

# THE POST-EXILIC PERIOD

## THE UNSTOPPABLE STORY OF GOD'S PLAN WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

THE EVENTS IN THE BOOKS OF EZRA AND NEHEMIAH OCCURRED OVER A 94 YEAR SPAN FROM 538-444 BC WITH THREE SUCCESSIVE RETURNS FROM EXILE. ZERUBBABEL RETURNED FIRST TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE (EZRA 1-6).

EZRA RETURNED WITH A LARGE REMNANT AND LED A REVIVAL (EZRA 7-10). FINALLY, NEHEMIAH RETURNED TO REBUILD THE WALLS (NEHEMIAH 1-7) FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER REVIVAL UNDER EZRA (NEHEMIAH 7-13).

THE STORY OF ESTHER OCCURRED OVER A TEN YEAR PERIOD FROM THE 3RD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF XERXES IN 483 B.C. (ESTHER 1:3) UNTIL THE 12TH YEAR OF HIS REIGN IN 473 B.C. (ESTHER 3:7). CHRONOLOGICALLY THE EVENTS IN ESTHER FIT IN BETWEEN EZRA 6 AND 7 AFTER MANY OF THE JEWISH EXILES HAD RETURNED TO JERUSALEM.

DURING THIS TIME PERIOD HAGGAI AND ZECHARIAH PREACH MESSAGES THAT SUPPORT ZERUBABBAL IN HIS MISSION TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE AND REESTABLISH WORSHIP. AFTER NEHEMIAH FINISHED THE MISSION TO REBUILD THE WALLS PROVIDING SECURITY FOR THE PEOPLE IN 444 BC MALACHI PROPHESIED REBUKING THE NATION FOR ITS RITUALISM AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE.

EVENT	DATE	REFERENCE	MAP
CYRUS' DECREE TO RETURN	538 B.C.	EZRA 1:1-4	
FIRST RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL (49,897 RETURNEES LEAVE BABYLON FOR ISRAEL)	538 B.C.	EZRA 2	
TEMPLE RECONSTRUCTION STARTED	536 B.C.	EZRA 3-4	
<b>HAGGAI &amp; ZECHARIAH PREACH</b>	520-518 B.C.	EZRA 5:1-2	
TEMPLE COMPLETED	515 B.C.	EZRA 5-6	
ESTHER IS QUEEN	479 B.C.	ESTHER 1-10	
SECOND RETURN UNDER EZRA (5,000 RETURNEES)	458 B.C.	EZRA 7-10	
THIRD RETURN UNDER NEHEMIAH (49,942 ARRIVE TO RESIDE IN JERUSALEM)	444 B.C.	NEHEMIAH 1-2	
REBUILDING THE WALLS IN 52 DAYS	444 B.C.	NEHEMIAH 3-7	
<b>MALACHI PREACHES</b>	450 B.C.	MALACHI	

## CHRONOLOGY



538

**ZERUBBABEL  
(TEMPLE)**

515

HAGGAI  
ZECHARIAH

**57 YEARS**

ESTHER

458

**EZRA  
(REFORM)**

456

**12 YEARS**

MALACHI

444

**NEHEMIAH  
(WALLS)**

432

