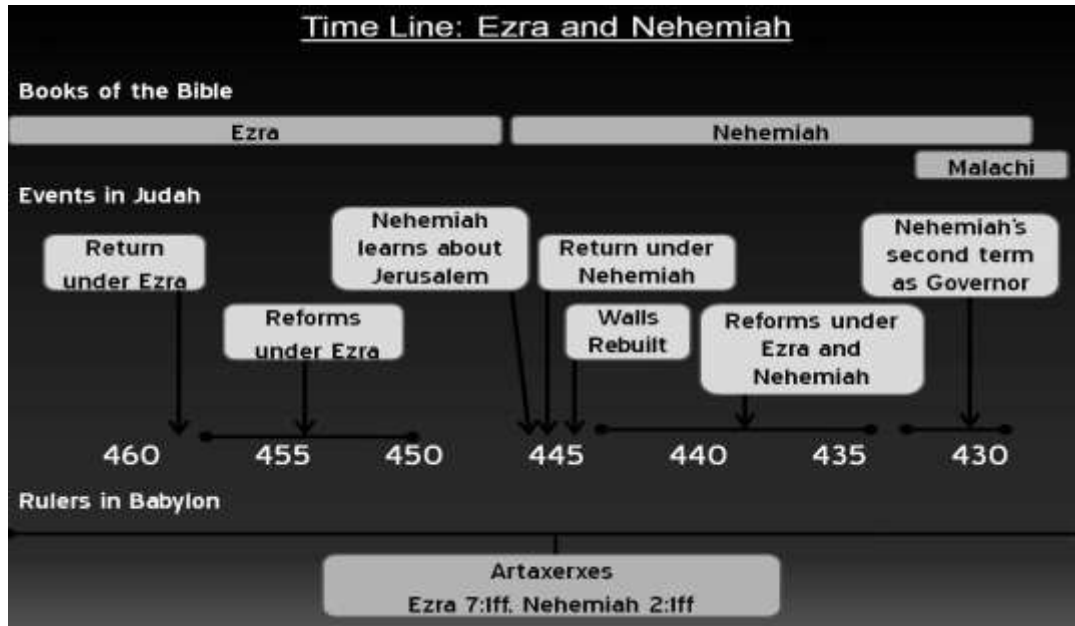


Intro to EZRA & NEHEMIAH

Author: It is thought that Ezra, the author of the Chronicles, wrote the book of Ezra, and a substantial portion of the book of Nehemiah, with the help of Nehemiah and his journal. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah cover the period of time from around 536 B.C. to 440 B.C. They are historical books, chronicling the exile of Judah from Babylonian captivity, and the rebuilding of the temple and the city walls of Jerusalem.



EZRA SUMMARY

Chapter 1—Cyrus issues an edict allowing the Hebrews to go back to the land of Judah

Chapter 2—The number of exiles who were emancipated totaled 49,897.

Chapter 3—The first step in the restoration of Jerusalem was the erection of an altar of burnt offering. The Feast of Tabernacles was celebrated and materials were gathered to rebuild the temple. Under Zerubbabel, the foundation for the temple was laid.

Chapter 4—Opposition arose and the work on the temple was stopped.

Chapter 5 and 6—Darius ascends to the throne of Persia and the work on the temple is resumed and completed.

Chapters 7 and 8—During the reign of Artaxerxes, Ezra arrives in Jerusalem to teach the law of God to the people.

Chapters 9 and 10—Distraught with the evil that is rampant, stemming from the intermarrying of the people with idolaters, Ezra calls the people to confession, repentance, and renewal to God's covenant.

NEHEMIAH SUMMARY

Chapter 1—Nehemiah hears of the devastation of Jerusalem and is saddened by the news

Chapter 2—Nehemiah, cupbearer for King Artaxerxes, goes to the king and asks permission to go to Jerusalem. Permission is granted and Nehemiah goes to assess the damage to the city walls. Upon inspection, Nehemiah calls for the rebuilding of the walls immediately.

Chapter 3—Nehemiah delegates and assigns various crews to help with the reconstruction

Chapter 4—Nehemiah encounters opposition to the building of the walls.

Chapter 5—Nehemiah engages in work to help those who are in need.

- Chapter 6**—After encountering more opposition to the effort, the project of rebuilding the city walls was finally completed.
- Chapter 7**—Chapter 7 lists the census of all the exiles who had returned to Jerusalem.
- Chapter 8**—Ezra addresses the people by reminding them of the law of the Lord
- Chapter 9 and 10**—The people confess their sins and repent and the covenant is renewed
- Chapter 11 and 12**—The walls are dedicated
- Chapter 13**—Nehemiah’s final reforms

Ezra and Nehemiah - Time Chart

BC	Event	Prophet	Reference
610	<i>Babylon under Nabopolassar defeats Assyria</i>		
608	Jeremiah predicts Temple destruction in Jerusalem		Jer 5:12
605	<i>Nebuchadnessar defeats Egypt at Carchemish</i>		
605	Jerusalem conquered by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken to Babylon)	DANIEL JEREMIAH.....	2 Ki 24:1 Dan 1:1-4
600	<i>Zoroaster teaches in Persia</i>		
597	Jehoiakin defeated by Nebuchadnezzar (Ezekiel taken to Babylon)	EZEKIEL.....	2 Ki 24:10-16 (Ezek 1:1-2)
586	Jerusalem and Temple destroyed Obadiah condemns Edom		2 Ki 25:27-30 Ob 1-21
575	<i>Nebuchadnezzar builds Hanging Gardens</i>		
573	Ezekiel’s vision of restoration		Ezek 40-48
563	<i>Birth of Buddha</i>		
561	Evil Merodach King of Babylon		2 Ki 25:27-30
555	Nabonidus King of Babylon		
550	Belshazzar co-regent with Nabonidus		
539	Babylon conquered by Medes and Persians Cyrus issues decree to rebuild the Temple (42,360 return under Zerubbabel)		Daniel 5 2 Ch 36:22-23 Ezra 1-2
529	Cambyes (Artaxerxes) King of Persia (rebuilding ceases)		Ezra 4:7-24
528	<i>Buddah Enlightened</i>		
522	Darius King of Persia		
520	Building of Temple resumes	HAGGAI and ZECHARIAH	Ezra 5:1-2
516	Temple Completed		Ezra 6:15-22
509	<i>Roman Republic founded</i>		
490	<i>Persians defeated by Greeks at Marathon</i>		
486	Xerxes (Ahasuerus) King of Persia (Esther becomes Queen)		Esther
480	<i>Xerxes captures Athens</i>		
465	Artaxerxes King of Persia		
458	Ezra returns to Jerusalem		Ezra 7:1-16
445	Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall.		Neh 2
440	<i>Parthenon built in Athens</i>		
433	Nehemiah goes back to Shushanand then returns to Jerusalem	MALACHI	Neh 13:6 Neh 13:7
404	<i>Athens surrenders to Sparta</i>		
399	<i>Death of Socrates</i>		
332	Alexander the Great conquers Holy Land		