

Location: II Chron. 36, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Overview: Both the kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of Judah were taken into exile. While the Northern tribes never returned (sometimes erroneously called the "lost tribes"), the southern tribes returned under the authority of the Persian empire in two waves of exiles (Zerubbabel and Nehemiah). Judah would not be a divinely ordained kingdom again on earth.

Foreshadow focus: The promise of a restoration of Israel is a dual prophecy. It refers both to the literal return of the Israelites from captivity (Ezekiel 37:1-15), and the creation of the new covenant, wherein Israel is actually the church (Ezekiel 37:15-28). Neither form of this promise refer to a physical nation/kingdom of Israel today.

Things you need to know:

1. Captivities of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar (**610/05BC**)
 - a. Prophetic 70 years of captivity per Jeremiah (Jer. 25:12, Dan. 9:2)
 - b. Prophetic Persian restoration under Cyrus (2 Chron. 36:23, Isa. 44:28-45)
2. First return under Governor Zerubbabel and High Priest Joshua (Ezra 1-6)
 - a. Struggles to build the Temple (**538-516BC**) (Ezra 3:7-13, Ezra 4:1-23)
3. Second return under Priest/Scribe Ezra and Governor Nehemiah (Ezra 7-10, Neh.)
 - a. Ezra comes to Jerusalem (**458BC**)
 - a. Sins of the returnees (Ezra 10)
 - b. Two Administration of Governor Nehemiah (Neh. 1-10, 11-13)
 - c. Building of the wall around Jerusalem (Neh. 4,6)
4. Esther (**486-465BC**)
 - a. Holiday of Purim

People you need to know:

Cyrus	Zerubbabel	Joshua	Ezra	Nehemiah	Esther



The original copy of Cyrus' proclamation that freed and returned the Jews to Jerusalem. The cylinder would be rolled on clay to make copies to be distributed.

