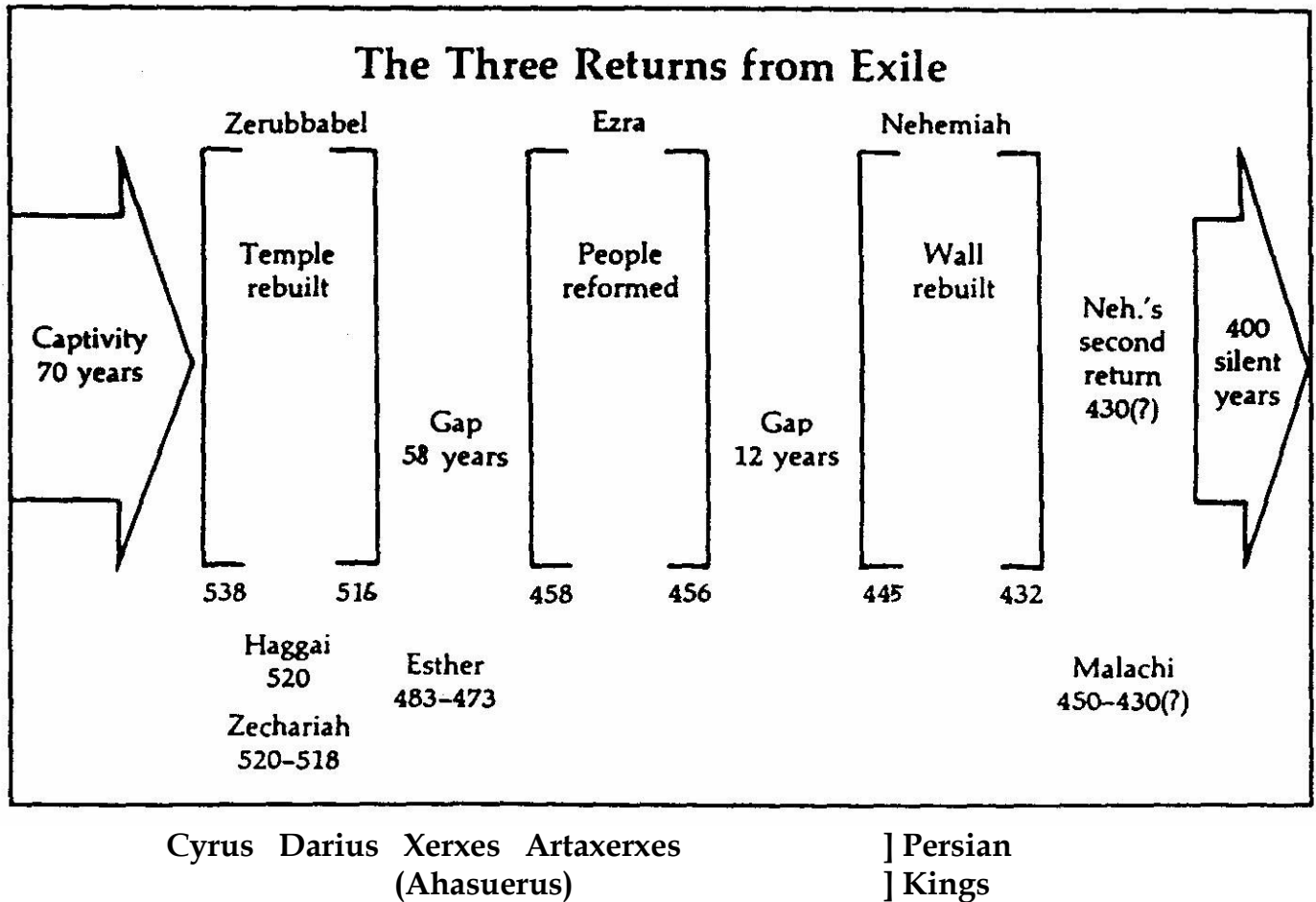


## OVERVIEW OF EZRA-NEHEMIAH-ESTHER



### EZRA

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final exile of Judah to Babylon took place in 586 B.C., with the Temple in Jerusalem totally destroyed. This is where **2 Kings** ended. The book of **Ezra** continues from there, bringing us some 47 years later (539 B.C.), where Persia has replaced Babylon as the world superpower.

