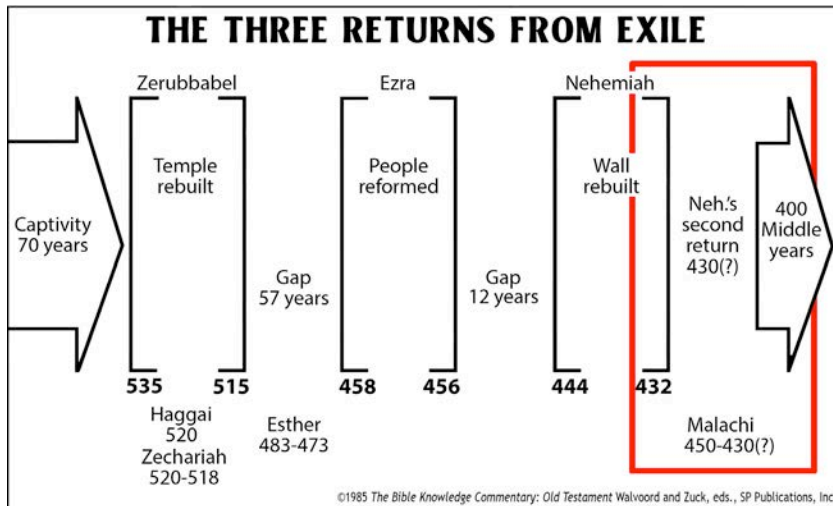




MALACHI SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: "Cold"

THE EXILES LEAVE BABYLON



THE BASICS ...

Who: Malachi – “My messenger” **When:** events 450-430 BC **Where:** to the postexilic Jewish community

Why: “Malachi’s purpose in writing was to rebuke Judah for her sin and to exhort her to be faithful to the Lord as she awaited God’s messenger, who would herald the coming day of the Lord.” – Charles Dyer

LESSON THEME: When love grows cold

They Doubt God’s Love (1:2-5)

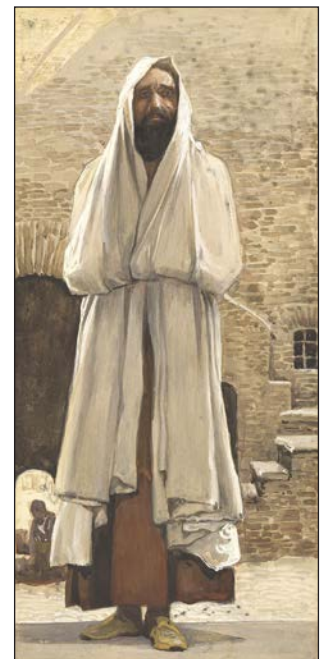
God: I have loved you (1:2a)
 People: How have You loved us? (1:2b)
 Implications ...
 You’ve doubted My love for you
 You think I’ve abandoned you
 They’re defensive and argumentative
 “If You loved us, things wouldn’t be this way!”

They Dishonor His Name (1:6–2:9)

God: You’ve not shown Me respect (1:6a)
 People: How have we not? (1:6b)
 Here’s how ...
 You’ve given Me your leftovers ... not your best
 In fact, you say it’s too hard to serve Me
 The truth is you have contempt for Me
 Apathetic motions reveal disengaged hearts

They Defile His Covenant (2:10-16)

God: I reject your hypocritical worship (2:13)
 People: You’ve abandoned us! (2:14a)



“Malachi” by James Tissot

Here's what you've done ...

You've been unfaithful to your spouse and divorced the wife of your youth

Why would I accept such worship?

Their loyalty is first and foremost to themselves

They Disobey His Word (2:17–3:5)

God: I'm weary of hypocritical words (2:17a)

People: How have we wearied You? (2:17b)

Here's how ...

You call evil good and good evil

You accuse Me of injustice, yet you flaunt your unbiblical injustice against the helpless

They no longer fear the Lord

They See No Need to Repent (3:6-7)

God: I've always been faithful to you (3:6)

People: We don't need to repent (3:7)

Implications ...

