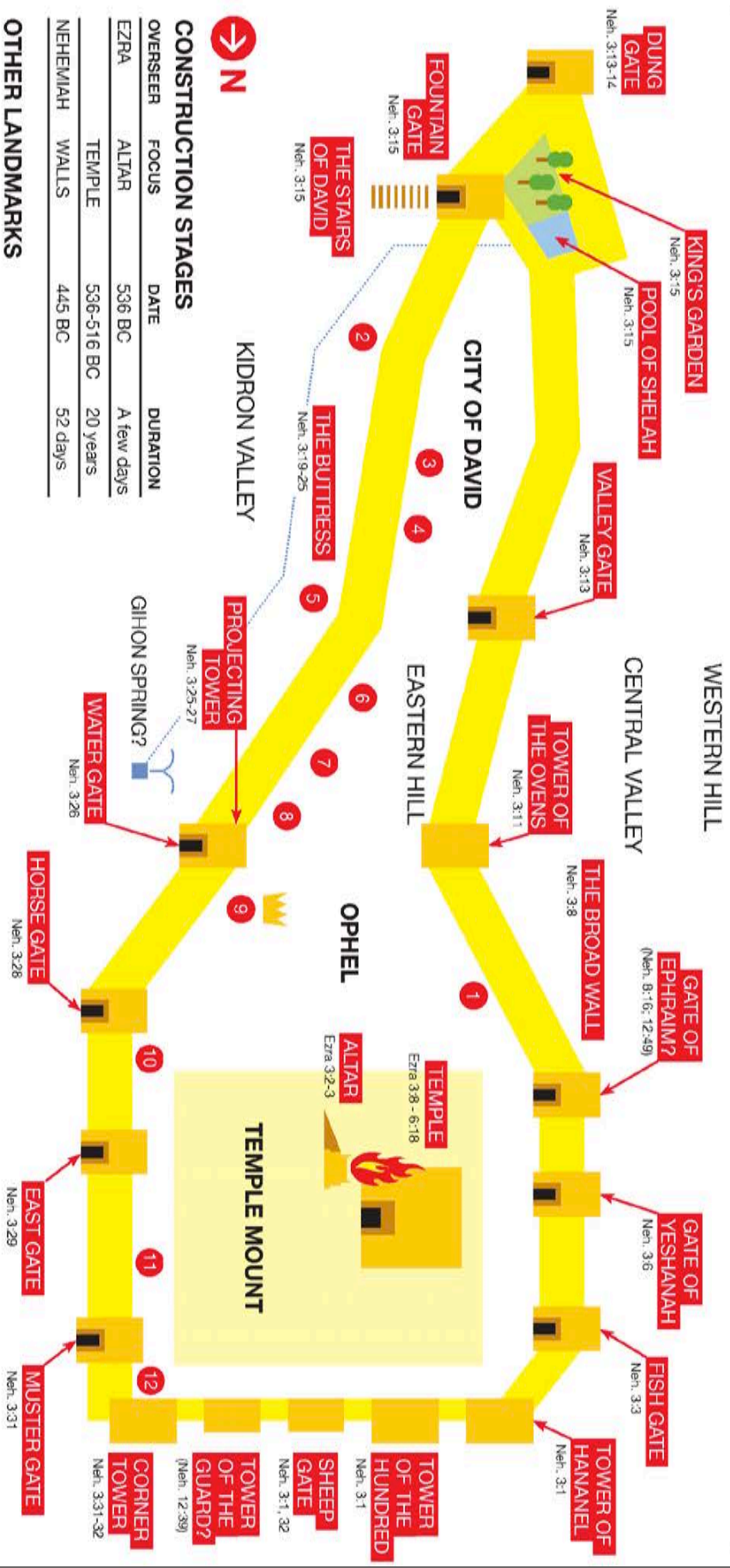


EZRA 1

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem. And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beasts, besides freewill offerings for the house of God that is in Jerusalem." ... All these did Sheshbazzar bring up, when the exiles were brought up from Babylonia to Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM REBUILT UNDER EZRA & NEHEMIAH

