

Return from Exile

Esther becomes Queen

Esther 1-5

Lesson 14

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
December 5, 2010*

The Word of God in Esther

- ▶ Heroic narrative literature
- ▶ Controversial in Biblical literature
- ▶ A display of God's providence

The People of God in Esther

- ▶ Faith – salvation – righteousness
- ▶ Hope – the coming King
- ▶ Sovereignty of God – absolute dominion
- ▶ Joshua 1:8 – God’s Word – “day and night”
- ▶ Psalm 37:4 – Delight yourself in the LORD

Portrait of a believer – faith

- ▶ Justification by faith
- ▶ Sanctification by faith
- ▶ Abraham – pattern of faith
- ▶ Israel – a holy nation

Portrait of a believer – hope

- ▶ Enoch – Genesis 5:21-24; Jude 14-15
- ▶ Lamech – Genesis 5:28-29
- ▶ Abraham – Genesis 15:1; 17:7-8
- ▶ Abraham – a city not found – Heb. 11:10, 13
- ▶ Promise not received – Heb. 11:39-40
- ▶ Jesus – expecting future joy – Heb. 12:1-2

Portrait of a believer – hope

- ▶ The city is Jerusalem
- ▶ 2 Chronicles 6:5-6 – 2 Kings 21:7
- ▶ Psalm 132:13-14
- ▶ Isaiah 59:20
- ▶ Haggai 2:6
- ▶ Zechariah 1:17 and 2:12
- ▶ Revelation 21 – the New Jerusalem

Guidance for life in exile

Jeremiah 29:10 – 70 years of captivity

Daniel 6 – prayed toward Jerusalem

Daniel 9:25 – restoration of Jerusalem

Ezra 1 – Decree of Cyrus – Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel

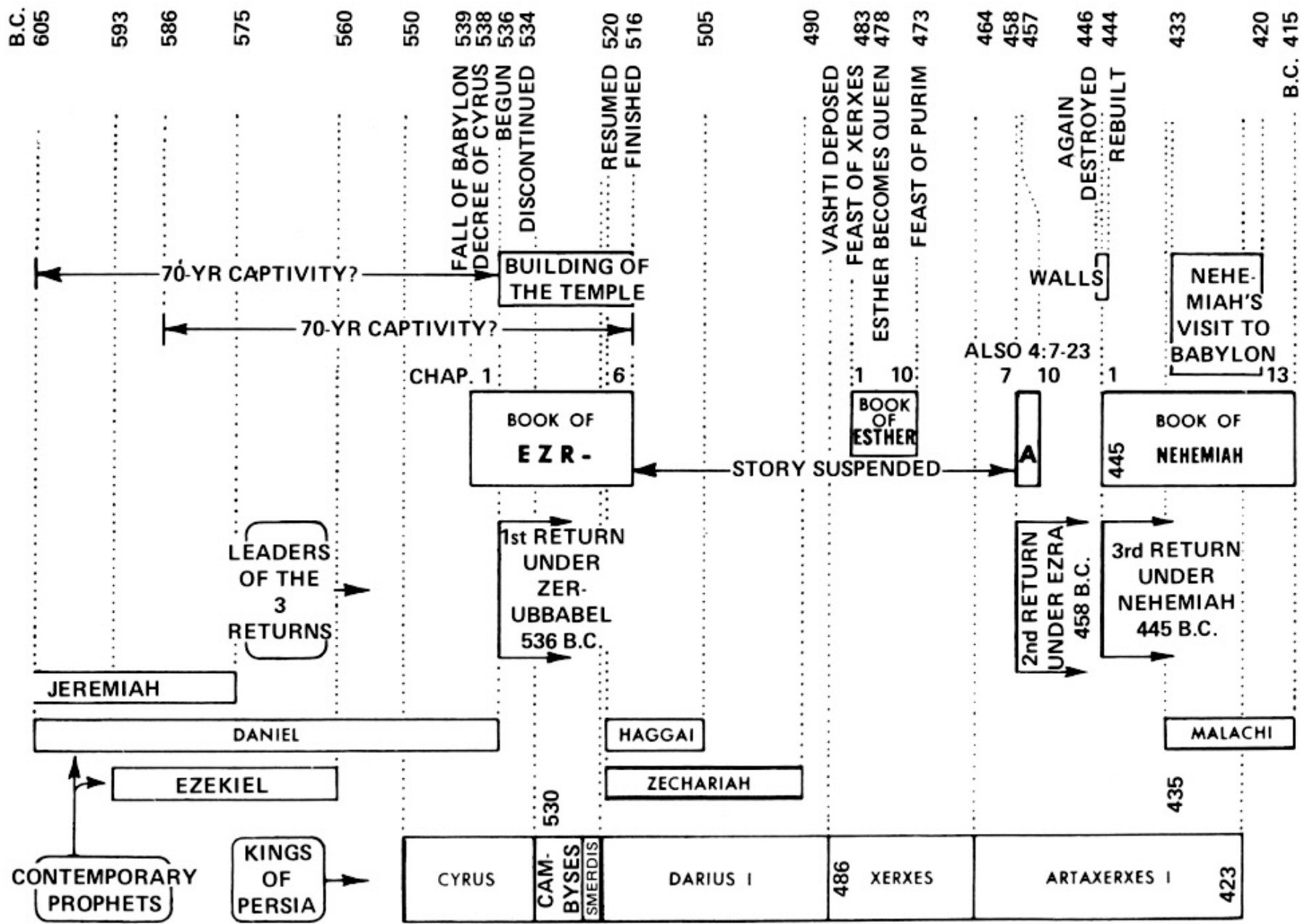
Ezra 7:10 – resolved to teach *in Israel* . . .

