

Return from Exile Ezra and Nehemiah

Rebuilding the House of the Lord Ezra 1

3. Restoring the Vessels – 7-11

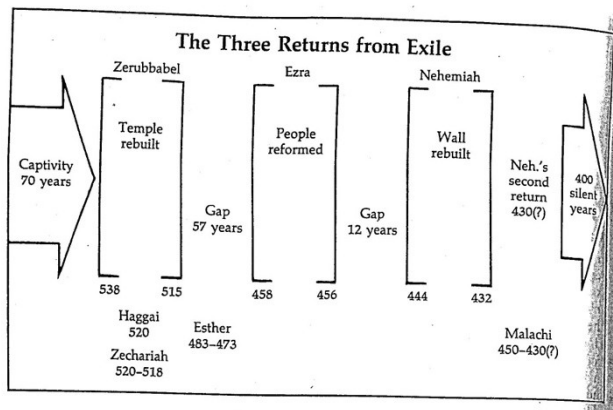
Cyrus gathered Temple vessels taken – 7-8

Nebuchadnezzar took them – 2 Chron. 36:18

Cyrus turns them over to prince of Judah – 9-11

Introduction to Ezra

1. Author – Attributed to Ezra
He was a priest – 7:1-5 and a scribe – 7:6
2. Date – covers about 80 years
Begins with decree of Cyrus (536 B.C.)
Extends through two returns from exile
3. Theme – Record history of return from exile
Return under leadership of Zerubbabel – Ezra 1-6
Return under leadership of Ezra – Ezra 7-10
Return under leadership of Nehemiah –
Book of Nehemiah



I. Permission to Return – 1:1-4

1. Prompted by God as He promised – 1:1
King Cyrus issued the proclamation
But God stirred his heart to do it
God fulfilled His word to Jeremiah – Jer. 25:11-12
Daniel prayed based upon God's promise – Dan. 9:2
Why was exile 70 years – 2 Chronicles 36:20-21
Every 7th year land was to be given rest –
Lev. 26:32-35
Return based on promises to Abraham & David
2. Proclamation of King Cyrus – 1:2-4
Cyrus recognized God's authority – Isa. 44:28; 45:1
Daniel was still serving under Cyrus – Daniel 1:21
Commissioned by God to rebuild the Temple - 2
Challenged the Jews to return to build – 3
Challenged others to give to the project - 4

II. Preparation for Return – 1:5-11

1. Recruiting the people – 5
Chief fathers of Judah and Benjamin
Priests and Levites who served in the Temple
All whom God stirred up to help build
2. Raising the support – 6
People responded with gifts to help build

