

God Was Never Silent

Part 1

His Story from Malachi to Matthew

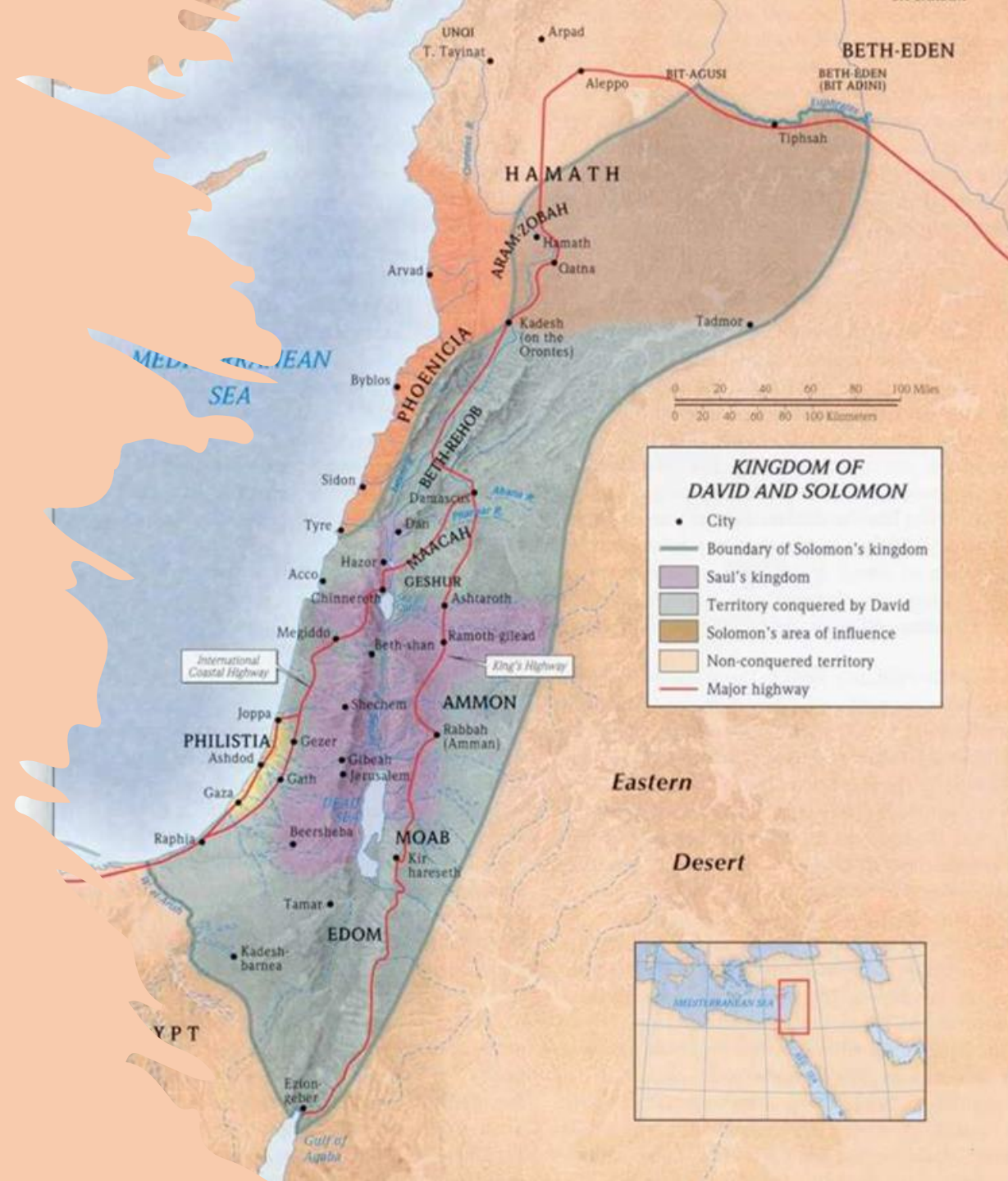
A Summary of Israel's Early History

The High's and Lows Before the Exile

- There were 3 kings that ruled over a “United Kingdom” of Israel

1. Saul
2. David
3. Solomon

- During the reign of Solomon, the Kingdom of Israel experienced the largest territorial expansion in their recorded history, and they were considered an Empire of extreme wealth and influence.



The Southern Kingdom of Judah (Made up of 2 Tribes)



Kings of Judah and Israel – Post Solomon/Pre-Exile

Judah

Prophets

<u>Kings</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Rehoboam	931-913	17
Abijah	913-911	3
Asa	911-870	41
Jehoshaphat	873-848	25
Obadiah → Jehoram	948-841	8
Ahaziah	841	1
Queen Athalia	841-835	6
Joel → Joash	835-796	40
Amaziah	796-767	29
Azariah	790-739	52
Jotham	750-735	16
Ahaz	732-715	16
Hezekiah	715-686	29
Manasseh	697-642	55
Amon	642-640	2
Jeremiah & Zephaniah → Josiah	640-609	31
Jehoahaz	609	1/4
Habakkuk → Jehoiakim	609-598	11
Jehoiachin	598-597	1/4
Zedekiah	597-586	11

