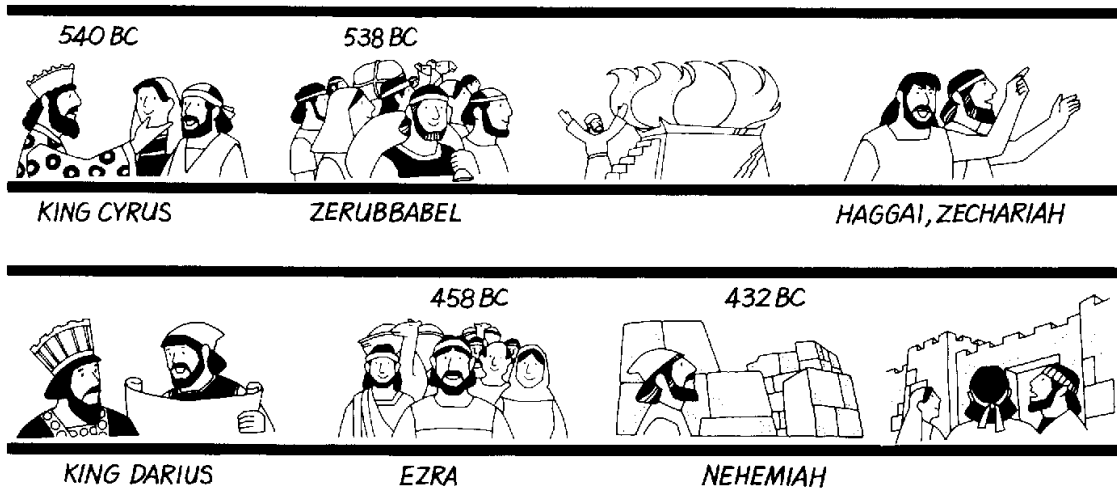


# Survey of the Tanach

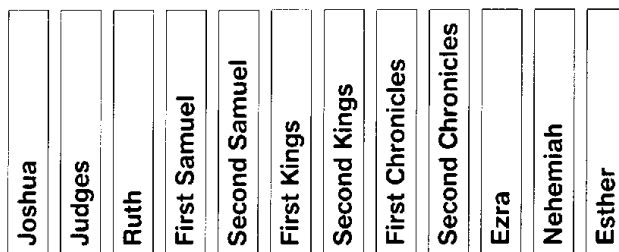
## Section 5 The Yeshuv – The Return Ezra and Nehemiah



Ezra

# Ezra

The Books of History



## Purpose/Theme:

The Babylonians are now conquered by the Persians. This account is of Ezra the priest being allowed to lead a return to Palestine in the fifth century B.C., to rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem.

## Key Verse:

"The Lord our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage" (9:8).

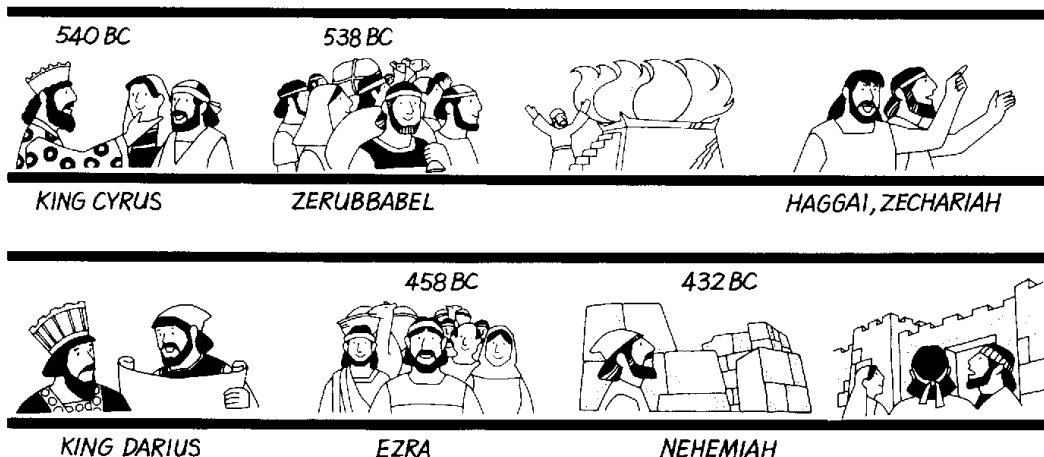
## Main People:

Sheshbazzar, Ezra

## Outline:

- The return under Sheshbazzar (Ezra 1—6)
  - The decree of the Persian king (Ezra 1)
  - The census of the people (Ezra 2)
  - The rebuilding of the Temple (Ezra 3—6)
- The return under Ezra (Ezra 7—10)
  - The return to Jerusalem (Ezra 7,8)
  - Dealing with the people's sins (Ezra 9,10)

## When Events Happened



**Christ as Seen in Ezra:**

In keeping with the Davidic covenant and God's promises to keep the line of descendants alive for Messiah, Son of David, Ezra and Nehemiah show how God continued to keep His promises by restoring His people to their land.

