

Old Testament Survey

ANDY BOWEN
PASTORAL RESIDENT

EZRA

DECEMBER 10, 2017

COMING UP ... •DEC 17, 25, 31 NO CLASS •JAN 7 Haggai •JAN 14 Zechariah •JAN 21 Esther •JAN 28 Nehemiah •FEB 4 Malachi **THE END**

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, p. 2)

THE BASICS ...

Who: 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 & listed (2)

Joyful worship is restored in Israel (3)

Opposition to God's work comes (4)

The Temple is finally rebuilt (5-6)

(see "The Three Returns From Exile" chart, p. 2)

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 Who's 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? (Jam 1:14-15)

Are you receptive to loving correction from brothers/sisters? (James 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

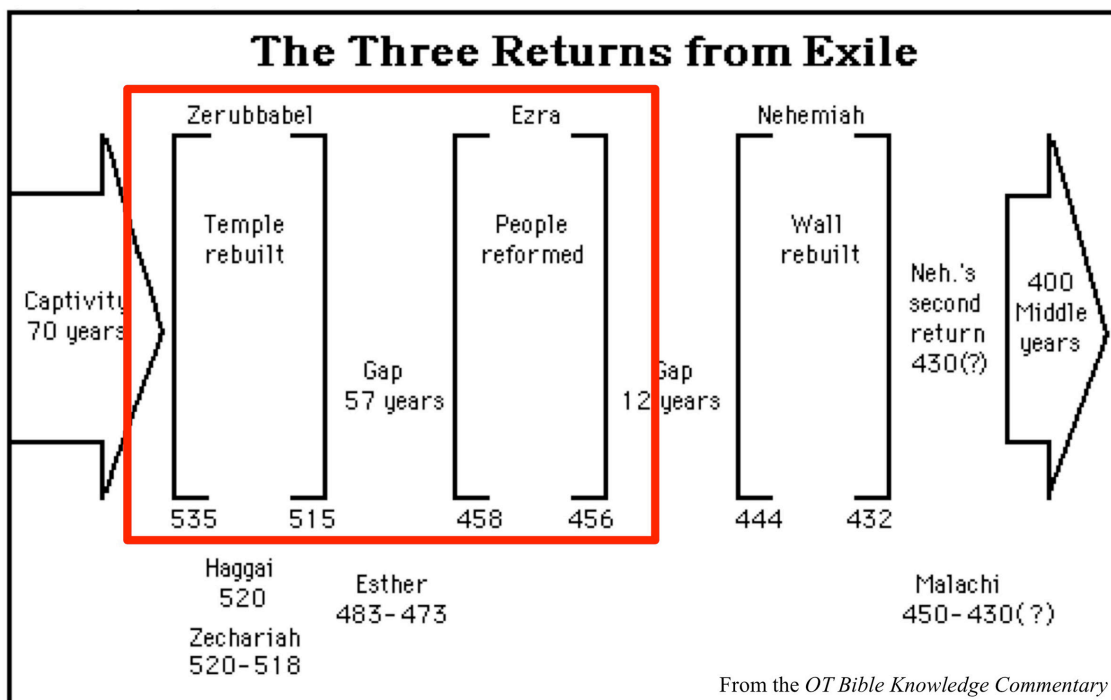
Repents and takes appropriate, measured action against that formerly tolerated sin

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

LECTURE AUDIO & HANDOUTS ONLINE:

ccbcfamily.org/sermons/old-testament-survey

©2017 by Dr. John W. Egener unless otherwise indicated. All rights reserved.



GOING HOME: TWO GREAT JOURNEYS OF ISRAEL

What about the Journeys?

Where were they?

How many?

How long did the journey take them?

Who led them?

What was their purpose?

What obstacles did they face?

What failures did they experience?

What successes did they have?

What lessons did they learn?

The Exodus

Egypt (430 years)

About 1 million

40 years and 2 attempts

Moses/Aaron/Joshua

To reclaim the Promised Land

Red Sea/Wilderness/Enemies

Complaining/Disobedience/Retreat—all of which turned a journey of a few weeks into a 40-year ordeal

Eventually entered the Promised Land

God will build his nation. God is both faithful and just. God will accomplish great acts to make his promises come true.