© Mark Barry 2015 | visualunltime



CONSTRUCTION STAGES

OVERSEER	FOCUS	DATE	DURATION
EZRA	ALTAR	536 BC	A few days
	TEMPLE	536-516 BC	20 years
NEHEMIAH	WALLS	445 BC	52 days

OTHER LANDMARKS

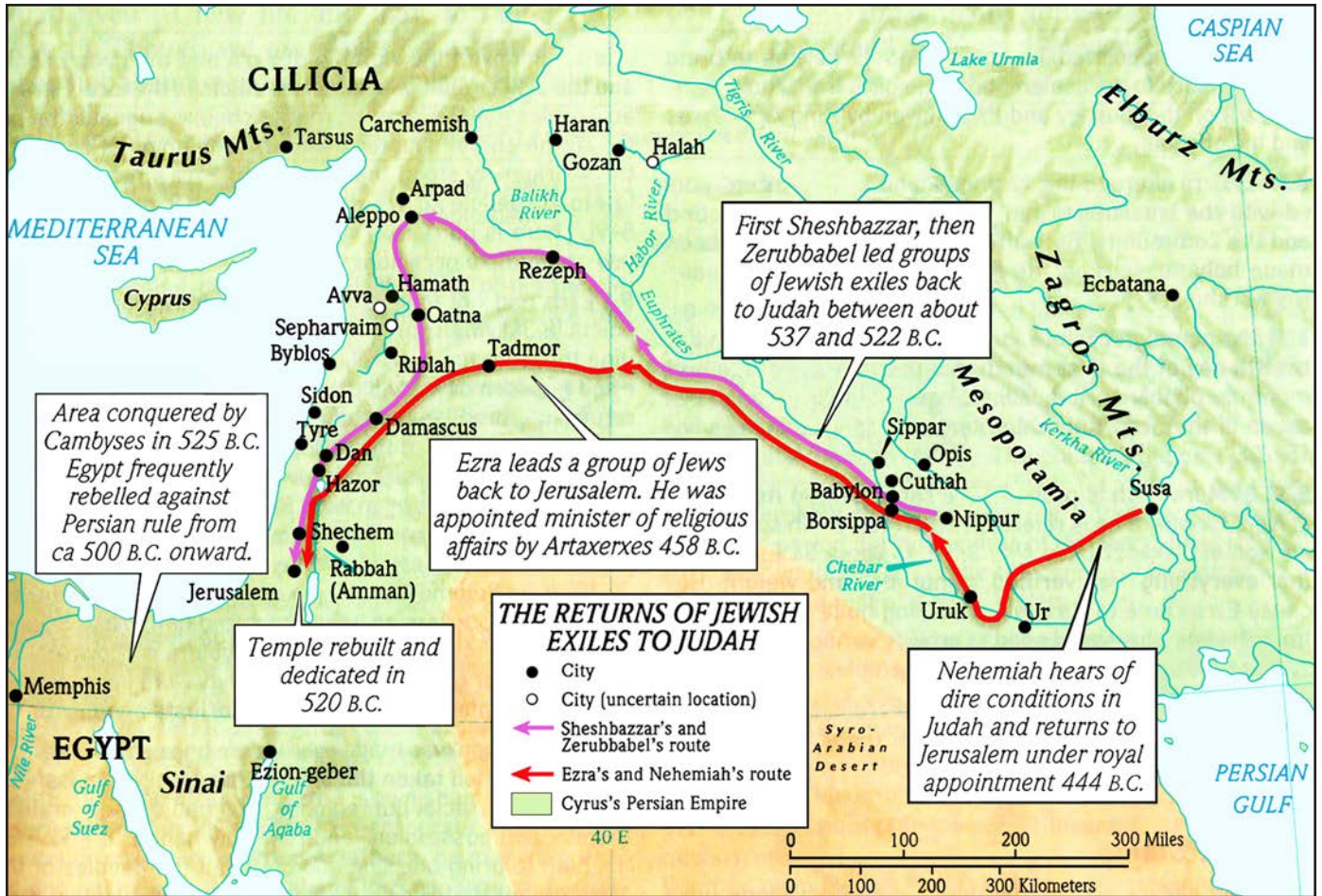
- 1 HOUSE OF JEDAJIAH (Neh. 3:10)
- 2 TOMBS OF DAVID (Neh. 3:16)
- 3 ARTIFICIAL POOL (Neh. 3:16)
- 4 HOUSE OF MIGHTY MEN (Neh. 3:15)
- 5 ASCENT TO THE ARMORY (Neh. 3:19)
- 6 HOUSE OF ELIASHIB (Neh. 3:20-21)
- 7 HOUSES OF BENJAMIN & HASSHUB (Neh. 3:22)
- 8 HOUSE OF AZAZIAH (Neh. 3:22)
- 9 HOUSE OF THE KING (AT THE COURTYARD OF THE GUARD) (Neh. 3:25)
- 10 HOUSE OF THE PRIESTS (Neh. 3:28)
- 11 MECHULLAM'S QUARTERS (Neh. 3:30)
- 12 HOUSE OF TEMPLE SERVANTS (Neh. 3:31)

