

Nehemiah

Author

Much of the book is written in the first person, suggesting Nehemiah as the author. Nehemiah probably appended his own work to that of Ezra.

Date

The book of Nehemiah focuses on the events surrounding the third return from the Exile, in 445 B.C. The book was probably written between 430-420 B.C.

<u>Purpose</u>

Nehemiah is the last of the Old Testament historical books. It records the history of the third return to Jerusalem after captivity, telling how the walls were rebuilt and the people were renewed in their faith.

Setting

Zerubbabel led the first return to Jerusalem in 538 B.C. In 458 B.C., Ezra led the second return. Finally, in 445 B.C., Nehemiah returned with the third group of exiles to rebuild the city walls.

Theme

God's provision for His people.

Key verses

Nehemiah 6:15, 16

Key people

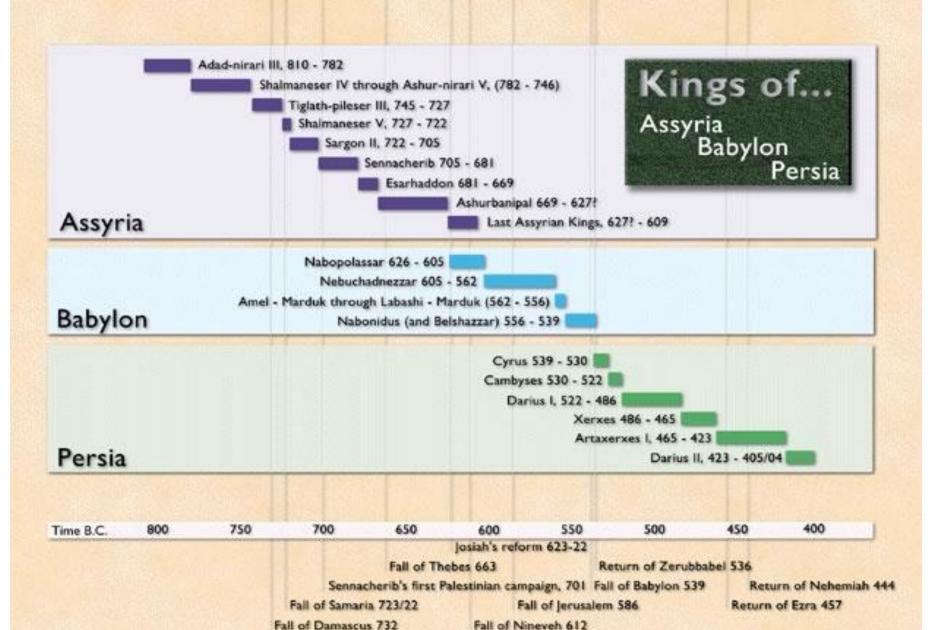
Nehemiah, Ezra

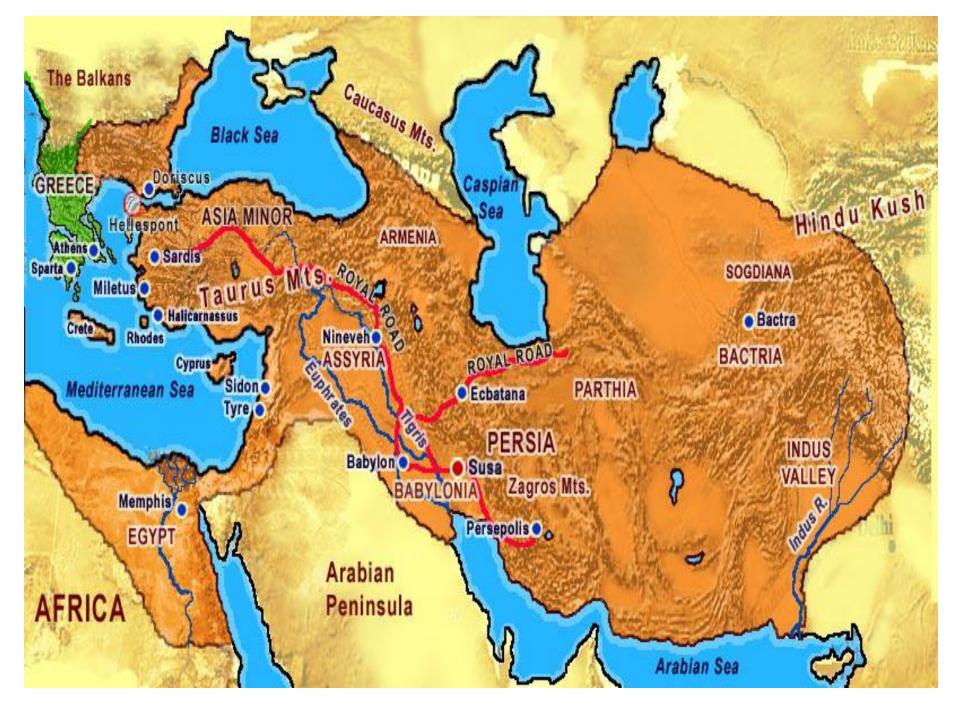
Outline

- I. The Rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem (1:1-7:73a)
- II. The Renewal of the Covenant (7:73b-10:39)
- III. The Restoration of the city (11:1-12:47)
- IV. The Return of Nehemiah (13:1-31)

