

# CHRONOLOGY OF EZRA, NEHEMIAH, AND ESTHER

	<b>539</b>	<b>Cyrus (539-529)</b> is king of Persia (Ezra 1:1) Cyrus conquers Babylon - makes Persia a world empire Daniel said Babylon would fall to the Persians (Daniel 5:25-31)
<b>FIRST RETURN</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>Darius (539-529)</b> or Gobryas is viceroy of Cyrus in Babylon Cyrus issues decree to begin construction of the temple (Ezra 1:1-4) Isaiah said Jews would return under Cyrus to rebuild Jerusalem 200 years before Cyrus (Isaiah 44:26-28; 45:1,13)
Ezra 1-6	<b>536</b>	<b>Zerubbabel</b> returns with 49,897 (Ezra 2:2) / Zerubbabel is the governor under Cyrus and/or Darius (Haggai 1:14; Zechariah 4:9) - perhaps a 4 month trip (Ezra 7:9) Joshua is the High Priest (Ezra 2:2; Haggai 1:14) 7th month they built the altar and offered sacrifices (Ezra 3:1-7)
Leader:		
• Zerubbabel		
Decree of:	<b>535</b>	Work on temple is begun and stopped (Ezra 3:8-4:24)
• Cyrus (538)	<b>529</b>	<b>Cambyses (529-522)</b> or Ahasuerus of Ezra 4:6 or Artaxerxes of Ezra 4:11-24 - issues decree to stop work on the temple
• Darius (521)	<b>522</b>	<b>Guamata (522)</b> or Pseudo-Smerdis
Company:	<b>521</b>	<b>Darius I (521-486)</b> or Hystaspes - issues restoration decree for completion of the temple (520) (Ezra 6:1)
• 50,000	<b>520</b>	6th month (September), 1st day - Haggai's call to build (Ezra 5:1,2; Haggai 1:1-11) 6th month, 24th day - building begins (Haggai 1:13-15) 7th month (October), 21st day - Haggai's second appeal (Haggai 2:1-9) 8th month (November) - Zechariah's opening address (Zechariah 1:1-6) 9th month (December), 24th day - Haggai's third and fourth appeals (Haggai 2:10-23) 11th month (February), 24th day - Zechariah's visions (Zechariah 1:7-6:15) 9th month (December), 4th day - Zechariah's visions (Zechariah 7:1-14:21)
Purpose:		
• Build the temple	<b>518</b>	12th month (March), 3rd day - temple completed (Ezra 6:15)
Problem:	<b>515</b>	1st month (April), 14th - 21st days - Passover (Ezra 6:19-22)
• Samaritan opposition		
<b>ESTHER</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>Xerxes I (486-464)</b> or Ahasuerus - fought wars against Greece <b>Esther</b> becomes Queen - her marriage gave the Jews prestige at Persian court which effected Ezra's return and Nehemiah's position (Esther 2:16).
Esther 1-10	<b>478-474</b>	Esther's deliverance (Esther 3:10) Mordecai made Prime Minister
	<b>464</b>	<b>Artaxerxes I (464-424)</b> or Longimanus Was the step-son of Esther (Ezra 7:1)
<b>SECOND RETURN</b>	<b>457</b>	Artaxerxes I issues decree for Ezra to return and establish worship (Ezra 7:1) <b>Ezra</b> goes from Babylon to Jerusalem with 1,754 men (Ezra 7:7,9; 8) 80 years after the Jews returned under Zerubbabel Ezra leads a reform of the Jews (Ezra 10:10,11)
Ezra 7-1; Nehemiah 8-12		
Leader:		
• Ezra		
Decree of:		
• Artaxerxes I (457)		
Company:		
• 2,000		
Purpose:		
• Establish worship		
• Reform		
Problem:		
• Heathen marriages		

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## THIRD RETURN

	<b>445</b>	Artaxerxes I issues decree to Nehemiah to return and rebuild the city wall (Nehemiah 2:6-8)
Nehemiah 1-7; 13	<b>444</b>	<b>Nehemiah</b> goes to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1) - Ezra had been there 13 years Nehemiah is Governor for 12 years (Nehemiah 5:14) Wall built (Nehemiah 2:13; 6:15)
Leader:	<b>432</b>	Malachi was a prophet during this time (Nehemiah 13:10,23; Malachi 2:11; 3:8)
• Nehemiah		
Decree of:		
• Artaxerxes I (445)		
Company:		
• Small group		
Purpose:		
• Build city wall		
• Reform		
Problem:		
• Samaritans		
• Mixed marriages		