You don't see yourselves accurately

You see no need to repent

Their eyesight is growing dimmer

Their hearts are growing colder

They Don't Live as Stewards (3:8-12)

God: You've cheated Me! (3:8a)

People: How have we cheated You? (3:8b)

Here's how ...

You've withheld your tithes and offerings

You've become self-serving rather than stewards who acknowledge and trust My provision

They've become friends of the world

They Live for Themselves (3:13-15)

God: You've spoken against Me (3:13a)

People: How have we so spoken? (3:13b)

Here's how ...

You say there's no difference between the wicked and the righteous

You say "The worldly are better off than we are!"

They're accusing God of holding out on them

But There's a Humble Remnant (3:16–4:6)

The faithful feared Him, gathered together and vowed to obey, which pleased the Lord immensely (3:16-18)

The Day of the Lord Is Coming (4:1-6)

"I'm coming to settle accounts with you!"

APPLICATION: When love grows cold

Signs of a Chill

It begins with just a cool draft ...

I get busy, distracted, feel empty and maybe even blah about our relationship

But as the temperature continues dropping ...

I get surprised, confused, feel cut off, even empty

Then a chill sets in ...

I begin to doubt the Lord's love for me
 I begin to withdraw and withhold my best from Him, just giving Him my leftovers
 I might even start believing the Lord is asking too much from me anyway, so I increase my commitment to pursue my own happiness ... though you'd never know it to look at me
 My dealings with others become increasingly hypocritical and self-serving
 I lose sight of how far I've wandered, maybe denying the need for change at all
 My stewardship to my church and other ministries falls off ... and I think justifiably so
 I become more comfortable with the world and the worldly around me than with the righteous

Have you lost your first love?

Confronting a Chilly Heart

Gather regularly with other committed believers for encouragement and exhortation (Hebrews 10:25)
 Remind yourselves of God's character, His Son, His love and His past faithfulness from the Word and from your own experiences
 Encourage one another to trust Jesus more
 Pray for one another to walk in obedience

May God richly bless you!

See James Tissot paintings at:
 The Jewish Museum, NYC
 The Brooklyn Museum, NYC

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PODCAST: <https://feeds.transistor.fm/old-testament-survey>
VIDEOS + HANDOUTS ON CCBC WEBSITE: www.ccbcfamily.org/ots
VIDEOS + HANDOUTS ON YOUTUBE: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjAlhYpqC2XYXZJXiwut_8g7P3qhF

GOING HOME: TWO GREAT JOURNEYS OF ISRAEL	<u><i>What about the Journeys?</i></u>	<u><i>The Exodus</i></u>	<u><i>The Return from Exile</i></u>
	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.

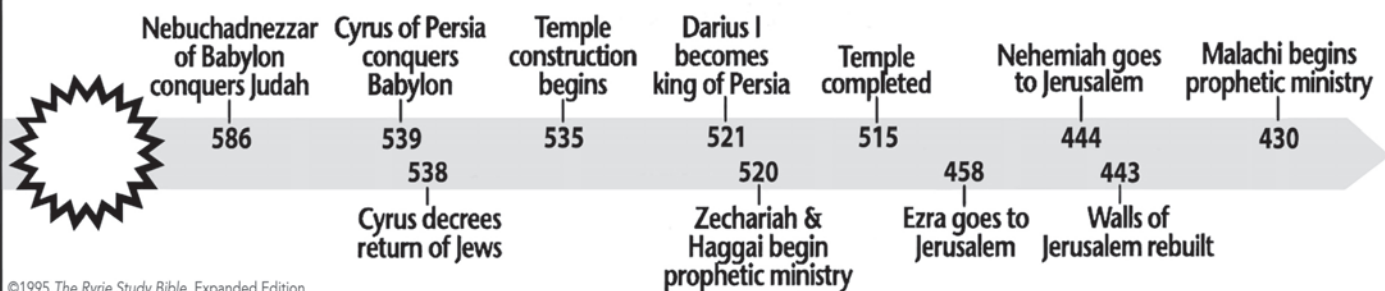
The NLT Study Bible,
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**IN COMPARISON****Malachi: A Portrait of Spiritual Indifference**

When the prophet Malachi began preaching to the Israelites, he found that the people had cold hearts. They were indifferent and apathetic. When he confronted them with their sin, they asked a series of questions that reveal volumes about their spiritual condition.