NEHEMIAH

	Cupbearer to the King	Builder of the Wall	Governor of the People		
	Prayer May I? You may!	"So the wall was completed in fifty-two days." (6:15)	Scripture found (7:5) read (8:3-7) explained (8:8)	Lives changed (8:1–3, 9; 10:28–31)	Nation confronted and cleansed (13:10-30)
	CHAPTERS 1:1-2:10	CHAPTERS 2:11-6:19		CHAPTERS 7-13	
Location	Susa, Persia Jerusalem in Judah				
Focus	Leadership of a man		Revival of a nation		
Subject	Burden	Project	S	Scriptures	Reforms
Difficulties	The King	Enemies		Tradition	Compromise
Victories	Release	Accomplishment		bedience	Changes
Theme	Nehemiah's trust in the covenant-keeping God				
Key Verses	6:15–16; 8:8–10; 9:1–38				
Christ in Nehemiah	Suggested in Nehemiah, who leaves an exalted position to identify with the plight of his people and lead them into restoration; pictured in Nehemiah's prayerful dependence on God				





THE RETURNS OF JEWISH EXILES TO JUDAH

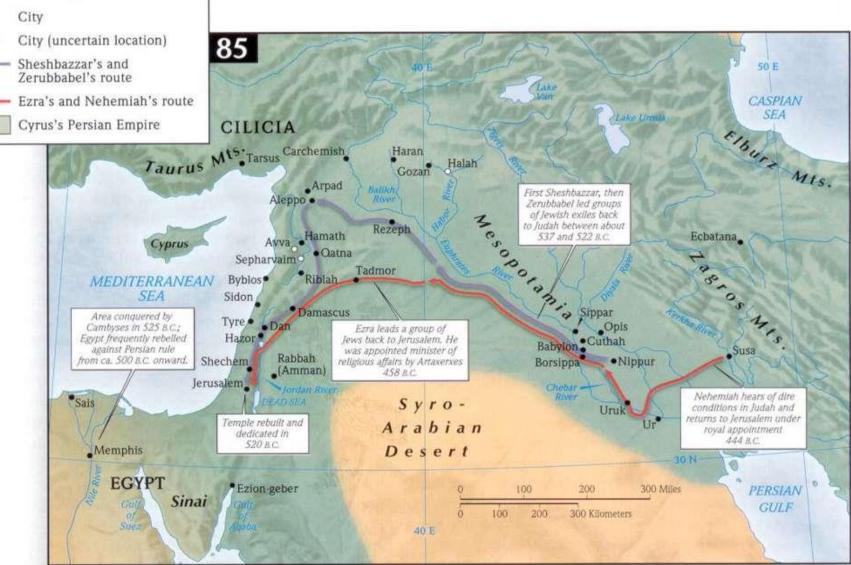
THE EDICT OF CYRUS: EZRA 1:2-4; 6:1-4 see also EZRA 1:5~8:35

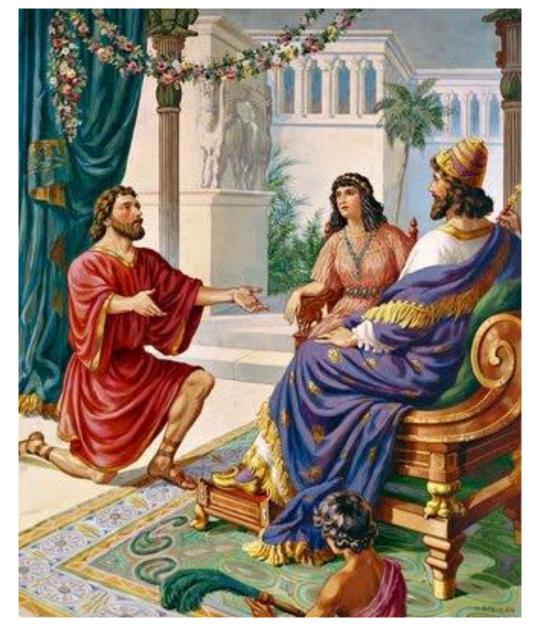
NEH. 1-3

- City
- City (uncertain location)

Sheshbazzar's and Zerubbabel's route

Cyrus's Persian Empire





Persian King Artaxerxes 1 (reigned 464BC-423BC)