

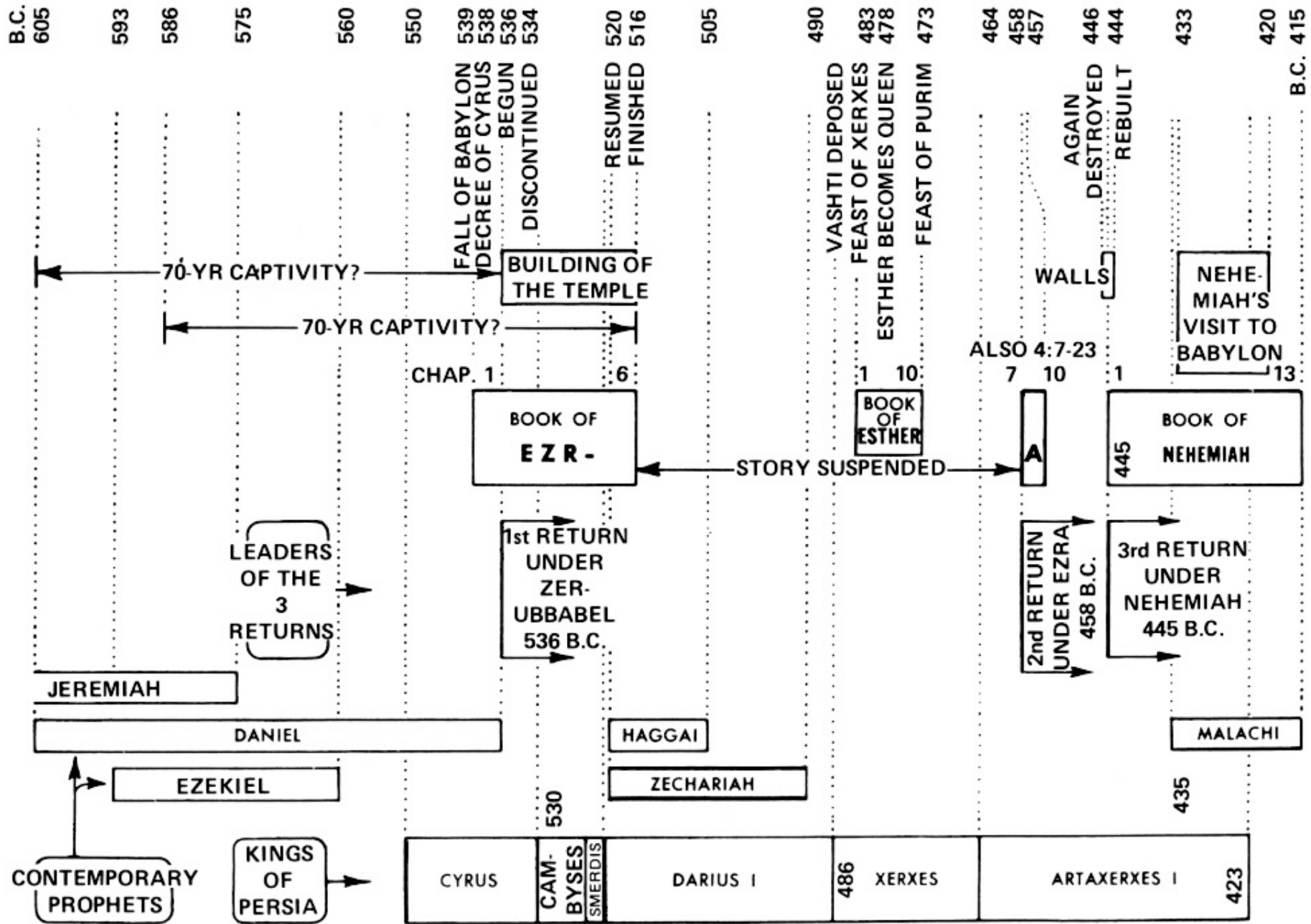
Return from Exile

Ezra Ministers in Jerusalem

Ezra 7-10

Lesson 3

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
September 19, 2010

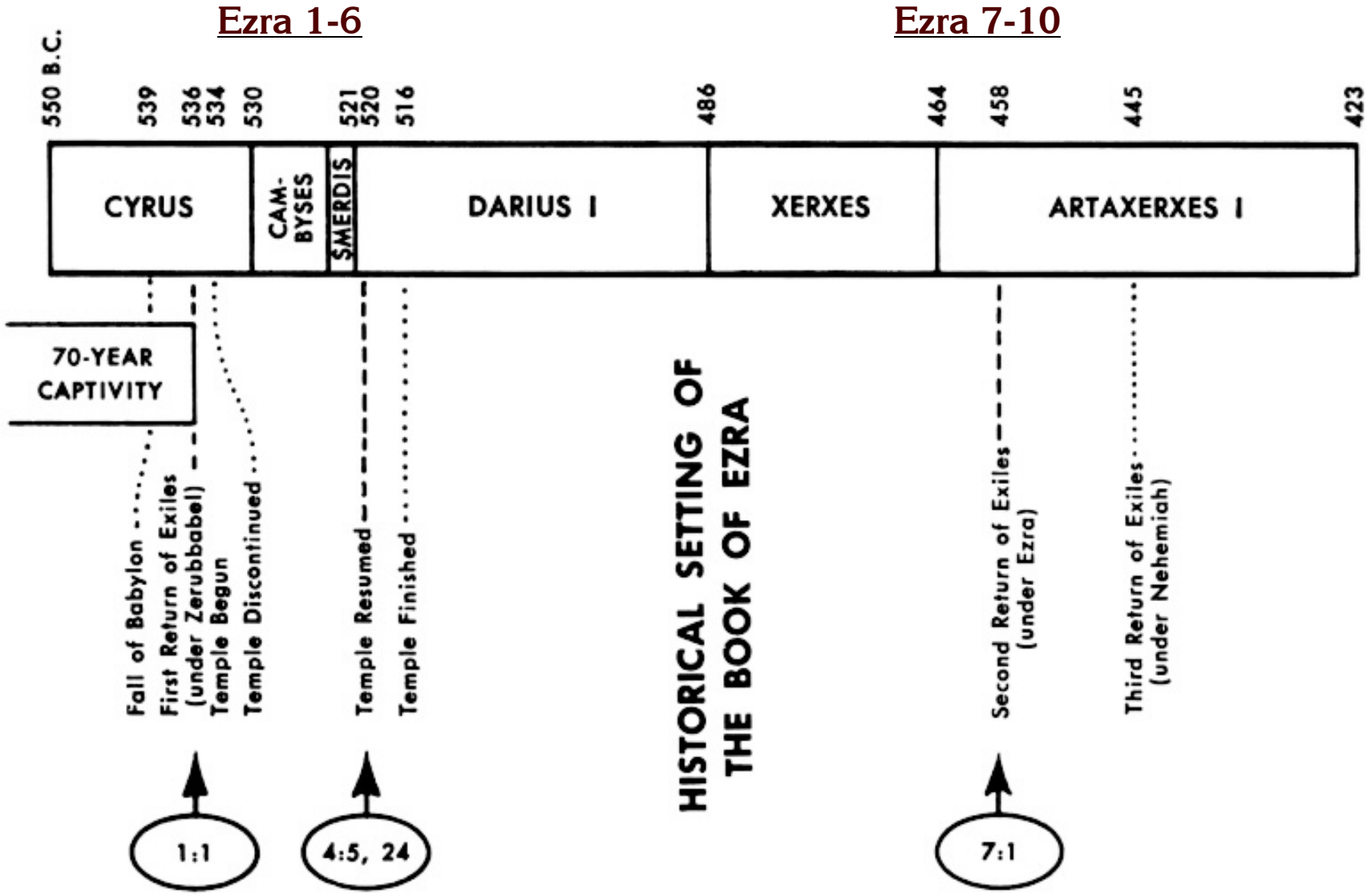


The restoration of Israel

- ▶ 70 years: Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10
- ▶ The Great Nation – Genesis 12:1-3
- ▶ The Throne of David – 1 Samuel 7
- ▶ Israel – a nation under wrath
- ▶ Israel – a promise of restoration
 - Amos 9:11-15
 - Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - Ezekiel 36:22-36
 - Joel 2:28-3:3

A token fulfillment

- ▶ **Necessity of holiness**
- ▶ **Necessity of the *Messiah***



Ezra 1-6

Ezra 7-10

Rebuilding under Ezra

- ▶ Ezra 7 – Preparation for return
- ▶ Ezra 8 – The return
- ▶ Ezra 9-10 – Revival – spiritual rebuilding