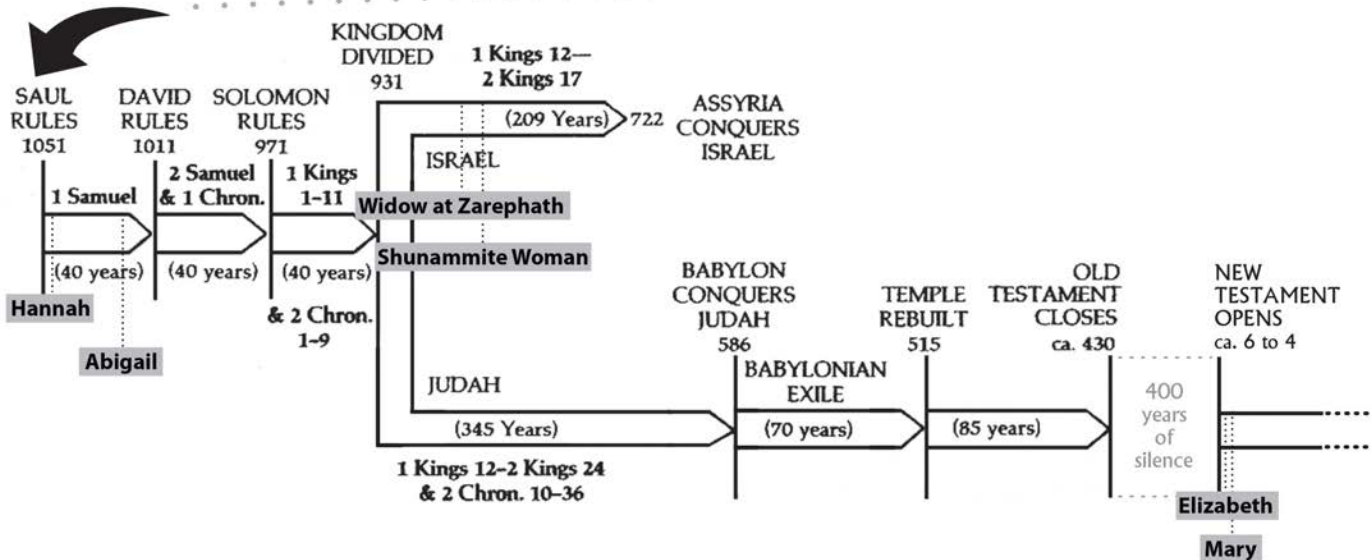
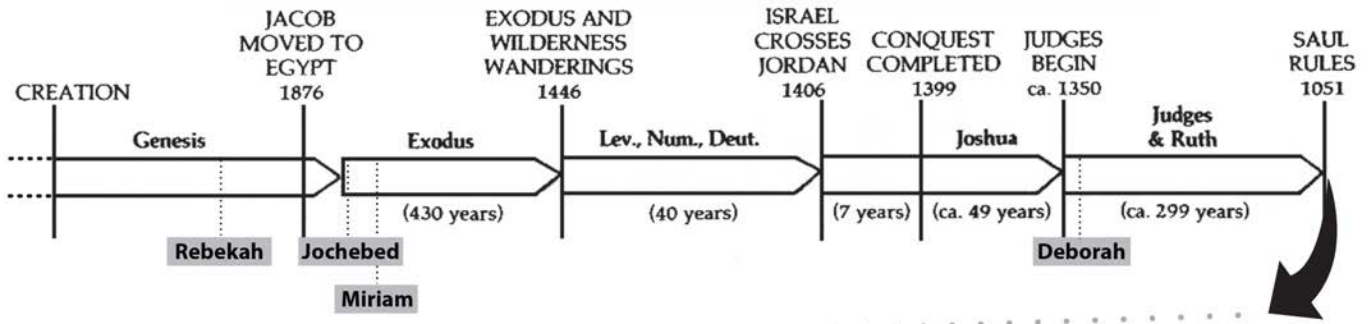
Question	Significance	Application
"In what way have You loved us?" (1:2)	This question reveals an alarming lack of trust in God. The Israelites were implying that God had been unfaithful to His covenant. "If You really love us, why are we still under foreign oppressors, waiting for the promised kingdom?"	Do we demand proof of God's love for us?
"In what way have we despised Your name?" (1:6); "In what way have we defiled You?" (1:7)	This question shows the halfheartedness and the rationalizations of the nation's religious leaders. They were saying, in effect: "We've been making the required sacrifices. What more do you want?" But as Malachi pointed out, the sacrifices offered to God were unfit animals (1:8-10).	Do we offer God our best in worship, or do we just go through the motions?
"In what way shall we return?" (3:7)	This question reveals an appalling blindness to sin and an arrogant attempt to gloss over wrongdoing. "We don't know what You want us to do, because we don't see what we have done wrong."	When faced with our sin, do we make excuses?
"In what way have we robbed You?" (3:8)	This question underscores the people's greed. They did not view their possessions as God's, to be used for His glory.	Do we gladly give to God?
"What have we spoken against You?" (3:13)	This question displays the Israelites' callousness. They had said it was "useless to serve God" (3:14). But they continued to think that their external observance of religious ceremonies would satisfy God's demands on their lives.	Do we wholeheartedly serve God?

