

CLASS 8: *The Second Temple: Are We There Yet? (Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Prophets)*
Jax Church OT Survey Series Fall 2023

Words/People to Know					
Cyrus	Ezra	Nehemiah	Esther/Mordecai	Zerubbabel	Joshua
Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi	Xerxes/Artaxerxes	Darius	Elijah II

Malachi 4:5-6 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.”

Background

- The end of the Kingdom: II Kings 24-25
- The final words of the Hebrew Scriptures: II Chronicles 36:15-23
- Jeremiah 25: “70 years of captivity” and then even Babylon will be punished
- The Exiles:

605 First Jewish exiles deported to Babylon including Daniel
 597 Second deportation to Babylon including Ezekiel
 586 Third/Final deportation to Babylon after Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar

Survey: Daniel, Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah, Nehemiah, Esther, & Malachi

605-530 **Daniel** served Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (Dan 1-4), Darius the Mede & Cyrus the Persian (6:28)

- *Do we believe that our work on earth really matters?*
- 539 Cyrus, King of Persia (IRAN), conquered Babylon (Dan 5:30-31)
- *Do we believe that all earthly Empires will one day come to an end?*
- 538 Cyrus issued his decree to the Jewish remnant to return to Israel (Ezra 1:1-4, 2 Chr 36:22, Is 44:28)
- *Do we believe that God rules the nations?*
- 537 50,000 Jews returned to Jerusalem led by Zerubbabel and Joshua to build the Temple (Ezra 1-2)
- 521 Work stopped on Temple because of official opposition (Ezra 4-5)
- 520 Work resumed under Darius I inspired by **Haggai** and **Zechariah** (Hag. 1, Ezra 5)
 - *'Return to me,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you,'* (Zech 1:1-3)
 - *Is it a time for you to live in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?* (Hag. 1:3-6)
 - *I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.* (Zech 3:8)
 - *Not by might, or power, but by my spirit* (Zech 4:6)
 - *See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey* (Zech 9:9)
 - *I will pour out... a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.* (Zech 12:10)
 - *The Lord will be king over the whole earth... and his name the only name.* (Zech 14:8-9)
- 516 The Temple was completed and dedicated (Ezra 6:15)
- 479 **Esther** became Queen of Persia (484-465 B.C.) (Esther 2:16) *“for such a time as this”* (Esther 4:14)
- 458 **Ezra** the scribe and teacher arrived in Jerusalem (Ezra 8:32)
- 444 **Nehemiah** arrived in Jerusalem (Neh. 2); rebuilt the walls and gates in 52 days (Neh. 6:15)
- 440 Ezra reads the word to the people, they confess and rededicate themselves (Neh. 8-9)
- 445-432 **Malachi** preaches the promise of the Messiah, the return of Elijah, the reality of the curse (Mal. 4:5-6)
 - *What is the final word? Are we longing for the Messiah's return?*
- 336 Alexander the Great became king of Macedon/Greece and marched across Europe/Asia (Daniel 8:21)