

# **Return from Exile**

## **The Sun of Righteousness**

**Malachi 3-4**

**Lesson 17**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School  
December 26, 2010*

# Great Expectations

- ▶ The Promise: Genesis 12:1-3
  - Blessing
  - A great nation
  - Blessing for all nations
- ▶ The Seed – Son of Abraham, Son of David
- ▶ The Redeemer – Isaiah 53
- ▶ The nation Israel is established – Exodus 19

# An Unfulfilled Promise

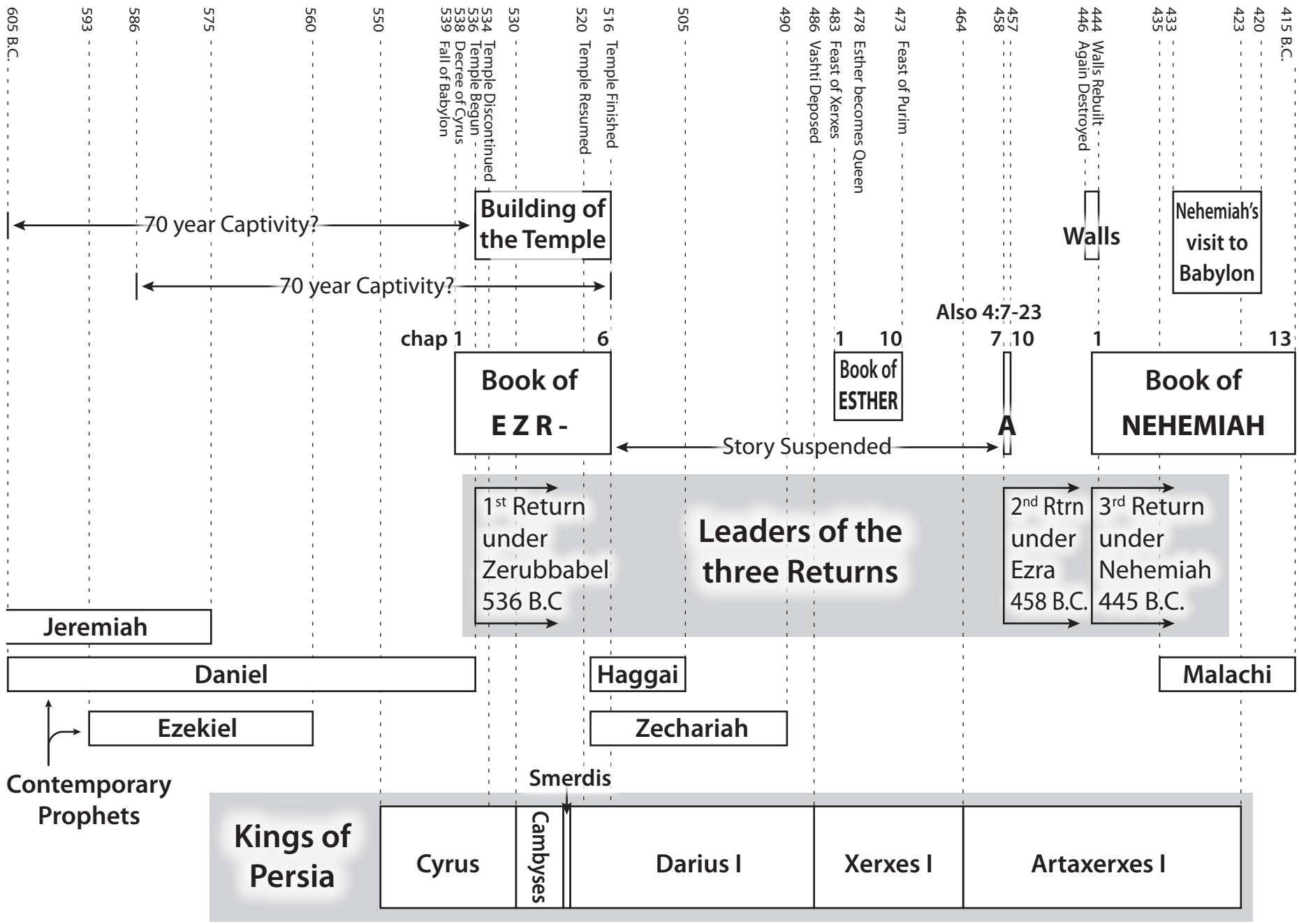
- ▶ A consistent pattern of sin – Ezekiel 16, 23
- ▶ The Kingdom is divided after Solomon
- ▶ The captivity by Assyria and Babylon
- ▶ The destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem
- ▶ A failed Promise – no Temple and no Nation