Babylonian Captivity - 586

Prophets

Elijah

Elisha

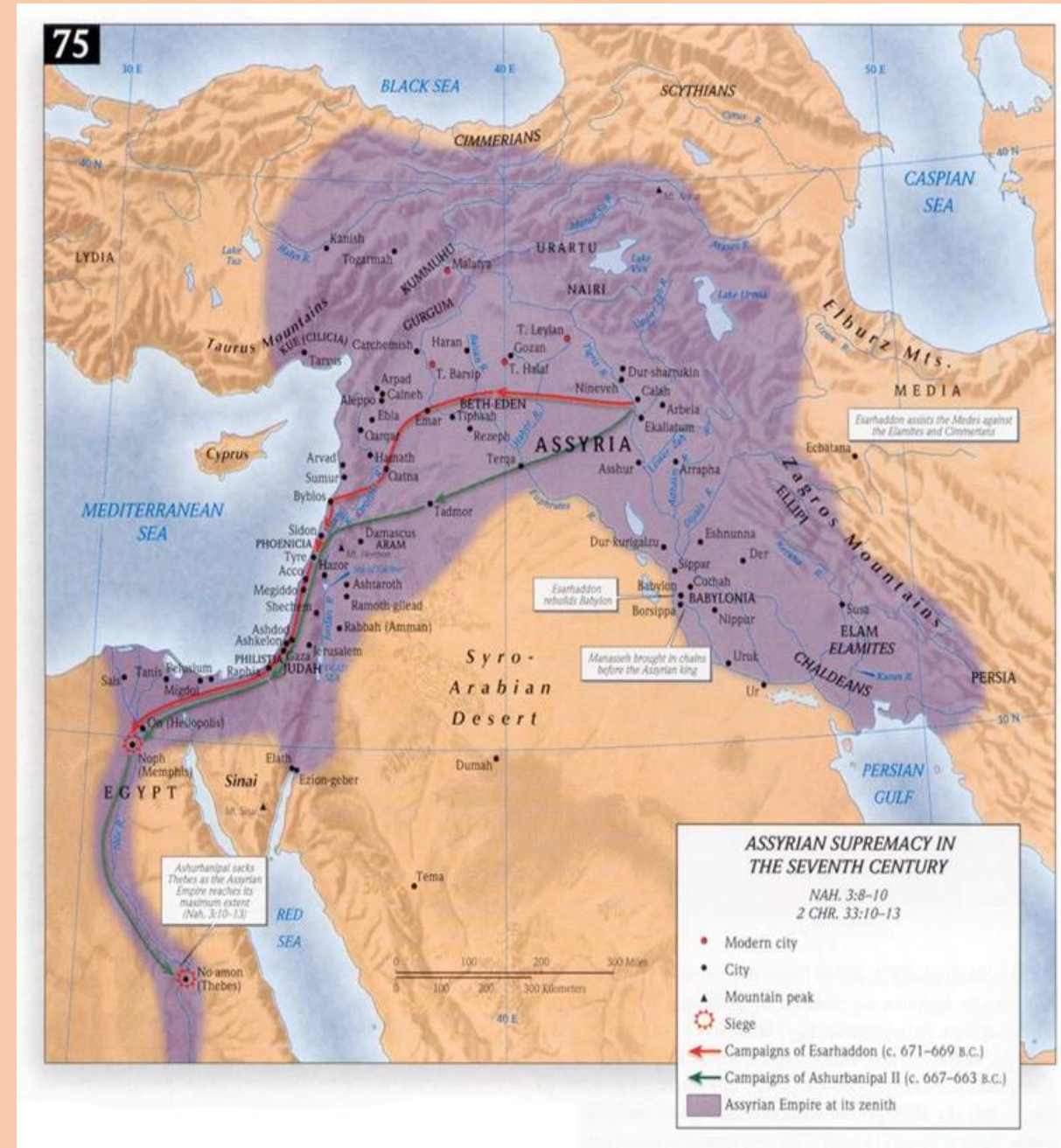
Hosea, Jonah, Amos →

Israel

<u>Dynasty</u>	<u>Kings</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
1 st Dynasty	Jeroboam I	931-910	22
"	Nadab	910-909	2
2 nd Dynasty	Basha	909-886	24
"	Elah	886-885	2
3 rd Dynasty	Zimri	885	7 days
-----	Tibni	885-880	6
4 th Dynasty	Omri	885-874	12
"	Ahab	874-853	22
"	Ahaziah	853-852	2
"	Jehoram/Joram	852-841	12
5 th Dynasty	Jehu	841-814	28
	Jehoahaz	814-798	17
	Jehoash/Joash	798-782	16
	Jeroboam II	793-753	41
	Zechariaiah	753-752	1/2
6 th Dynasty	Shallum	752	1 Month
7 th Dynasty	Menahem	752-742	10
	Pekahiah	742-740	2
8 th Dynasty	Pekah	752-732	20
9 th Dynasty	Hoshea	732-722	9

Assyrian Rule - 721

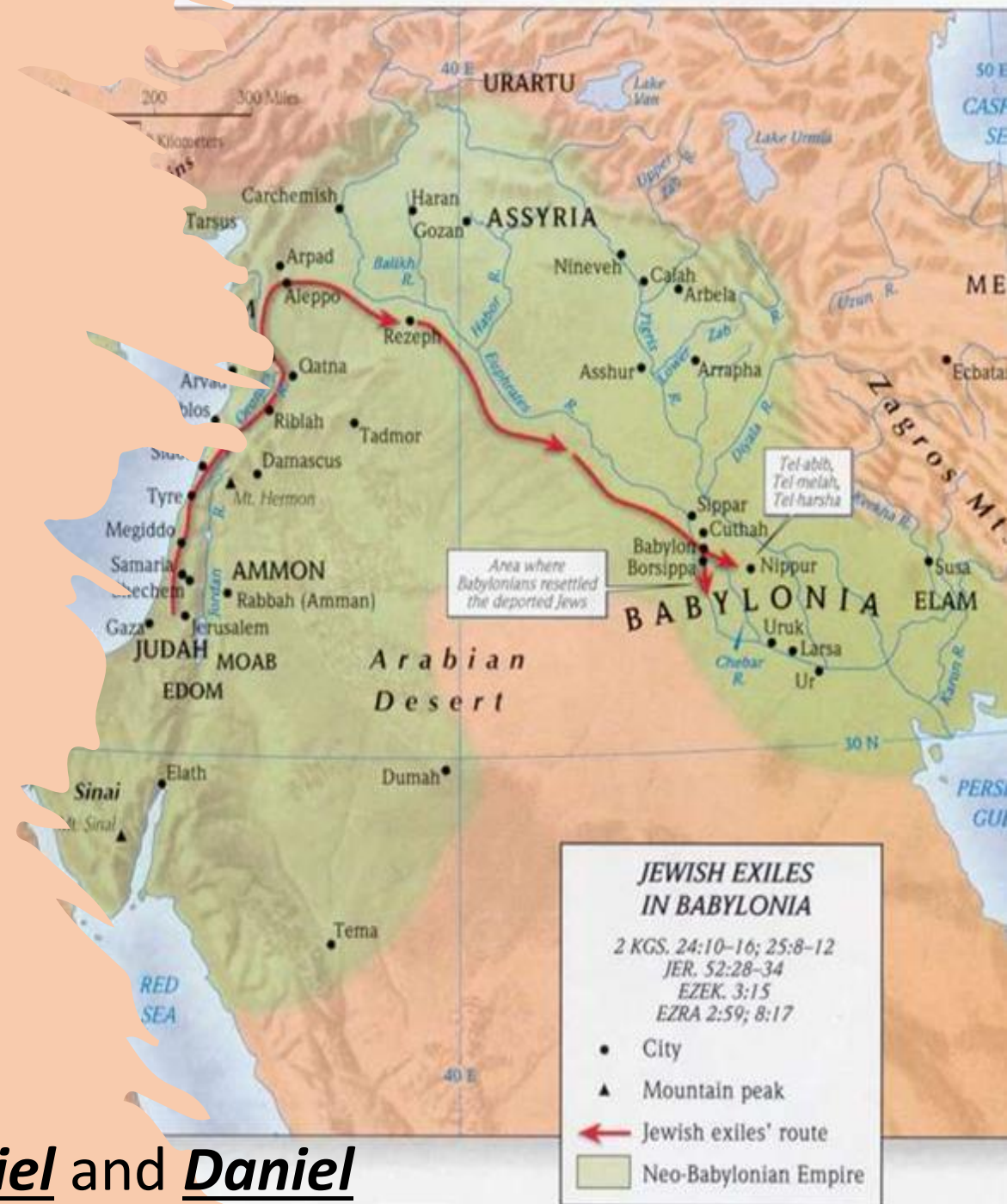
- The Northern Kingdom of Israel will be conquered by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.
- This was prophesied by Hosea and Amos