The Return from Exile

Babylon (70 years)

60,000

100 years and 3 journeys

Zerubbabel/Ezra/Nehemiah

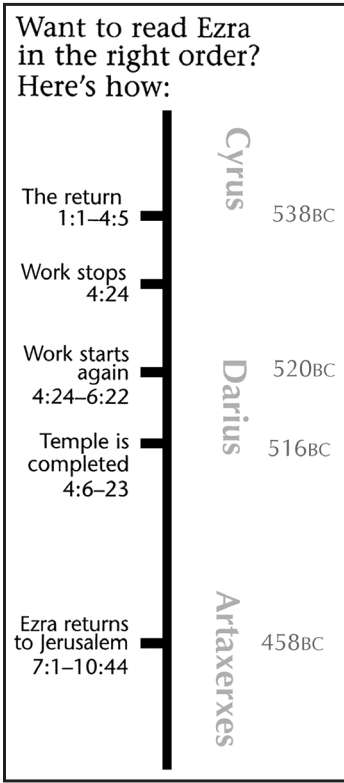
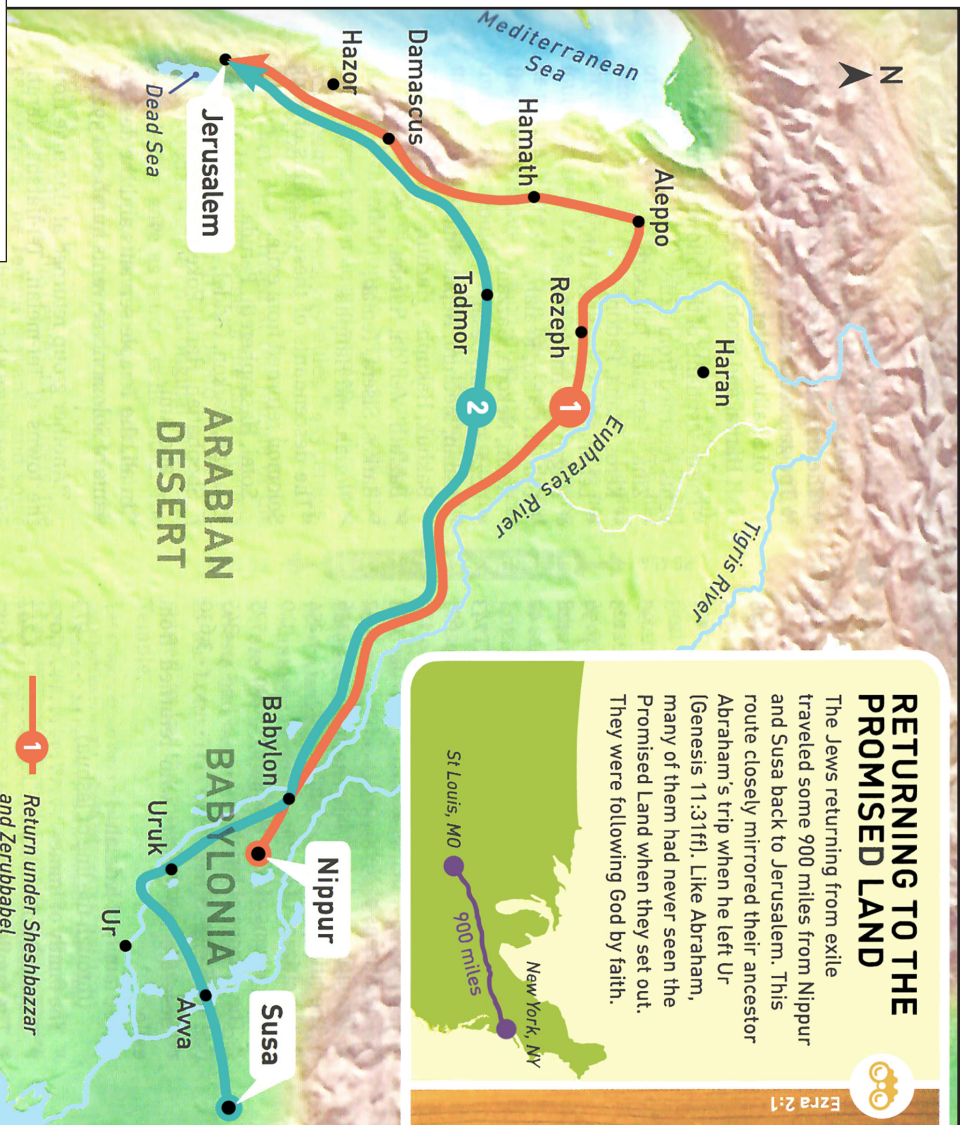
To rebuild the Temple and city of Jerusalem

Ruins/Limited Resources/Enemies
Fear/Discouragement/Apathy—all of which turned a project of a few months into one that required a century to complete

Eventually rebuilt Jerusalem's Temple and wall

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.