# A reason for hope

- ▶ Predictions in Deuteronomy and the Prophets
- ▶ Promises of restoration by the Prophets
- ▶ Jeremiah's 70 year prophecy

# The Decree of Cyrus

- ▶ 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 — Ezra 1:1-4
- ▶ The return: Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah
- ▶ The “nation” outside of the Promised Land



# A Divided Nation

- ▶ The return: Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah
  - The Promise of God drives this era
  - Building the Temple
  - Building the Wall of Jerusalem
  - Building the people – spiritual decline and renewal
- ▶ The “nation” outside of the Promised Land
  - No faith or hope
  - An ethnic community – not a source of blessing
  - The providential care of God

# The Prophetic Word

- ▶ Haggai – priority and promise
- ▶ Zechariah – the King with Salvation
- ▶ Malachi – the last Word of the Old Testament
  - The love of God for Israel
  - The unworthiness of the people
  - The Messenger of the Covenant is coming
- ▶ God's provision for the holiness of His people
- ▶ Re-focus on the Promise of God



# This is my Father's world

This is my Father's world,  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:  
The battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and heav'n be one.

# Malachi

Covenant Faithfulness – the love of God  
Doubt and Disobedience – no fear of God

# Malachi – Covenant Faithfulness

- ▶ “Jacob have I loved.”
- ▶ “Esau have I hated.”
- ▶ A call for faith – “Your own eyes shall see . . .”

# Malachi – Doubt and Disobedience

- ▶ No honor of God – Romans 1:21
- ▶ Polluted offerings (1:6-14)
- ▶ False instruction (2:1-9)
- ▶ Idolatry (2:10-12)
- ▶ Unfaithfulness in marriage (2:13-16)
- ▶ Withholding tithes (3:6-10)

# No honor for the LORD

- ▶ You have wearied the LORD (2:17)
- ▶ You are robbing the LORD (3:8)
- ▶ You speak harsh words against the LORD (3:13)
- ▶ No fear of the LORD!
  - I am a Great King . . . and my Name will be feared among the nations (1:14)
  - Covenant of fear . . . (Levi) feared Me (2:5)
  - Blessing on those who fear the LORD (3:16; 4:2)

# The Messenger of the Covenant

- ▶ Here is the God of justice
- ▶ My messenger – Isaiah 40:3-5
  - Elijah – Malachi 4:5-6
  - John the Baptist – Matthew 11:10
- ▶ The Messenger of the Covenant – 2 roles
  - Judge
  - Purifier

# The Messenger of the Covenant

- ▶ He will suddenly come to His Temple
- ▶ The Everlasting Covenant (Genesis 9:9-17)
  - The Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3)
  - The Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)
  - The Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19f)
  - The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
- ▶ The Second Coming of Christ

**“ I the LORD do not change . . . ”**

- ▶ **Covenant of God v. the Justice of God**
  - Man’s concept of justice v. God’s concept
  - God’s character truly was driving their present course and future
- ▶ **The Covenant**
  - Psalm 89:33 – cannot be altered
  - Psalm 138:2 – Word and Name honored – Word above Name
  - Heb. 6:13-14, 17-18 – God cannot lie – promise & oath
  - Hosea 11:9; Neh 9:31 – God will not destroy the nation
  - Micah 7:18-20 – A pardoning God
- ▶ **The Covenant includes the Justice of God**



# A Call to Return

- ▶ They were robbing God
- ▶ They denied the value of God
- ▶ A call to trust God
- ▶ Testing v. Trusting God
  - Test: challenge God to act according to our desires
  - Trust: accept God's test of Himself
- ▶ Lamentations 3:19-24

# The Book of Remembrance

- ▶ Those who fear Him and esteemed His Name
- ▶ Written before creation (Rev. 13:8)
- ▶ The requirement of righteousness
- ▶ The Song of Moses (Rev. 15:3-4)

# The Day of the LORD

- ▶ God distinguishes the righteous and the wicked
- ▶ A Day of wrath
- ▶ A Day of deliverance – the Sun of Righteousness

# The Last Word

- ▶ Remember Moses
- ▶ Look for Elijah
- ▶ A universal truth – honor the LORD by faith