A Summary of Israel's Early History

The High's and Lows During the Exile

- The Southern Kingdom of Judah fell to the Babylonians in 586 B.C. when Jerusalem was destroyed by king Nebuchadnezzar
- This is the beginning of the Exile and is defined as the period when Judah fell to the Babylonians and subsequently taken into captivity as prophesied by Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 25:9-11)
- During this period the Synagogue, the Scribe, and the Scriptures became more important than the Temple (since there was no temple)



The prophets during the exile were Ezekiel and Daniel

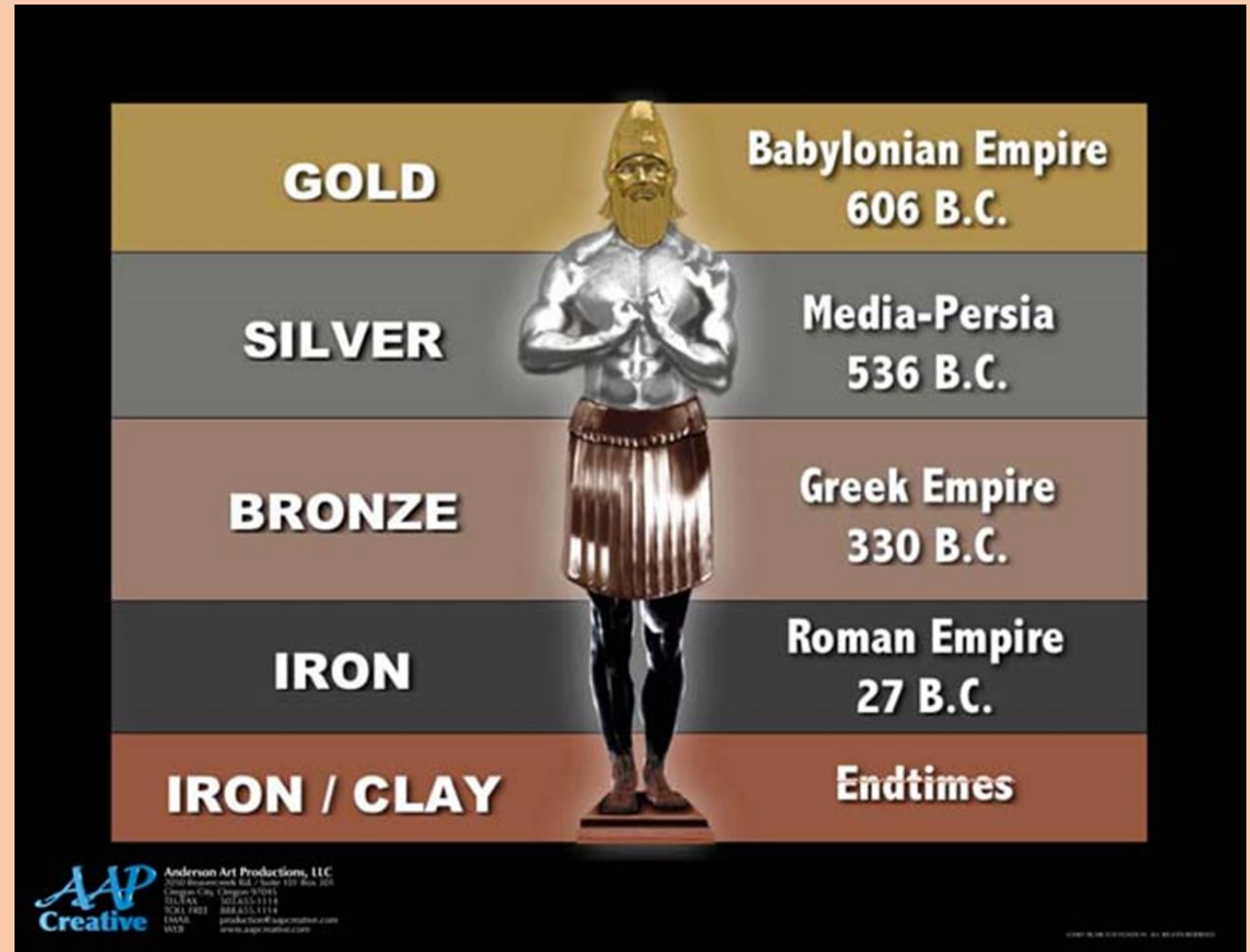
- During the Babylonian Captivity (The Exile), Daniel will interpret a very important dream for King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2)



