

OVERVIEW OF EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

A TIMELINE OF THE RECONSTRUCTION OVERSEEN BY EZRA AND NEHEMIAH.

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BABYLONIAN KING

EVENTS IN ISRAEL

CYRUS
(539-530)

PERSIA CONQUERS BABYLON (539) ...
2 CHR. 36:20; DANIEL 5; ISAIAH 44-47

THE FIRST EXILES RETURN (538)

2 CHRONICLES 36:22-23; EZRA 1-2

» REBUILDING THE ALTAR (EZRA 3:1-7)

» BEGINNING TEMPLE RECONSTRUCTION (3:1-4)

TEMPLE RECONSTRUCTION HALTED

» PEOPLE DISCOURAGE THE BUILDERS (4:4-5)

» OPPONENTS SEND A LETTER TO BABYLON (4:6-24)

» WORK HALTED FOR YEARS

CAMBYSES II
(530-522)

HAGGAI AND ZECHARIAH PROPHECY (520)

» ENCOURAGING THE REBUILDING (5:1-5)

» DARIUS APPROVES WORK RESUMPTION (5:6-6:12)

TEMPLE COMPLETED (516 - EZRA 6:13-18)

PASSOVER CELEBRATED (6:19-22)

DARIUS I (522-486)
XERXES I (486-465)

NOTE ON BABYLONIAN RULERS

THE ISRAELITES HAD DIFFERENT NAMES/TITLES FOR FOREIGN LEADERS THAN THE FOREIGN NATIONS DID. IT SEEMS THAT "AHASUERUS" AND "ARTAXERXES" WERE USED AS TITLES BY JEWISH WRITERS, RATHER THAN NAMES. THERE ARE SEVERAL PIECES OF EVIDENCE FOR THIS:

» BOTH ARE USED TO REFER TO THE SAME KING IN **EZRA 4:6-7**.

» THERE ARE TWO REFERENCES TO "ARTAXERXES" IN EZRA. THE ARTAXERXES IN **EZRA 4** ORDERED THE CESSATION OF TEMPLE-RECONSTRUCTION (**EZRA 4:23-24**) AND RULED PRIOR TO DARIUS (**EZRA 5-6**). HIS PERSIAN NAME WAS CAMBYSES II. THE ARTAXERXES IN **EZRA 7** RULED AFTER DARIUS. THIS WAS THE RULER THE PERSIANS CALLED ARTAXERXES.

» "AHASUERUS" WAS NOT A NAME USED BY ANY OF THE FOREIGN RULERS THEMSELVES, BUT RATHER A GENERIC ISRAELITE TITLE. THE AHASUERUS OF **EZRA 4** WAS PROBABLY NOT THE SAME AHASUERUS REFERRED TO IN **ESTHER**. IT IS LIKELY (THOUGH NOT CERTAIN) THAT THE AHASUERUS OF **ESTHER** WAS XERXES I.

.... **EZRA RETURNS TO ISRAEL** (458) ...
EZRA 7

EZRA'S WORK IN ISRAEL

» EZRA'S COMMISSION (7:1-28)

» GENEALOGIES (8:1-14)

» LEVITES RETURN (8:15-36)

» EZRA PRAYS ABOUT INTERMARRIAGE (9)

» THE PEOPLE CONFESS (10)

ARTAXERXES I (465-424)

.... **NEHEMIAH'S FIRST RETURN** (445) ...
NEHEMIAH 1-2

NEHEMIAH'S WORK IN ISRAEL

» INSPECTING THE WALL (NEHEMIAH 2:9-20)

» BEGINNING WALL RECONSTRUCTION (3)

» WORK OPPOSED AND RESUMED (4)

» NEHEMIAH HELPS THE POOR (5)

» WALL RECONSTRUCTION FINISHED (6:1-7:4)

» CENSUS AND ACCOUNTING (7:5-73)

THE READING OF THE LAW

NEHEMIAH 8:1-12

EZRA AND NEHEMIAH LEAD THE PEOPLE IN RENEWING THE COVENANT (8:13-13:3)

← **NEHEMIAH GOES BACK AND FORTH TO SUSAN** (433-432 - NEHEMIAH 13:6-9)

LAST DATED REFERENCE IN THE OT (NEH. 13:6)
32ND YEAR OF ARTAXERXES (433-432 BC)