Ezra (7:1-6)

- ▶ Priestly line – Divine priority
- ▶ Scribe – skilled in Law of Moses (God's Law)
- ▶ King granted his request
- ▶ The hand of the LORD his God was on him
 - Ezra 7:6, 9, 28; 8:18, 22, 31; and twice Neh 2:8, 18)
- ▶ Ezra a testimony to the grace of God

Ezra's Mission (7:7-10)

- ▶ Return to Jerusalem
- ▶ Establish Temple service
- ▶ Study, do, teach – statutes and rules
- ▶ The good hand of his God was on him

Decree of Artaxerxes (7:11-26)

- ▶ Establish God's Law in Jerusalem (7:13-14)
- ▶ A grant to buy sacrifices and temple vessels (7:15–19)
- ▶ Further provision from the King's treasury (7:20–23)
- ▶ No tax on temple officials (7:24)
- ▶ Authorized Ezra to set up a judicial system (7:25–26)

Ezra blesses the LORD (7:27-28)

- ▶ Bless the LORD – attribute honor and glory
- ▶ Bless the sovereign God Who has acted here
- ▶ Courage for Ezra to lead the return
- ▶ The hand of the LORD my God was on me

The returning remnant (8:1-14)

- ▶ Two priestly families
- ▶ Royal Line: Hattush
 - great, great grandson of Zerubbabel
- ▶ 12 families – possibly 12 tribes of Israel
 - 1496 men (perhaps 5,000 with women and children)

Recruitment of Levites (8:15-20)

- ▶ Encamped 3 days – no Levites present
- ▶ Casiphia (“the place”)
 - “the place” often designates a sanctuary
 - Deuteronomy 12:5; Jeremiah 7:3, 6–7
- ▶ Sherebiah, man of understanding – and others
- ▶ Brought by the good hand of our God on us
- ▶ Temple servants (Nethinim)

The need for protection (8:21-23)

- ▶ Fasting – temporal support v. spiritual support.
- ▶ Ashamed to ask the king for protection
- ▶ Hand of our God is for good on all who seek Him
- ▶ Hand of God is against those who forsake Him

The Return (8:24-36)

- ▶ Preparation for the journey – Gold and silver
- ▶ The journey – 900 miles in 3½ months
- ▶ The hand of our God delivered us . . .
- ▶ Silver and gold delivered to the temple.
- ▶ Burnt offerings
- ▶ Decree of Artaxerxes given to the King's satraps and governors – they assisted

Intermarriage with pagans (9:1-4)

- ▶ Not separated from the peoples of the land
- ▶ Holy race – mixed with the peoples of the land
- ▶ Abominations of the peoples of the land
- ▶ Faithlessness – leaders were foremost
- ▶ Conviction by preaching?

Ezra's prayer (9:5-15)

- ▶ Ezra trembled at the words of God
- ▶ Confession of historical sin
- ▶ Praise for grace
- ▶ Request: Grant us reviving in our slavery
- ▶ Praise for steadfast love
- ▶ Confession of current sin
- ▶ Praise – for God's mercy
- ▶ No request – no hope?

Revival (10:1-17)

- ▶ Ezra before the house of God
- ▶ An assembly of the people
 - Bitter weeping
 - Call for a covenant by the people
 - Oath is made with the leaders
- ▶ Ezra casts himself upon the mercy of God
- ▶ Decree to assemble
- ▶ Call to separate from foreign wives
- ▶ Obedience

The guilty men (10:18-44)

- ▶ Priests
- ▶ Temple service: Levites; singers; gatekeepers
- ▶ Israel

Ezra – a book without conclusion

- ▶ God at work – great expectations
- ▶ Man – nothing new under the sun
- ▶ Restoring the “old time religion”

Ezra – a light in a dark place

- ▶ The good hand of the LORD is upon Him
- ▶ A student, a doer, a teacher – of God's Word
- ▶ The power of the Word of God – Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra
- ▶ Ezra trembled before the LORD
 - Isaiah 66:2
 - Ezra 9:4
- ▶ Seek the Lord and His righteousness
 - Zephaniah 2:3
 - Hosea 10:12
 - Matthew 6:33