Daniel Interprets Nebuchadnezzar's Dream, by Grant Romney Clawson, © IRI

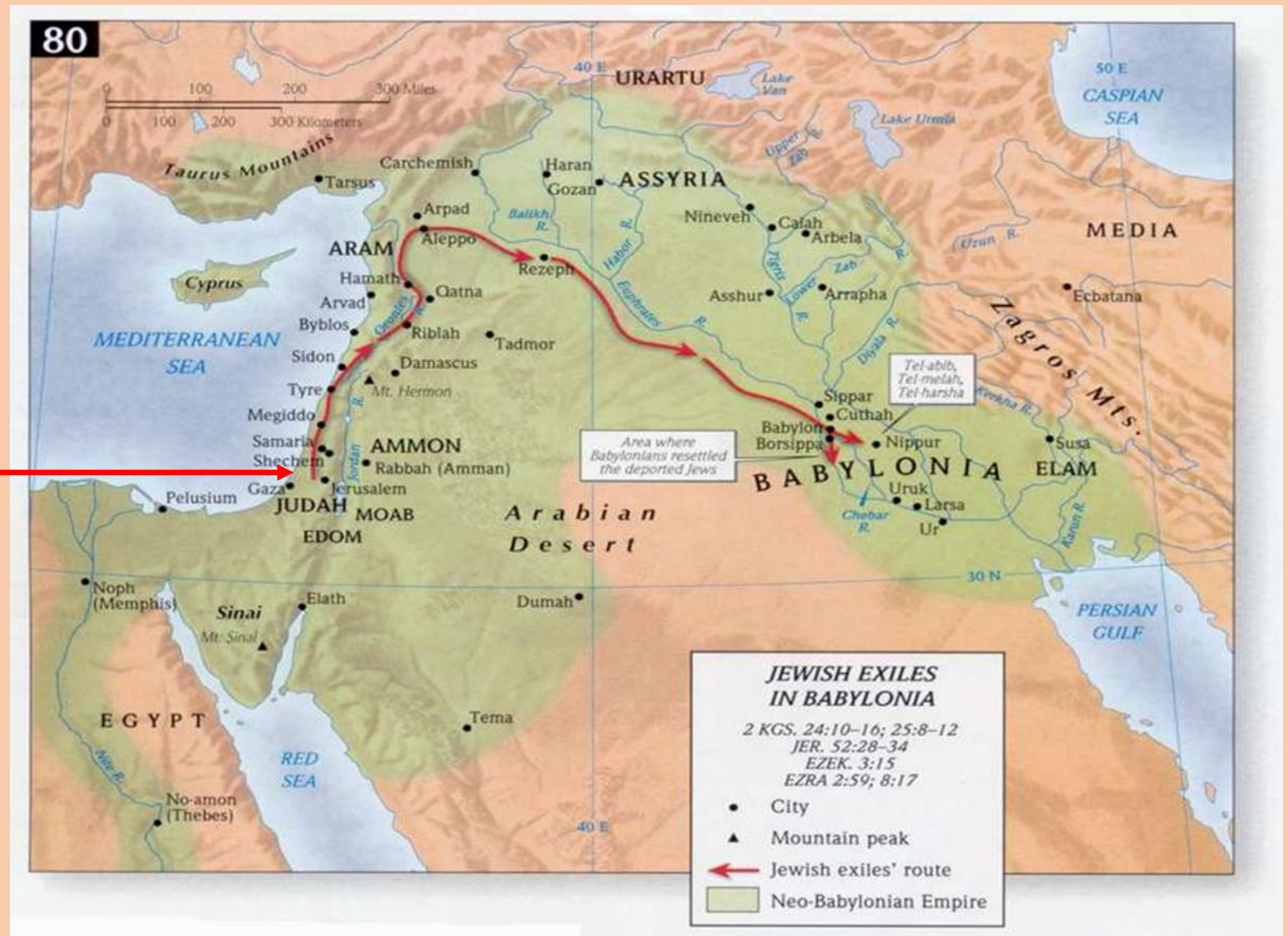
“The head of the statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.” (Daniel 2:32-33)

At the time of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, the kingdom of Babylonian was considered a vast worldwide empire and although Nebuchadnezzar may have been its ruler; the fact remained that the king was merely fulfilling God's plan for mankind