**Key Verses:**

**1:3** Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! 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.

**2:1** Now these are the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city.

**6:21-22** And the sons of Israel who returned from exile and all those who had separated themselves from the impurity of the nations of the land to *join* them, to seek the LORD God of Israel, ate *the* Passover. 22 And they observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had caused them to rejoice, and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them to encourage them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

**7:10** For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.

Ezra

**Chronology: Ezra-Nehemiah**

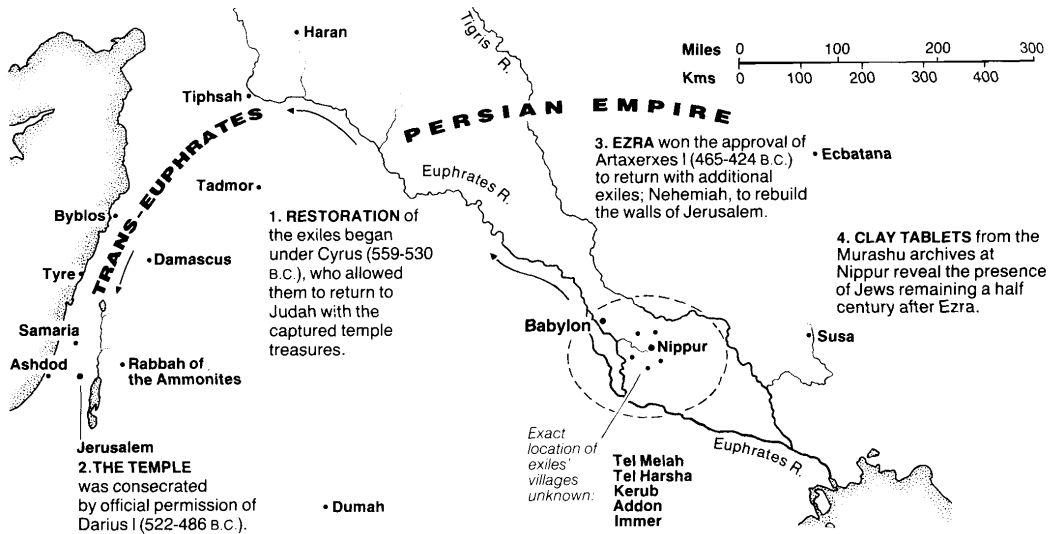
Dates below are given according to a Nisan-to-Nisan Jewish calendar (see chart on "Hebrew Calendar," p. 21). Roman numerals represent months; Arabic numerals represent days.

540 B.C.

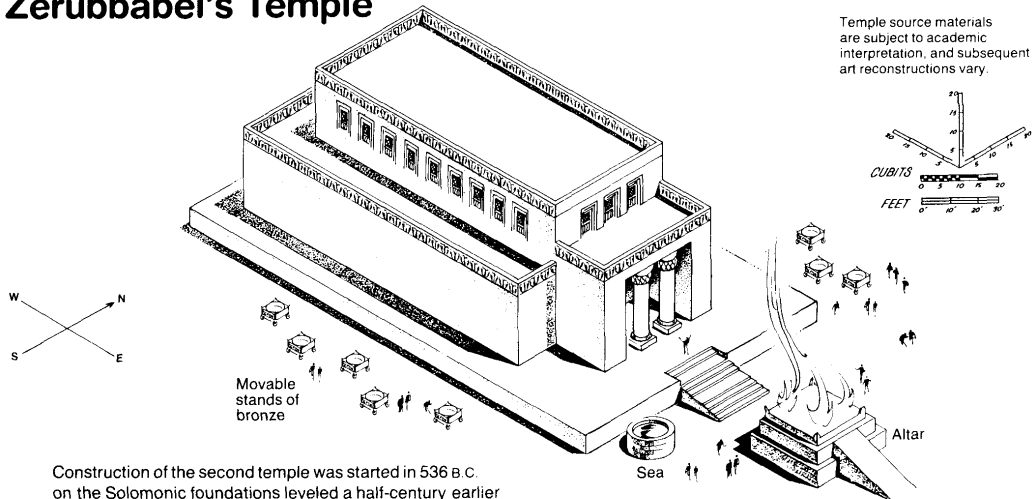
	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	EVENT	REFERENCE
530	539 B.C.	Oct.	12	Capture of Babylon	Da 5:30
	538	Mar.	24	Cyrus's first year	Ezr 1:1-4
520	537	to Mar.	11		
	537(?)			Return under Sheshbazzar	Ezr 1:11
	537	VII		Building of altar	Ezr 3:1
510	536	II		Work on temple begun	Ezr 3:8
	536-530			Opposition during Cyrus's reign	Ezr 4:1-5
	530-520			Work on temple ceased	Ezr 4:24
	520	VI =Sept.	24 21	Work on temple renewed under Darius	Ezr 5:2; Hag 1:14
500	516	XII =Mar.	3 12	Temple completed	Ezr 6:15
	<hr/>				
490	<hr/>				
480	458	I =Apr.	1 8	Ezra departs from Babylon	Ezr 7:6-9
		V =Aug.	1 4	Ezra arrives in Jerusalem	Ezr 7:8-9
		IX =Dec.	20 19	People assemble	Ezr 10:9
		X =Dec.	1 29	Committee begins investigation	Ezr 10:16
470	457	I =Mar.	1 27	Committee ends investigation	Ezr 10:17
460	445	Apr.	13	20th year of Artaxerxes I	Ne 1:1
	444	to Apr.	2		
450	445	I =Mar.-Apr.		Nehemiah approaches king	Ne 2:1
		Aug.(?)		Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem	Ne 2:11
		VI =Oct.	25 2	Completion of wall	Ne 6:15
440		VII =Oct. to Nov.	8 5	Public assembly	Ne 7:73-8:1
		VII =Oct.	15-22 22-28	Feast of Tabernacles	Ne 8:14
		VII =Oct.	24 30	Fast	Ne 9:1
430 B.C.	433	Apr.	1	32nd year of Artaxerxes;	Ne 5:14; 13:6
	432	to Apr.	19	Nehemiah's recall and return	