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TIMELINE OF MALACHI

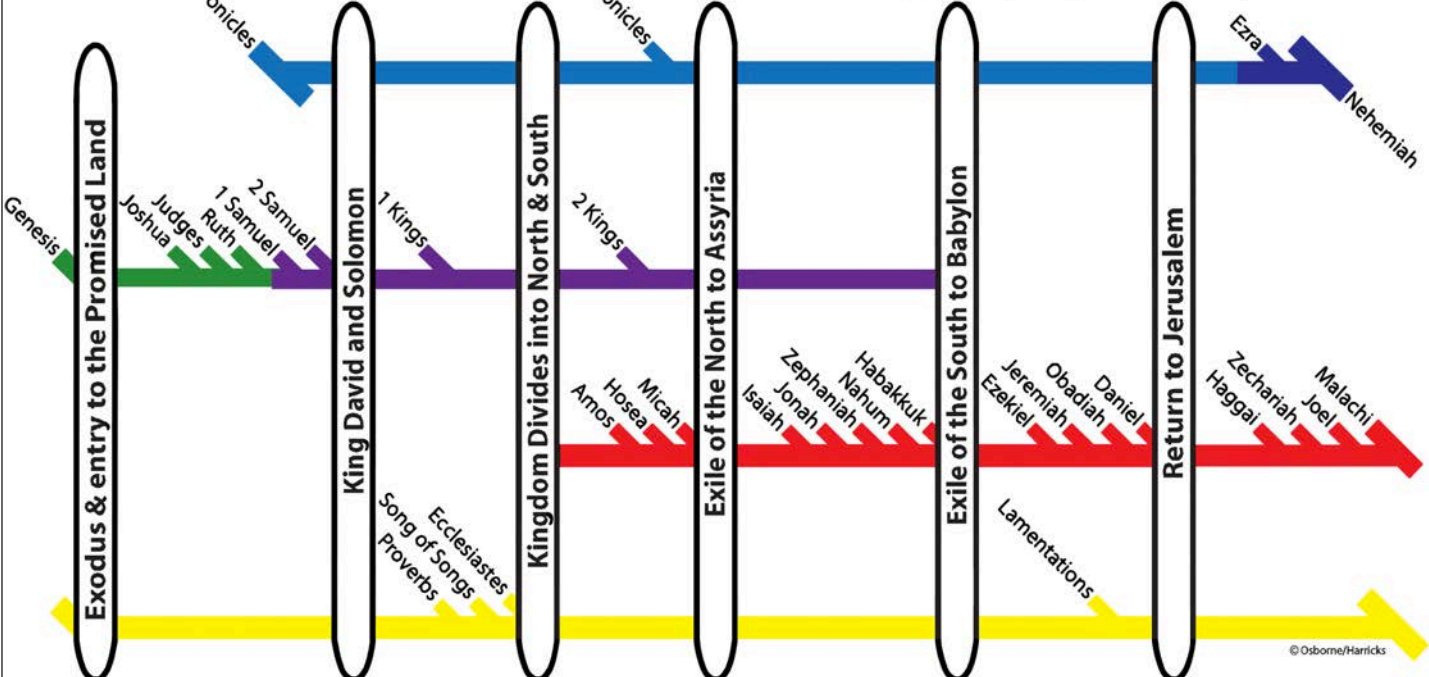
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Overview of Old Testament History