This ushered in a period known as The Times of the Gentiles

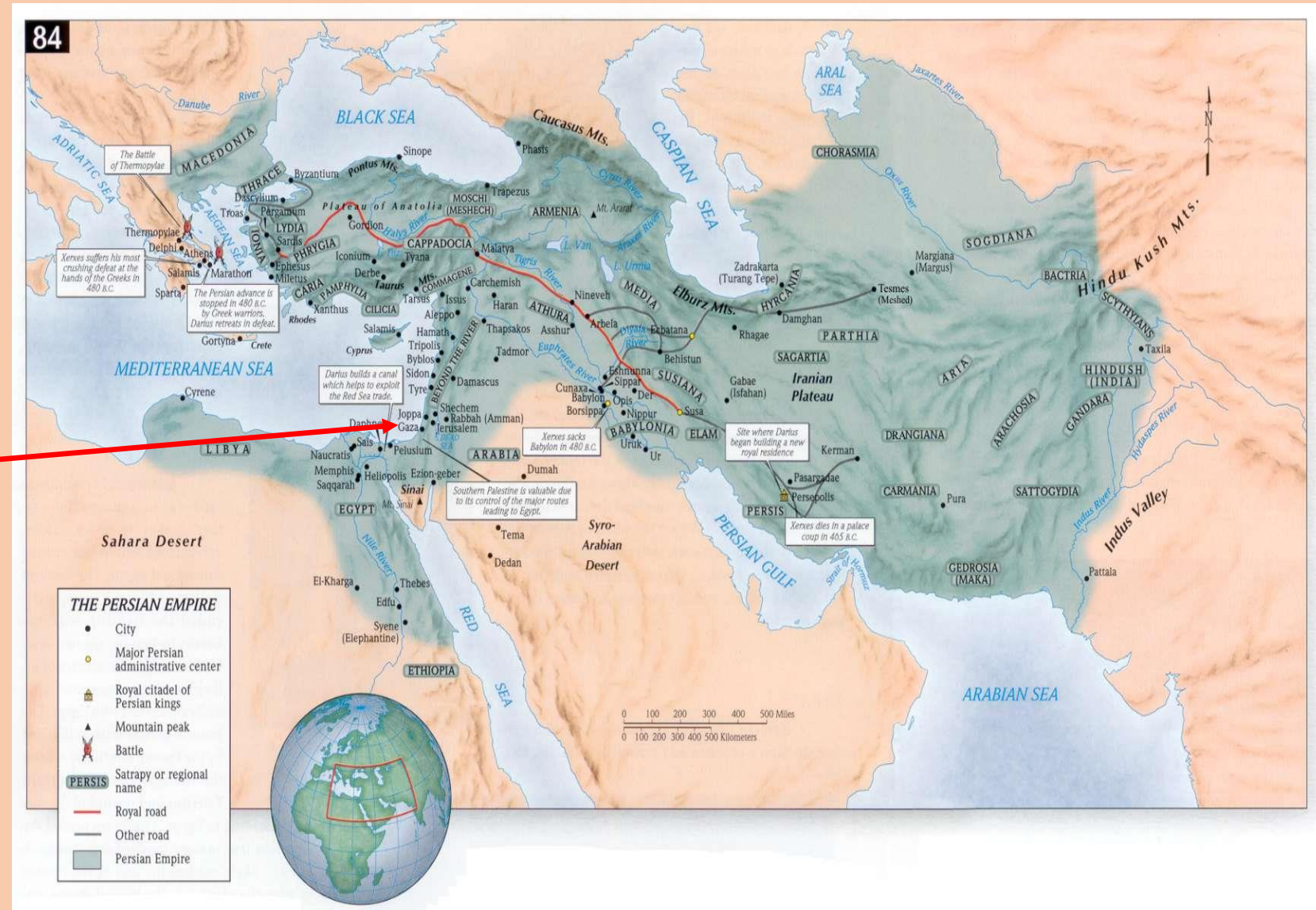
The Land of Israel and Judah



This ushered in a period known as The Times of the Gentiles

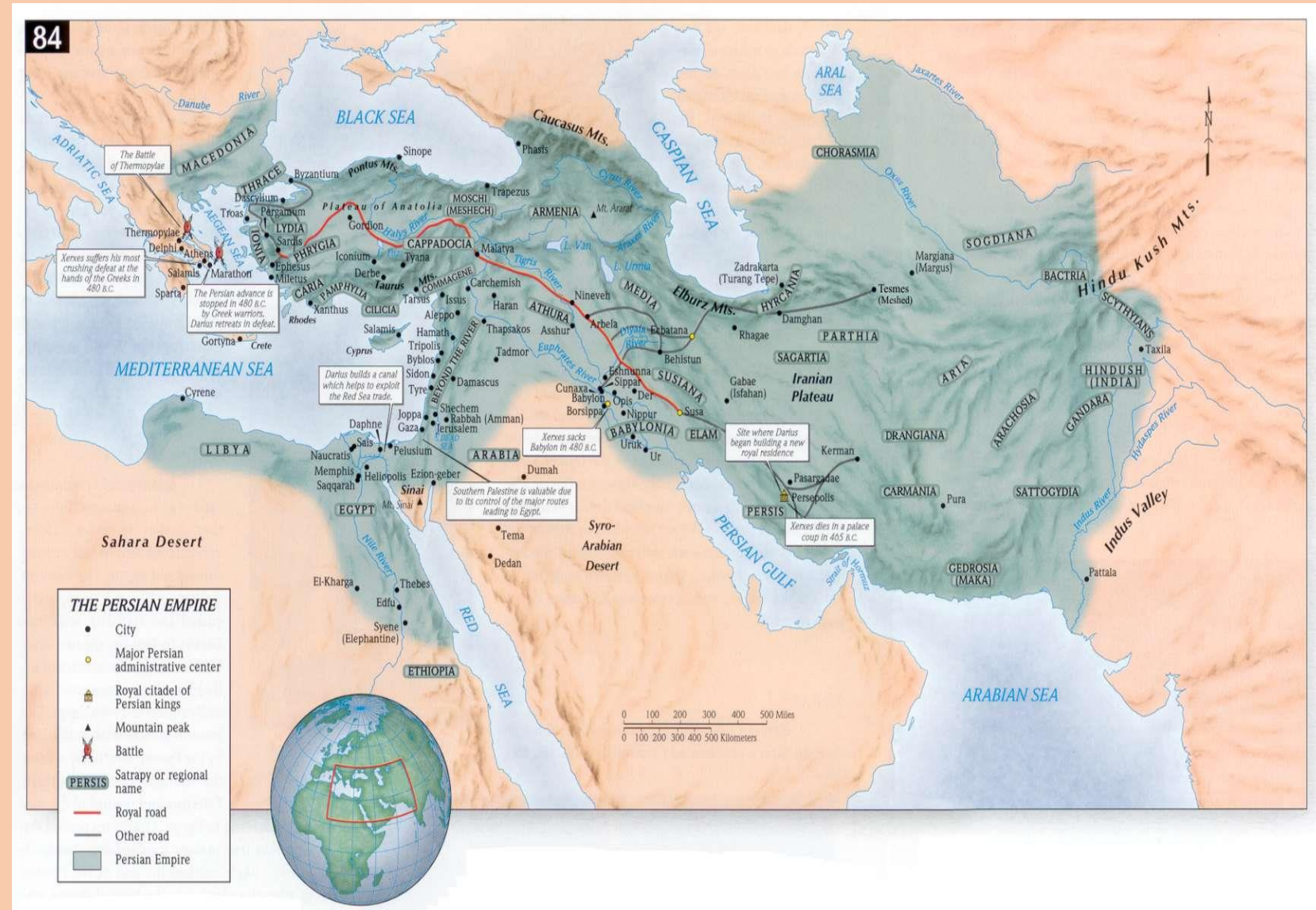
“After you there
will arise another
kingdom inferior to
you” (Daniel 2:39a)

The Land of
Israel and Judah



This continues the period known as The Times of the Gentiles

The Medo-Persians
conquered the
Babylonians in 539 BC
after several wars that
brought the
Babylonians under their
submission

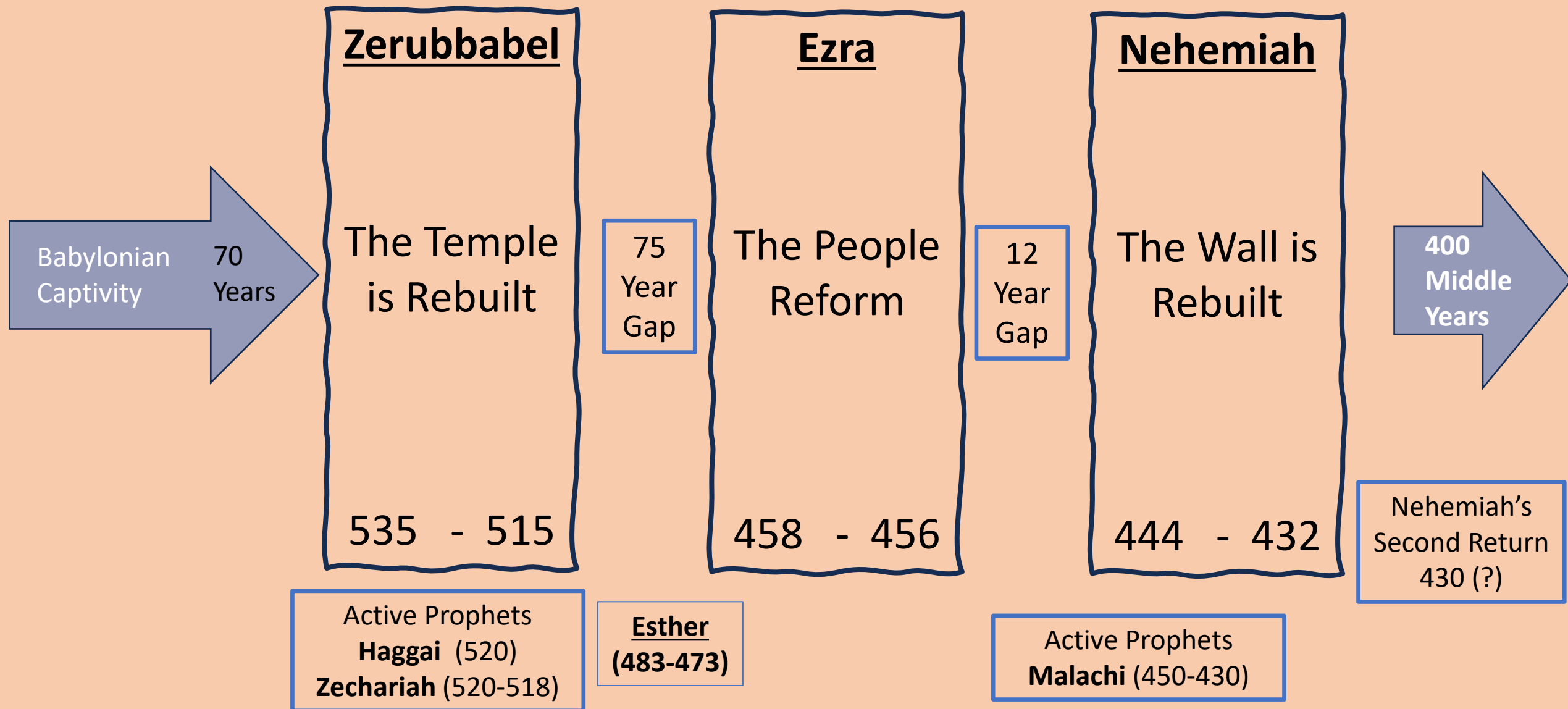


This continues the period known as The Times of the Gentiles

A Summary of Israel's Early History

The High's and Lows After the Exile

The Three Returns to Jerusalem After the Exile to Babylon



A Summary of Israel's Early History

The **First Return** to Jerusalem – 538 B.C.