Nehemiah 1 – sadness for Jerusalem

Haggai 2:6-7 – a future glory for “this house”

Zechariah 2:12 – LORD will again choose Jerusalem

Zechariah 9:9-10 – Your King comes . . .



Queen Vashti is deposed – Esther 1

Ahasuerus (Xerxes) (519 BC to 465 BC)



Queen Vashti is deposed – Esther 1

- ▶ The king's feast – display his greatness
- ▶ The king's fury – drunken demand
- ▶ Counsel of wise men
 - Remove the queen
 - Decree honor for husbands

Esther becomes queen – Esther 2:1-18

- ▶ The counsel of his young men – a royal harem
- ▶ Introduction of Mordecai and Esther
 - Mordecai – 3rd generation in exile from Israel; step-father of Esther – possible official (2:19; 3:2-3)
 - Esther – orphan; cousin of Mordecai; very beautiful
- ▶ Esther becomes queen

Esther becomes queen – Esther 2:1-18

- ▶ Is Esther a model for our daughters?
- ▶ God's revealed plan – a holy nation
- ▶ Joseph in Egypt – directions for his bones
- ▶ Other captives: Daniel and his 3 companions; Nehemiah; Ezra
- ▶ What risk? – Vashti only banished!
- ▶ Concealed her heritage (2:10, 20)

Mordecai protects the king (2:19-23)

- ▶ Plot by 2 eunuchs (2:21)
- ▶ Mordecai told Esther who told the king
- ▶ Investigation and execution
- ▶ Mordecai's submission to the king

Haman's hatred for Mordecai (3:1-15)

▶ Haman the Agagite

- Amalekites – Ex. 17:8-16; Deut. 25:17-19; 1 Sam. 14:47-15:35
- Mordecai disobeyed the king's command – no homage to Haman

▶ The fury of Haman – against all Jews

- Is Mordecai a blessing or a curse?
- God's provision already in place

▶ Haman's plan (12th year)

- Casting lots for the favorable time – Pur = lot or chance or fate
- “destroy, kill, annihilate all Jews – young and old, women and children”
- Confusion in Susa

Mordecai's plan – Esther 4

- ▶ Distress in the Jewish community
- ▶ Mordecai's plan
- ▶ Esther's reluctance
- ▶ Mordecai's admonition
 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: Daniel 3:17-18
 - The instructions from Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:1-10
 - The prayer of Solomon: 2 Chronicles 6:36-39
- ▶ Esther's fatalism – “If I perish, I perish!”

Esther received by the king – Esther 5:1-8

Esther wins favor from the king
First feast with Ahasuerus and Haman
Request will be at the second feast

Haman's gallows – Esther 5:9-14

- ▶ No joy for Haman – no peace for the wicked
 - Splendor of royalty and favor by king and queen.
 - Hatred for Mordecai's lack of honor (5:13)
 - Wife's counsel
 - Build gallows for Mordecai
 - Ask the king for permission to hang Mordecai
 - Go joyfully to the feast
- ▶ The gallows are prepared
- ▶ Providence of God – preparation for vengeance

Heroic or Tragic?

- ▶ The need for spiritual perspective in life
- ▶ A life driven by faith and hope
- ▶ Righteousness – 1 John 3:2; 2 Peter 3:10-13