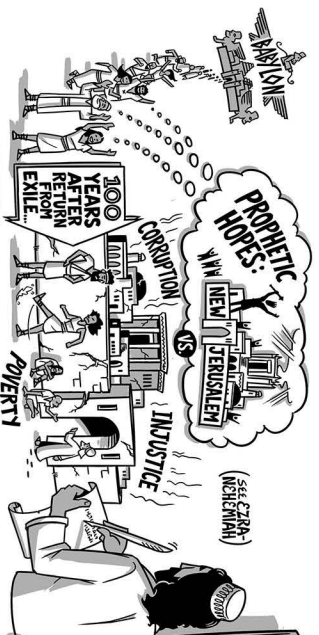
Traveling Through the Old Testament

- Chronicles (narrated account)
- Post Exile Books (narrated accounts)
- Samuel/Kings (narrated account)
- Genesis-Ruth (incl. Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy & Numbers)
- Psalms and other wisdom literature
- The Prophets (approximate order - many books are not dated)



PROPHETIC HOPE: A NEW JERUSALEM!

(SEE EZRAH) (NEHEMIAH)



MALACHI

A SERIES OF DISPUTES
CLAIM DISAPPOINTMENT RESPONSE

4:4-6 CONCLUDING APPENDIX THE TORAH & PROPHETS

TORAH PROPHETS

"REMEMBER THE TORAH OF MY SERVANT MOSES" I WILL SEND THE PROPHET ELIJAH BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD AND HEAL THE HEARTS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SUMMARIZES THE TORAH & PROPHETS AS A UNIFIED STORY THAT POINTS TO THE FUTURE... WHEN GOD WILL SEND A NEW MOSES & ELIJAH TO RESTORE GOD'S PEOPLE & HEAL THEIR HEARTS (MATTHEW 23:35, JEREMIAH 31, EZRAH 3:6)

1-2 EXPOSING ISRAEL'S CORRUPTION

12-5 DISTRICT #1 I STILL LOVE YOU... BUT NOT ESRAH'S FAMILY. I HOPE JACOB'S FAMILY TO CARRY MY COVENANT PROMISES... BUT NOT ESRAH'S FAMILY. SEE THE TORAH GENESIS 28:27 & ORADIAH & ISRAEL

16-29 DISTRICT #2 YOU DESPISE ME & DETEST MY TEMPLE. HOW ARE WE DESPISING YOU? NO PROBLEM! IT'S THE PROBLEM!

3 CONFRONTING ISRAEL'S CORRUPTION & THE DAY OF THE LORD

217-35 DISTRICT #4 YOU'VE NEGLECTED US WHERE IS THE GOD OF JUSTICE? I WILL SEND MY MESSENGER TO PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE ME... AND I WILL COME TO BRING JUSTICE. (MALACHI 3:1-5)

36-12 DISTRICT #5 TURN BACK TO ME... START OFFERING THE TITHE AGAIN. HOW? % OF ANNUAL INCOME DONATED TO SUPPORT THE TEMPLE (MALACHI 3:10)

4:1-3 CONCLUSION

THE VOICE OF THE REMNANT

"FOR THOSE WHO REVERE MY NAME, THE SON OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL RISE, WITH HEALING IN ITS CLOUDS." (4:2)

16-29 DISTRICT #2 YOU DESPISE ME & DETEST MY TEMPLE. HOW ARE WE DESPISING YOU? NO PROBLEM! IT'S THE PROBLEM!