Chronology of the return

- 605-536 B.C. General period of captivity
- 605, 597, Leading Judean citizens deported, including Daniel and Ezekiel
- 586 B.C. Edict of Cyrus permitting the return
- 538 B.C. Return of 49,897 from Babylon to Jerusalem
- 536 B.C. Altar rebuilt, sacrifice offered in seventh month
- 535 B.C. Temple rebuilding begun, but stopped
- 535-520 B.C. Economic and political struggle
- 520 B.C. Ministry of Haggai
- 520-515 B.C. Ministry of Zechariah
- 515 B.C. Temple completed
- 458 B.C. Return of Ezra
- 445 B.C. Nehemiah rebuilds the walls

World events during the return

- ca. 563-ca. 483 Buddha (in India)
- 551-478 B.C. Confucius (in China)
- 549 B.C. Cyrus united Persia and Media
- 546 B.C. Cyrus conquered Lydia
- 539 B.C. Cyrus conquered Babylon
- 530 B.C. Cyrus died
- 539-331 B.C. Persian Empire
- 530-522 B.C. Cambyses
- 522-486 B.C. Darius I
- 490 B.C. Darius defeated at Marathon
- 486-465 B.C. Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)
- 485-425 B.C. Herodotus
- 480 B.C. Persians defeated at Thermopylae and Salamis
- 470-399 B.C. Socrates
- 460-429 B.C. Golden age of Pericles
- 428-322 B.C. Plato and Aristotle



Want to read Ezra in the right order? Here's how:

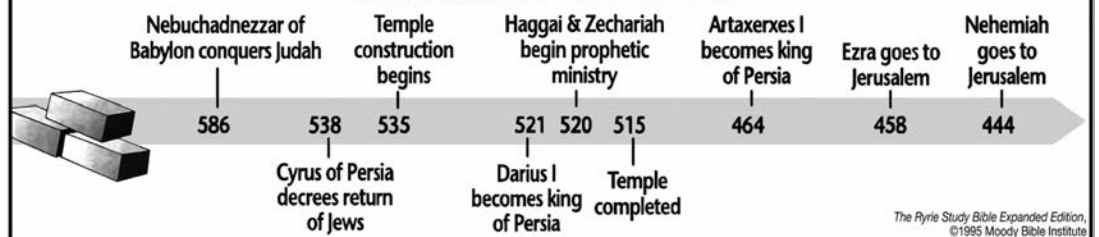


GOING HOME: TWO GREAT JOURNEYS OF ISRAEL

What about the Journeys?	<i>The Exodus</i>	<i>The Return from Exile</i>
Where were they?	Egypt (430 years)	Babylon (70 years)
How many?	About 1 million	60,000
How long did the journey take them?	40 years and 2 attempts	100 years and 3 journeys
Who led them?	Moses/Aaron/Joshua	Zerubbabel/Ezra/Nehemiah
What was their purpose?	To reclaim the Promised Land	To rebuild the Temple and city of Jerusalem
What obstacles did they face?	Red Sea/Wilderness/Enemies	Ruins/Limited Resources/Enemies
What failures did they experience?	Complaining/Disobedience/Retreat—all of which turned a journey of a few weeks into a 40-year ordeal	Fear/Discouragement/Apathy—all of which turned a project of a few months into one that required a century to complete
What successes did they have?	Eventually entered the Promised Land	Eventually rebuilt Jerusalem's Temple and wall
What lessons did they learn?	God will build his nation. God is both faithful and just. God will accomplish great acts to make his promises come true.	God will preserve his nation. God will continue to have a chosen people, a home for them, and a plan to offer himself to them.

