**Ezra and Nehemiah CHARTS**

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| The Three Returns from Exile |

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|  | Zerubbabel |  | Ezra |  | Nehemiah |  |
| Captivity for 70 Years  | TempleBuilt | Gap of57 Years | PeopleReformed | Gap of12 Years | Wall Rebuilt | Nehemiah2nd Return 430 |
|  | Haggai520 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 538 | 515 | 458 | 456 | 444 | 432 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Zechariah520 - 518 | Esther483 - 473 | Malachi450 – 430? |

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

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| **Foreign King** | **Date** | **Event** | **Scripture** | **O. T. Book** |
| Cyrus the GreatCambyses [son of Cyrus]SmerdisDarius the GreatAhasuerus / Xerxes [son of Darius]Artaxerxes[son of Xerxes] | 539 - 530530 - 522522 - 520520 – 486515486 - 465465 - 424 | Conquers Babylon;Issues return decreeNo reference in the O. T.Stops work on the TempleOrders the work to continueTemple completedMakes Esther his queen483 - 473Allows Ezra to returnAllows Nehemiah to return | Dan. 5Ezra 1-3Ezra 4:1-23Ezra 4:24; 6:1-22Ezra 5-6Esther 1-10Ezra 7-12Nehemiah 1-13 | Ezra 1-6Haggai 520Zechariah 520 – 518[See Ezra 5:1; 6:14]EstherEzra 7-12NehemiahMalachi 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.