36-12 DISTRICT #5 TURN BACK TO ME... START OFFERING THE TITHE AGAIN. HOW? % OF ANNUAL INCOME DONATED TO SUPPORT THE TEMPLE (MALACHI 3:10)

210-10 DISTRICT #3 YOU'VE TURNED AGAINST ME & YOUR WIVES. IDOLATRY & DIVORCE. WHAT? HOW?!!

315-10 DISTRICT #6 IT'S POINTLESS TO STAY GOD WICKED PEOPLE SUCCEED & GOD DOES NOTHING! GOD'S RESPONSE: A SHORT STORY. THE FAITHFUL REMNANT

→ THE FAITHFUL READ THE SCROLL TO REMEMBER GOD'S CHARACTER & PROMISES
→ THE DIVINE GIFT OF SCRIPTURES: THEY POINT US TO THE EAST TO INSPIRE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

created by the Bible Project

THE BIG STORY OF THE O.T. TIMELINE CARDS

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1		CREATION GOD SPEAKS THE UNIVERSE INTO EXISTENCE	2		ADAM & EVE GOD CREATES HUMANITY 'IN HIS IMAGE' TO CARE FOR HIS CREATION
3		FALL HUMANITY REJECTS GOD & IS EXPELLED FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN	4		NOAH / FLOOD GOD FLOODS THE EARTH, YET SAVES & MAKES A COVENANT WITH NOAH & HIS FAMILY
5		BABEL GOD CONFUSES THE LANGUAGE OF THE WORLD & SCATTERS HUMANITY	6		ABRAHAM (ISAAC & JACOB) GOD PROMISES TO BLESS ABRAHAM & ALL PEOPLE THROUGH HIM
7		JOSEPH / EGYPT JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS MOVE ISRAEL TO EGYPT	8		MOSES / EXODUS THROUGH MOSES, GOD SAVES ISRAEL FROM SLAVERY IN EGYPT
9		LAW GOD MAKES A COVENANT WITH ISRAEL TO BE THEIR GOD	10		TABERNACLE GOD DWELLS WITH ISRAEL IN THE TENT OF MEETING
11		WANDERING ISRAEL WANDERS IN THE DESERT FOR 40 YEARS	12		PROMISED LAND JOSHUA LEADS ISRAEL INTO THE PROMISED LAND OF CANAAN
13		JUDGES GOD RAISES UP JUDGES TO SAVE ISRAEL FROM ITS ENEMIES	14		SAUL SAUL BECOMES ISRAEL'S FIRST KING, BUT DISOBEYS GOD & LOSES HIS KINGSHIP
15		DAVID GOD MAKES A COVENANT WITH DAVID TO ESTABLISH HIS THRONE FOREVER	16		SOLOMON / TEMPLE SOLOMON BUILDS A TEMPLE FOR GOD IN JERUSALEM
17		DIVIDED KINGDOM THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED BETWEEN THE NORTHERN & SOUTHERN TRIBES	18		FALL OF SAMARIA ASSYRIA DEFEATS ISRAEL (THE NORTHERN KINGDOM)
19		ASSYRIAN EXILE ASSYRIA TAKES ISRAEL (NORTH) INTO CAPTIVITY	20		FALL OF JERUSALEM BABYLON DEFEATS JUDAH (THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM)
21		BABYLONIAN EXILE BABYLON TAKES JUDAH (SOUTH) INTO CAPTIVITY	22		RETURN FROM EXILE PERSIA DEFEATS BABYLON & THE EXILES ARE RETURNED
23		REBUILDING THE TEMPLE & THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM ARE REBUILT			