CHRONOLOGY OF EZRA, NEHEMIAH, AND ESTHER

539  Cyrus (539-529) 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)
Darius (539-529) or Gobryas is viceroy of Cyrus in Babylon

FIRST RETURN  538  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
Leader:
  • Zerubbabel
Decree of:
  • Cyrus (539)
  • Darius (521)
Company:
  • 50,000
Purpose:
  • Build the temple
Problem:
  • Samaritan opposition

536  Zerubbabel 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)

535  Work on temple is begun and stopped (Ezra 3:8-4:24)

529  Cambyses (529-522) or Ahasuerus of Ezra 4:6 or Artaxerxes of Ezra 4:11-24 - issues decree to stop work on the temple

Company:
  • 2,000

521  Darius I (521-466) or Hystaspes - issues restoration decree for completion of the temple (520)
(Ex 6:1)

520  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)
12th month (March), 3rd day - temple completed (Ezra 6:15)
1st month (April), 14th - 21st days - Passover (Ezra 6:19-22)

ESTHER  486  Xerxes I (486-464) or Ahasuerus - fought wars against Greece
Esther becomes Queen - her marriage gave the Jews prestige at Persian court which effected
Ezra’s return and Nehemiah’s position (Esther 2:16).

478-474  Esther’s deliverance (Esther 3:10)
Mordecai made Prime Minister

464  Artaxerxes I (464-424) or Longimanus
Was the step-son of Esther (Ezra 7:1)

SECOND RETURN  457  Artaxerxes I issues decree for Ezra to return and establish worship (Ezra 7:1)
Ezra 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)
## CHRONOLOGY OF EZRA, NEHEMIAH, AND ESTHER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THIRD RETURN</th>
<th>445</th>
<th>Artaxerxes I issues decree to Nehemiah to return and rebuild the city wall (Nehemiah 2:6-8)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>444</td>
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<td>Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1) - Ezra had been there 13 years</td>
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<td>Nehemiah is Governor for 12 years (Nehemiah 5:14)</td>
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<td>Wall built (Nehemiah 2:13; 6:15)</td>
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<td>432</td>
<td>Malachi was a prophet during this time (Nehemiah 13:10,23; Malachi 2:11; 3:8)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Leader:**
- Nehemiah

**Decree of:**
- Artexerxes I (445)

**Company:**
- Small group

**Purpose:**
- Build city wall
- Reform

**Problem:**
- Samaritans
- Mixed marriages