

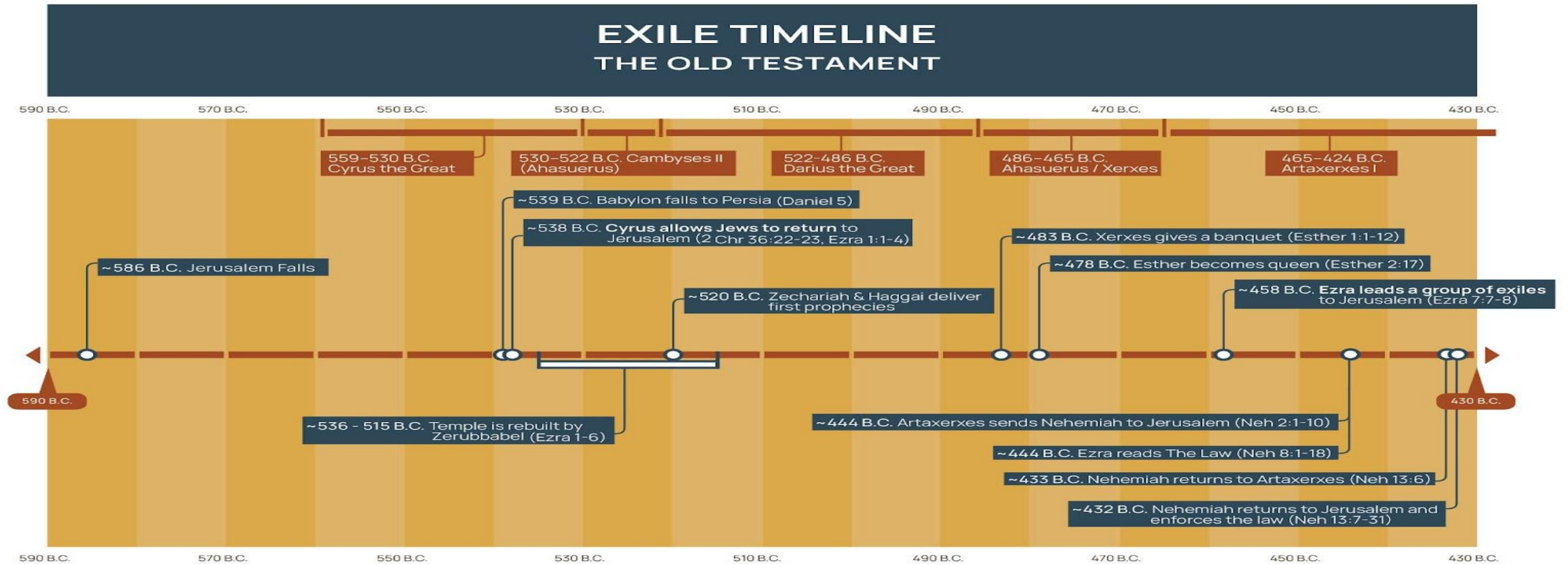


A SERMON SERIES ABOUT
COMING HOME



NEHEMIAH REBUILDING THE WALL

HISTORICAL CONTEXT



NEHEMIAH: REBUILDING THE WALL

REVIEW: GOD'S STORY

- God creates a good and ordered world, and humanity is made in His image to reflect His glory and steward creation. However, humans take matters into their own hands, leading to sin, death, and separation. As a result, all of creation suffers, prompting God's rescue plan.
- God begins to restore His relationship with us through covenants—first with Noah, then with Abraham, and subsequently with Israel through Moses and David. All nations will be blessed through Abraham's descendants.
- Israel is chosen as God's people; they receive the Law, with God dwelling among them in a tent, the tabernacle, and the temple. However, they struggle with idolatry and disobedience.

NEHEMIAH: REBUILDING WHAT'S BEEN BROKEN

- God allows Israel to be conquered and exiled, but He continues to send prophets to warn them and remind them of His promises. The prophets speak of a new covenant, forgiveness, the gathering of His people, and a Messiah who will bring lasting salvation.
- God's a master of restoration- walls, hearts, communities and purpose.
- We all experience seasons of brokenness- families, faith, dreams, identity.
- Nehemiah's story reminds us that YHWH not only sees but calls and equips people to rebuild what has been destroyed.

NEHEMIAH: GOD RESTORES THE WALL

NEH 2:1-9; 17-18;

- The wall is in ruins, and Nehemiah weeps, prays and acts

NEH 3 - very specific details of who built the wall

NEH 4 - opposition to rebuilding-Tobiah and Sanballat

NEH 5 - the poor were abused- Nehemiah deals with that

NEH 6:15-16

- The wall was restored in 52 days.
- The wall represents protection, identity and strength
- God is able to restore your strength, confidence and purpose

NEHEMIAH: GOD RESTORES THE PEOPLE

NEH 5:6-12

- Restoration isn't only about what is around us, but what is within us
- Nehemiah confronts injustice. He demands change and leads by example.

NEH 8:5-6;8-10

- The word was read and the people responded with praise
- Joy filled their hearts
- Does your soul need rebuilding? Allow God to restore your joy, worship, integrity and your walk with Him

NEHEMIAH: GOD RESTORES ORDER AND PURPOSE

NEH 13

- Old sins crept back, neglect of the temple, not keeping the sabbath and unfaithful marriages
- He reforms the systems, purifies the temple and reestablishes spiritual discipline-vigilance is needed
- NEH 13:10-11- neglect of the temple
- NEH 13:16-18 – sabbath desecrated
- NEH 13: 25-27-unfaithful marriages

NEHEMIAH: GOD CAN REBUILD IT

- Whether it's a broken wall, vision or commitment – God can rebuild it
- He is looking to partner with us, people who will pray, plan, act and trust
- God will restore what has been broken and lost
- NEH 2:20
- The God of Heaven will give us success