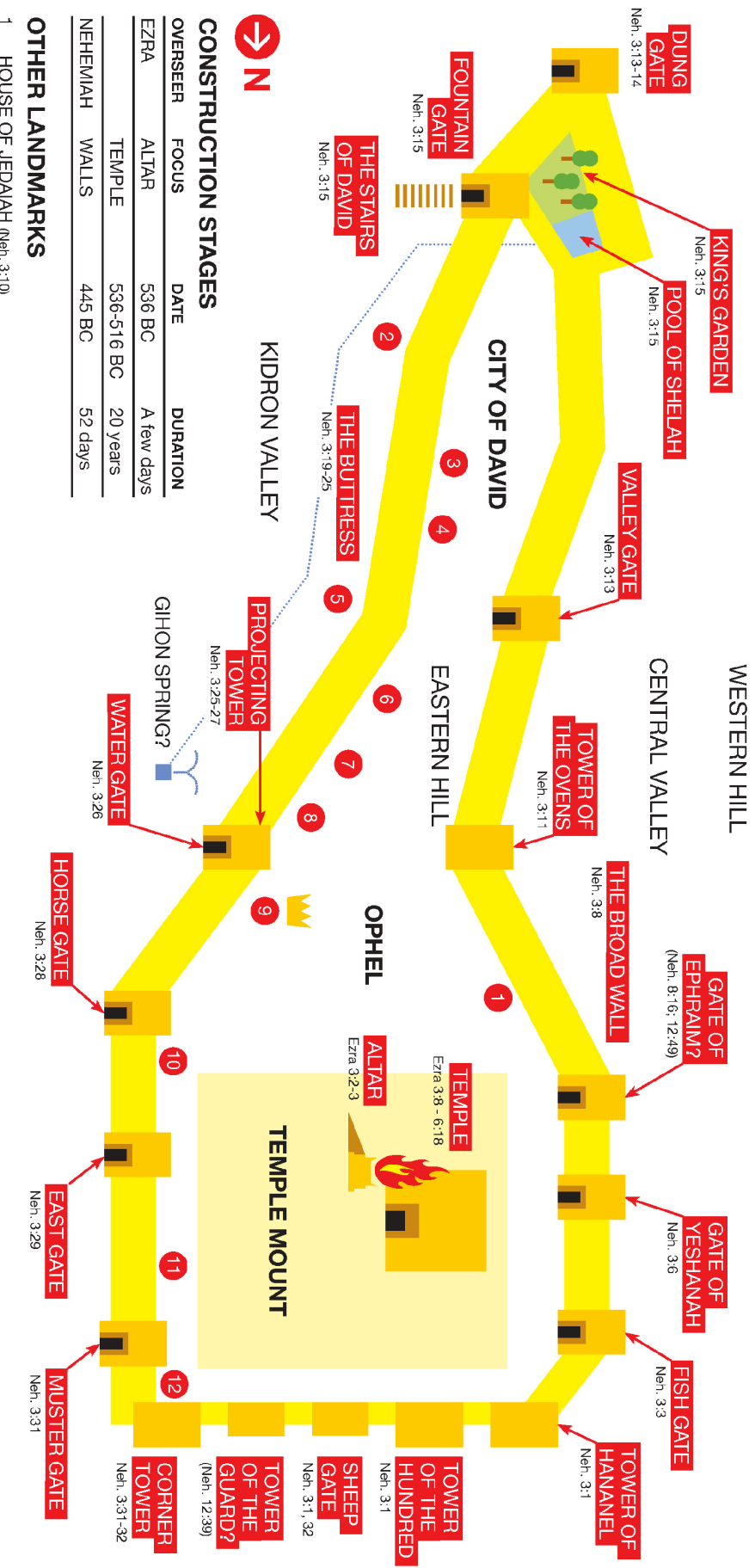
		EZRA	
1:1	First return of 49,897 to Jerusalem	reconstruction	Temple Is Rebuilt
2:7-10			
3:1	Reconstruction of the temple		
6:22			
7:1	Second return of 1,754 to Jerusalem	repentance	People Are Rebuilt
8:3-6			
9:1	Repentance of the people		
10:44			



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

JERUSALEM REBUILT UNDER EZRA & NEHEMIAH

© Mark Barry 2015 | visualunlinc.me



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

- HOUSE OF JEDAJAH (Neh. 3:10)
- TOMBS OF DAVID (Neh. 3:16)
- ARTIFICIAL POOL (Neh. 3:16)
- HOUSE OF MIGHTY MEN (Neh. 3:16)
- ASCENT TO THE ARMORY (Neh. 3:19)
- HOUSE OF ELASHIB (Neh. 3:20-21)
- HOUSES OF BENJAMIN & HASSHUB (Neh. 3:22)
- HOUSE OF AZAZIAH (Neh. 3:22)
- HOUSE OF THE KING (AT THE COURT OF THE GUARD) (Neh. 3:25)
- HOUSE OF THE PRIESTS (Neh. 3:28)
- MECHULLAM'S QUARTERS (Neh. 3:30)
- 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
- 536 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 rebuild 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. Darius I
- 522-486 B.C. Darius I defeated at Marathon
- 490 B.C. Xerxes I (Ahassuerus)
- 486-465 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