Leader – **Zerubbabel**

*Special note - he was a descendant of David and mentioned
in the lineage of Christ (Matthew 1:1-13)*

The First Return to Jerusalem

In the first year of **Cyrus king of Persia**, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “**The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah.** Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and **build the temple of the Lord**, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.’” (Ezra 1:1-4)

The First Return to Jerusalem

Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—**everyone whose heart God had moved**—prepared to go up and **build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem**. All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings. (Ezra 1:5-6)

The priests, the Levites, the musicians, the gatekeepers and the temple servants settled in their own towns, along with some of the other people, and the rest of the Israelites settled in their towns. (Ezra 2:70)

When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, **the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem**. Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and **Zerubbabel** son of Shealtiel and his associates began to **build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it**, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the Lord, both the morning and evening sacrifices. Then in accordance with what is written, they celebrated the Festival of Tabernacles with the required number of burnt offerings prescribed for each day. After that, they presented the regular burnt offerings, the New Moon sacrifices and the sacrifices for all the appointed sacred festivals of the Lord, as well as those brought as freewill offerings to the Lord. On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, **though the foundation of the Lord's temple had not yet been laid**. (Ezra 3:1-6)

When the builders **laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord**, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, **took their places to praise the Lord**, as prescribed by David king of Israel. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: “He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.” And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because **the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid**. But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away. (Ezra 3:10-13)

Opposition to the Rebuilding of the Temple

Then the peoples around them **set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid** to go on building. They bribed officials to work against them and frustrate their plans **during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of Persia** (Ezra 4:4-5)

Thus the work on the house of God in Jerusalem **came to a standstill until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia** (Ezra 4:24)

Opposition to the Rebuilding of the Temple

Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them. (Ezra 5:1-2)

At that time Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates went to them and asked, “**Who authorized you to rebuild this temple and to finish it?**” They also asked, “What are the names of those who are constructing this building?” **But the eye of their God was watching over the elders of the Jews**, and they were not stopped until a report could go to Darius and his written reply be received. (Ezra 5:3-5)

We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago, one that a great king of Israel built and finished. But because our ancestors angered the God of heaven, he gave them into the hands of **Nebuchadnezzar** the Chaldean, king of Babylon, who **destroyed this temple and deported the people to Babylon**. “However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, **King Cyrus issued a decree to rebuild this house of God**. He even removed from the temple of Babylon the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to the temple in Babylon. Then King Cyrus gave them to a man named Sheshbazzar, whom he had appointed governor, and he told him, ‘Take these articles and go and deposit them in the temple in Jerusalem. And **rebuild the house of God on its site.**’

“So this Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem. From that day to the present it has been under construction but is not yet finished.” Now if it pleases the king, let a search be made in the royal archives of Babylon to see if King Cyrus did in fact issue a decree to rebuild this house of God in Jerusalem. Then let the king send us his decision in this matter. (Ezra 5:11-17)

King Darius then issued an order, and they searched in the archives stored in the treasury at Babylon. A scroll was found in the **citadel of Ecbatana** in the province of Media, and this was written on it: Memorandum: In the first year of **King Cyrus**, the king issued a decree concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem: **Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices**, and let its foundations be laid. It is to be sixty cubits high and sixty cubits wide, with three courses of large stones and one of timbers. **The costs are to be paid by the royal treasury**. Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, are to be returned to their places in the temple in Jerusalem; they are to be deposited in the house of God. Now then, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and you other officials of that province, stay away from there. Do not interfere with the work on this temple of God. Let the governor of the Jews and the Jewish elders **rebuild this house of God on its site**. (Ezra 6:1-7)

Then, **because of the decree King Darius had sent**, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates carried it out with diligence. So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper **under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah**, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the **decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia**. The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. **Then the people of Israel—the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy**. For the dedication of this house of God they offered a hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred male lambs and, as a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, one for each of the tribes of Israel. And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses. (Ezra 6:13-18)

Key Historical and Biblical Events During This Time

1. Reign of King Cyrus (559-530 B.C.)
2. **Haggai** was an active prophet (520 B.C.)
3. **Zechariah** was an active prophet (520-518 B.C.)
4. Reign of King Darius (521-486 B.C.)
5. Reign of Xerxes (485-465 B.C.)
6. Events of the Book of Esther (483-473 B.C.)
7. Reign of Artaxerxes (464-424 B.C.)

Noteworthy items worth mentioning during this time

1. The Prophet Isaiah spoke of King Cyrus and what he would do some 150 years earlier. (“I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the Lord Almighty.” Isaiah 45:13)
2. It took approximately 21 years (completed in 515 B.C.) to finish building the temple because of two factors:
 - The sinful and selfish behavior of the people as recorded by Haggai
 - Opposition from local inhabitants (Samaritans – Jews that intermarried with non-Jews, and/or Assyrians)
3. The people focused more on constructing their own homes rather than finishing the temple project. This was the main reason that God raised up Haggai and Zechariah to encourage and admonish them to complete the work

A Summary of Israel's Early History

The **Second** Return to Jerusalem – 458 B.C.