#### Storyline of Ezra

##### Return and Restoration under Zerubbabel (**Chapters 1-6**)

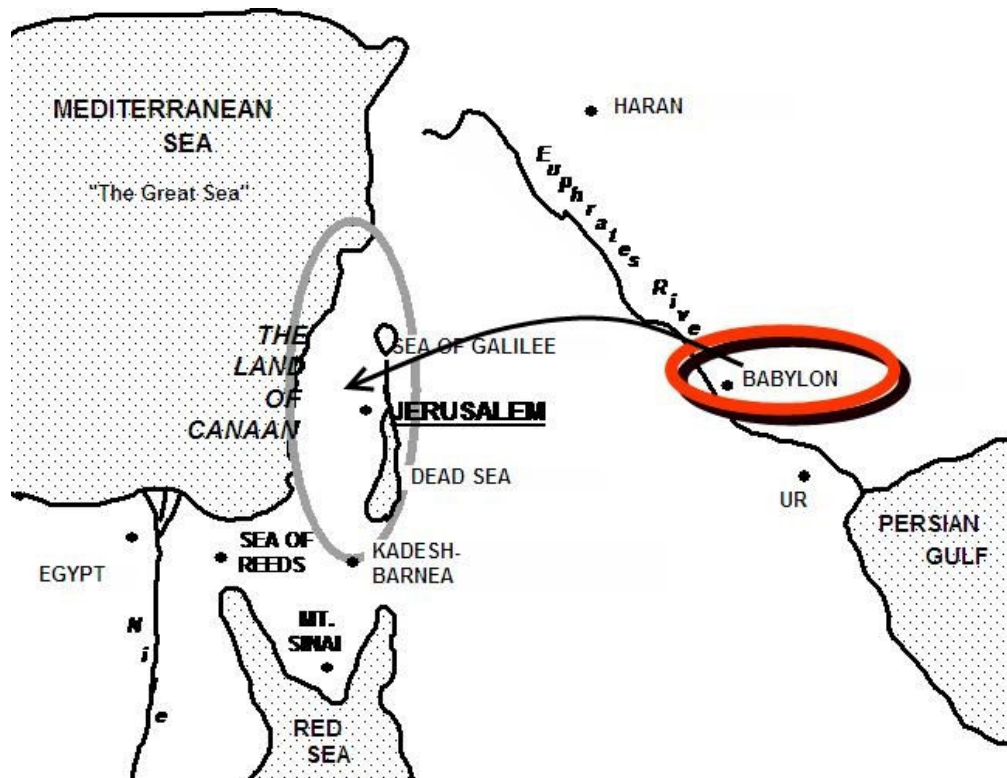
- ❖ Cyrus' proclamation; more than 40,000 Jews responded; their credentials sorted out upon return (**Chapters 1-2**)
- ❖ Rebuilt Burnt-Offering altar; started to rebuild the temple but faced intense opposition; stopped work for about 15 years (**Chapter 3-4**)
- ❖ Prophets urged, leaders lead, the people re-started the Temple rebuilding project; Temple finally rebuilt! (**Chapters 5-6**)

## Return and Restoration under Ezra (Chapters 7-10)

- ❖ Ezra return with a small group of Jews, sent by King Artaxerxes (Chapters 7-8)
- ❖ Serious breach and compromise discovered; confession and action (Chapters 9-10).

### Overall Lessons

- God's hand restores!
- God's Word reveals!
- God's people repent!



### Homework

The Bible says that God's people will be in exile for 70 years (2 Chronicles 36:21). If the Fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple took place in 586 B.C., and the Jews started to return from Exile in 539 B.C. under Zerubbabel, how do we account for the 70 years (586-539=47!)?