**Ezra and Nehemiah CHARTS**

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| The Three Returns from Exile |

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|  | | Zerubbabel | |  | | Ezra | |  | | Nehemiah | |  |
| Captivity for 70 Years | | Temple  Built | | Gap of  57 Years | | People  Reformed | | Gap of  12 Years | | Wall Rebuilt | | Nehemiah  2nd Return 430 |
|  | | Haggai  520 | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| 538 | | 515 | | 458 | | 456 | | 444 | | 432 | |

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| Zechariah  520 - 518 | Esther  483 - 473 | Malachi  450 – 430? |

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| The Return from Exile **–** The Kings **--** A Chronology of "Postexilic" Years  From Willmington's Bible Guide 30th Edition |

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| **Foreign King** | **Date** | **Event** | **Scripture** | **O. T. Book** |
| Cyrus the Great  Cambyses  [son of Cyrus]  Smerdis  Darius the Great  Ahasuerus / Xerxes [son of Darius]  Artaxerxes  [son of Xerxes] | 539 - 530  530 - 522  522 - 520  520 – 486  515  486 - 465  465 - 424 | Conquers Babylon;  Issues return decree  No reference in the O. T.  Stops work on the Temple  Orders the work to continue  Temple completed  Makes Esther his queen  483 - 473  Allows Ezra to return  Allows Nehemiah to return | Dan. 5  Ezra 1-3  Ezra 4:1-23  Ezra 4:24; 6:1-22  Ezra 5-6  Esther 1-10  Ezra 7-12  Nehemiah 1-13 | Ezra 1-6  Haggai 520  Zechariah  520 – 518  [See Ezra 5:1; 6:14]  Esther  Ezra 7-12  Nehemiah  Malachi  450 - 430 | **Jerusalem ----- Persia ----- Jerusalem** |

The events of Ezra / Nehemiah cover 93 years. Their compilation was completed in about 430 B.C.

PURPOSE of EZRA / HEHEMIAH

* To reassure returning exiles God would keep His covenant with them [Neh. 9:32] and there was "hope for Israel" [Neh. 10:2].
* To demonstrate the power of prayer [Ezra 9; 10; Neh. 9] and the importance of The Word of God in times of crisis. (Nehemiah makes several references to reading from the law.)
* To show what can happen when just one person (Ezra and Nehemiah, respectively) takes a stand for the Lord.