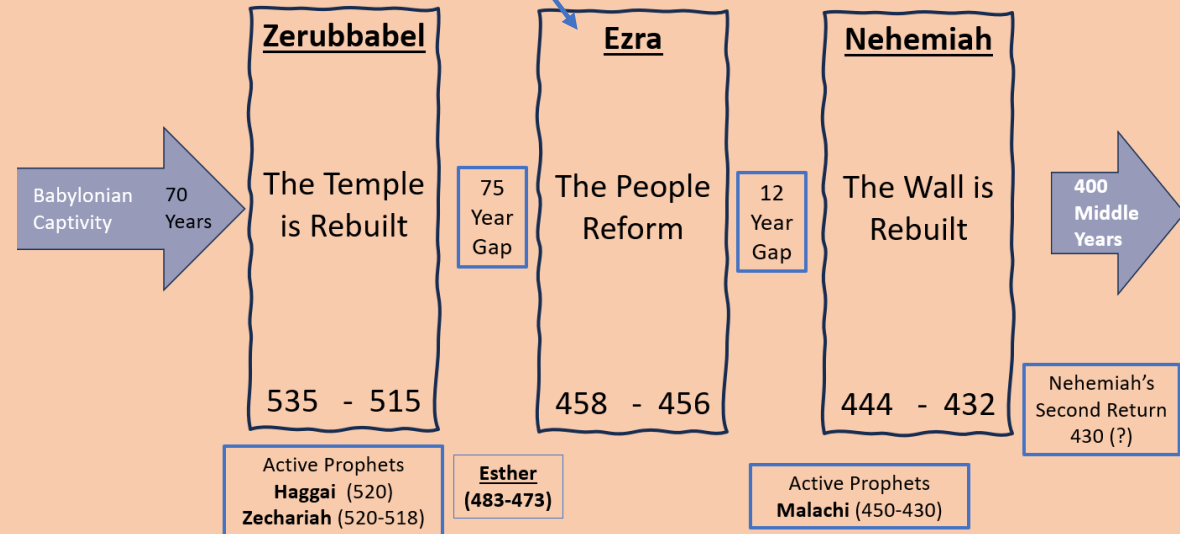
Leader – Ezra

Special note – he was a priest and a descendant of Aaron

After these things, during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest—**this Ezra came up from Babylon.** He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him. (Ezra 7:1-6)

The Second Return to Jerusalem

The Three Returns to Jerusalem After the Exile to Babylon



Persian Kings

Date of their Reign/s

Artaxerxes I

464-424

Second return under Ezra to beautify the temple and reform the people

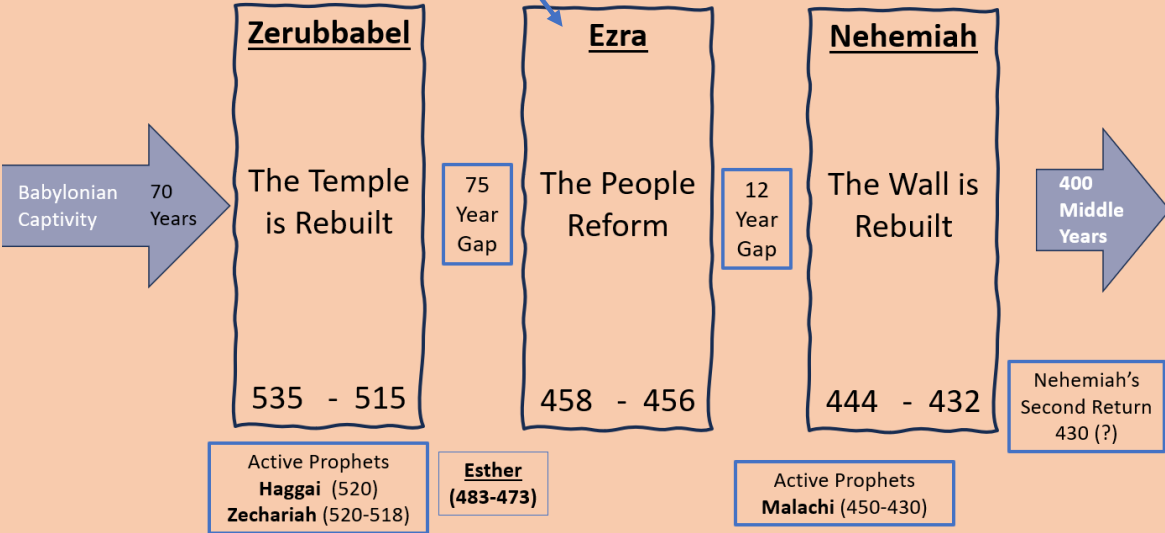
Ezra 7-10

458

Some of the Israelites, including priests, Levites, musicians, gatekeepers and temple servants, also came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. **Ezra arrived in Jerusalem** in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for **the gracious hand of his God was on him**. For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. (Ezra 7:7-10)

The Second Return to Jerusalem

The Three Returns to Jerusalem After the Exile to Babylon



<u>Persian Kings</u>	<u>Date of their Reign/s</u>	
Artaxerxes I	464-424	
Second return under Ezra to beautify the temple and reform the people	Ezra 7-10	458

The Second Return to Jerusalem

This is a copy of the letter King Artaxerxes had given to Ezra the priest, a teacher of the Law, a man learned in matters concerning the commands and decrees of the Lord for Israel: Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, teacher of the Law of the God of heaven: Greetings. Now I decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including priests and Levites, who volunteer to go to Jerusalem with you, may go.

You are sent by the king and his seven advisers to inquire about Judah and Jerusalem with regard to the Law of your God, which is in your hand. Moreover, you are to take with you the silver and gold that the king and his advisers have freely given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, together with all the silver and gold you may obtain from the province of Babylon, as well as the freewill offerings of the people and priests for the temple of their God in Jerusalem. With this money be sure to buy bulls, rams and male lambs, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and sacrifice them on the altar of the temple of your God in Jerusalem. (Ezra 7:11-17)

Noteworthy items worth mentioning during this time

1. The role of the priest as a leader and spokesperson for God became very strong and with the exception of Malachi, the role of the prophet diminished.
2. Many commentators conclude that during this time, the priests and those who served in the temple helped to foster proper worship of God and proper behavior of God's people.
3. Those within leadership (including some priests) didn't always behave rightly and some were downright wicked.
4. This was a continued source of challenge for Ezra and other leaders who wanted to be and do right which led to several solemn assemblies where the people were encouraged to live obediently to the Word of God.

A Summary of Israel's Early History

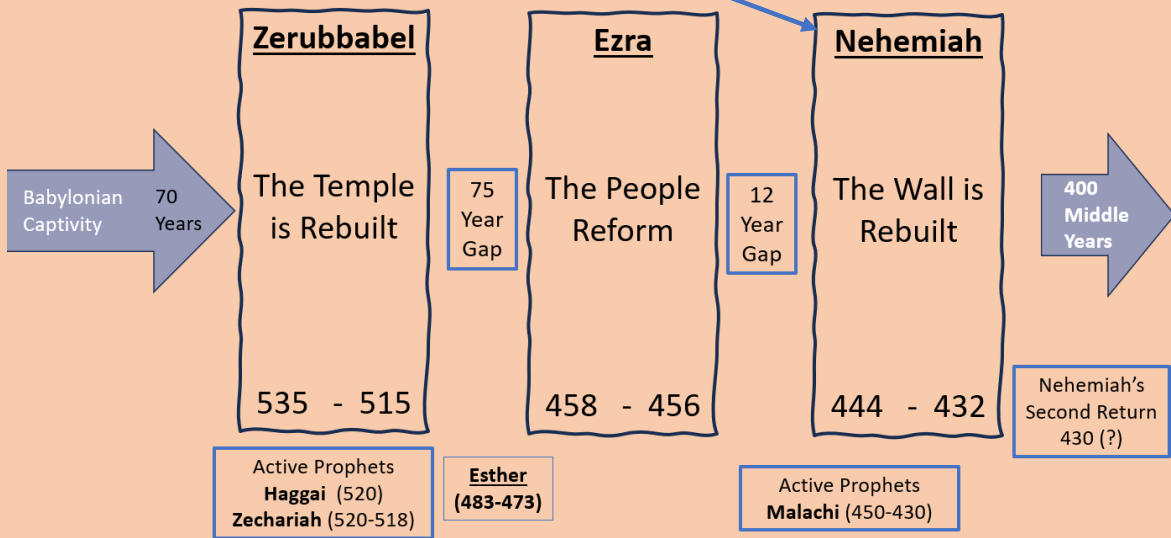
The **Third** Return to Jerusalem – 444 B.C.