The Wayfinding Bible, ©2013 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

TIMELINE OF EZRA

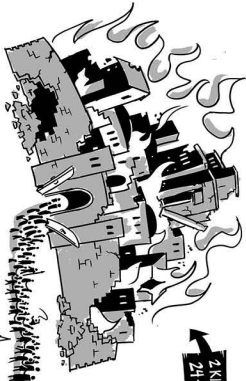


©2002 The MAP: Making the Bible Meaningful, Accessible and Practical by Nick Page

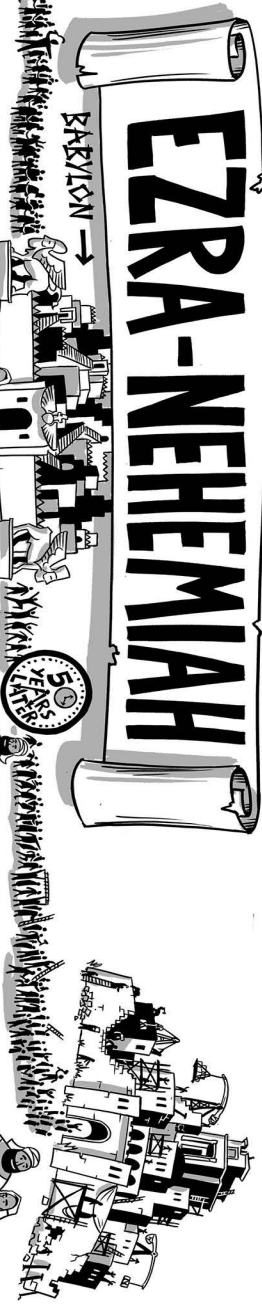
EZRA-NEHEMIAH

BABYLON →

50 YEARS LATER



2 KINGS 24-25



PARALLEL DESIGN

- 1. PERSON KING NAMED BY GOD TO SEND A LEADER TO JERUSALEM
- 2. LEADER FACES OPPOSITION TO REBUILDING
- 3. STRANGE ANTI-CLIMAX

1-6 EZRA ZERUBABEL THE TEMPLE

1-2 HANGER WANTS TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM, AND GOD BE WITH YOU

3-6 ZERUBABEL'S LEADERSHIP

7-8 YOU HAVE TO FIGHT IN THE TEMPLE!

9-10 LEADERS ARE NOT SURE

THE END

7-10 EZRA COMMUNITY

7-8 GO TEACH THE LAW AND REBUILD YOUR COMMUNITY

9-10 THIS IS YOUR JOB! YOU ARE THE LEADERS!

10-11 YOU HAVE TO FIGHT IN THE TEMPLE!

THE END

1-7 NEHEMIAH CIVIL WALLS

1-2 WANT TO REBUILD THE WALLS? YES! GO IN PEACE!

3-7 THE WALLS ARE FINISHED!

8-10 YOU HAVE TO FIGHT IN THE TEMPLE!

THE END

8-12 NEHEMIAH SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

8-12 CONFESSION OF SIN

9-11 CONVENANT RENEWAL

12 GREAT CELEBRATION

13 BUT IT'S NOT CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF BREADS

14-15 WITHIN SIGHT OF JERUSALEM'S WALLS!

16-18 THE END!

PROPHETIC WORDS AFTER EZRA

FUTURE MESSIANIC KING (ISAIAH 53)
GOD'S PRESENCE IN A NEW TEMPLE (EZRA 3:1-4; ZECARIAH 2)
GOD'S KINGDOM OVER THE NATIONS (ISAIAH 2; ZECARIAH 8)
THE FULL PROMISE TO ABRAHAM (GENESIS 12)

PROPHETS



HOPES

BUT...

DISAPPOINTMENT

THE BOOK POINTS OUT THE NEED FOR A...

NEW

DISAPPOINTMENT

HEROES

DISAPPOINTMENT

created by the Bible Project