Ezra

Return from Exile



Zerubbabel's Temple



Construction of the second temple was started in 536 B.C. on the Solomonic foundations leveled a half-century earlier by the Babylonians. People who remembered the earlier temple wept at the comparison (Ezr 3:12). Not until 516 B.C., the 6th year of the Persian emperor Darius I (522-486), was the temple finally completed at the urging of Haggai and Zechariah (Ezr 6:13-15).

Archaeological evidence confirms that the Persian period in Palestine was a comparatively impoverished one in terms of material culture. Later Aramaic documents from Elephantine in Upper Egypt illustrate the official process of gaining permission to construct a Jewish place of worship, and the opposition engendered by the presence of various foes during this period.

Of the temple and its construction, little is known. Among the few contemporary buildings, the Persian palace at Lachish and the Tobiad monument at Iraq el-Amir may be compared in terms of technique.

Unlike the more famous structures razed in 586 B.C. and A.D. 70, the temple begun by Zerubbabel suffered no major hostile destruction, but was gradually repaired and reconstructed over a long period. Eventually it was replaced entirely by Herod's magnificent edifice.

### Key Verses:

**4:6** So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its *height*, for the people had a mind to work.

**6:15-16** So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of *the month* Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 And it came about when all our enemies heard *of it*, and all the nations surrounding us saw *it*, they lost their confidence; for they recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

**8:8** And they read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

Key Chapters:

Key chapters would include, (1) Nehemiah's prayer and God's answer, **chapters 1-2**, (2) the work on the walls, the opposition, and its completion, **chapters 3-7**, (3) the confession of the people and their reaffirmation of the covenant, **chapter 9**.

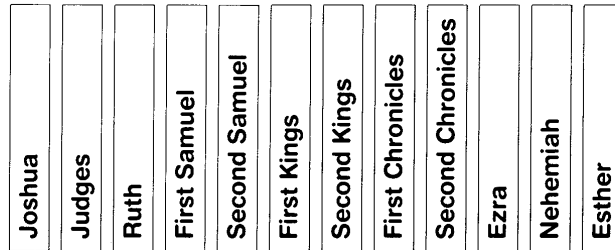
### Messianic Christology as Seen in the Book of Nehemiah:

Nehemiah surely portrays Yeshua's in willingness to leave his high position in order to bring about His work of restoration. Further, the decree of Artaxerxes marks the beginning point of Daniel's prophecy of seventy weeks of years which, though interrupted by an unspecified time, begins the countdown for the return of Messiah (Dan. 9:25-27).

Nehemiah

# Nehemiah

The Books of History



## Purpose/Theme:

Only a few years after Ezra served as a priest during the “restoration” of the Jews from Babylon, Nehemiah followed as governor. This book describes his leadership in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and renewing the covenant.

## Key Verse:

“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart” (4:6).

## Main Person:

Nehemiah

## Outline:

- The rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1—7)
- The repairing of the agreement with God (Nehemiah 8—10)
- The reforming of the nation (Nehemiah 11—13)

## When Events Happened