Leader - Nehemiah

The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. **The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.**” When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.
(Nehemiah 1:1-4)

The Third Return to Jerusalem

The Three Returns to Jerusalem After the Exile to Babylon



Persian Kings

Date of their Reign/s

Artaxerxes I

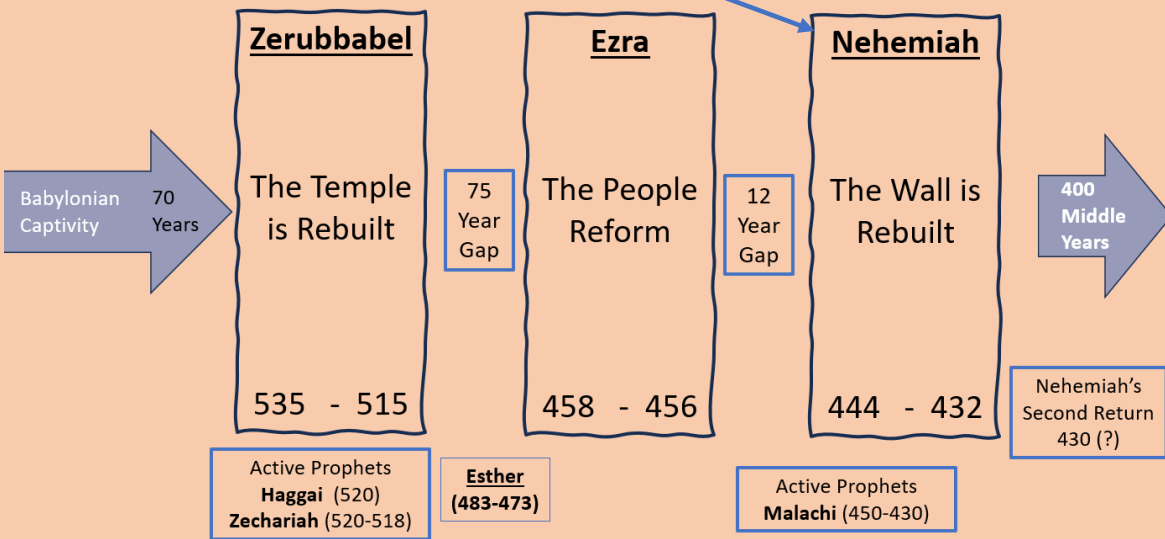
464-424

Third return under Nehemiah to rebuild the walls	Book of Nehemiah	444
Malachi Prophetised	Book of Malachi	450-430

Then I said: “**Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love** with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.
(Nehemiah 1:5-7)

The Third Return to Jerusalem

The Three Returns to Jerusalem After the Exile to Babylon



Persian Kings

Date of their Reign/s

Artaxerxes I

464-424

Third return under
Nehemiah to rebuild
the walls

Book of Nehemiah 444

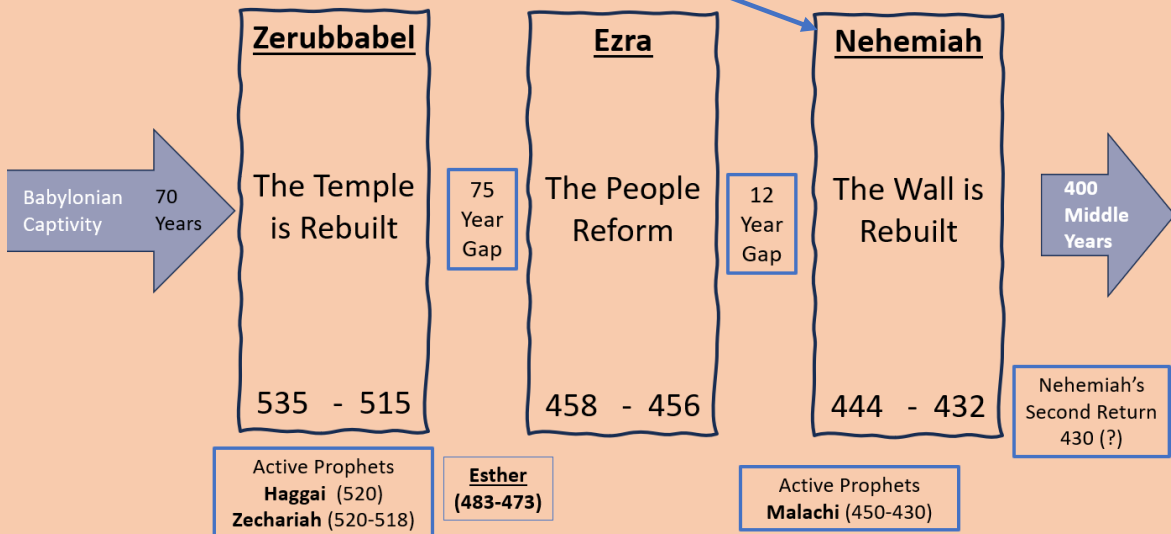
Malachi Prophesied

Book of Malachi 450-430

Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’ “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” I was cupbearer to the king. (Nehemiah 1:8-11)

The Third Return to Jerusalem

The Three Returns to Jerusalem After the Exile to Babylon



Persian Kings Date of their Reign/s

Artaxerxes I	464-424	
Third return under Nehemiah to rebuild the walls	Book of Nehemiah	444
Malachi Prophetied	Book of Malachi	450-430

The Third Return to Jerusalem

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.” (Nehemiah 2:1-5)

The Third Return to Jerusalem

Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me. When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites. (Nehemiah 2:6-10)

Noteworthy items worth mentioning during this time

1. It is the Book of Nehemiah where events are recorded that sets in motion an opportunity for the people of God to live in their land, reject their idolatrous ways, properly worship their God, live obediently to the Mosaic Law, be subject to the external world powers and kingdoms, and wait for the promised Messiah.
2. Most will live with the hope of a coming Messiah (as recorded in the Book of Malachi), yet the kingdoms that will rise up after the Persians (Greek and Roman), will bring both blessing and persecution
3. We will pick up with “His Story From Malachi to Matthew – Par 2” next week