

THE GOOD HAND OF OUR GOD IS UPON US

A Study of Ezra & Esther

Big Picture (See Timelines on Pages 2-4)

- God promised to send Israel into 70 years of captivity for their unrepentance (Jeremiah 25:1-14).
- God promised to bring Israel out of their captivity after 70 years (Jeremiah 29:10-14).

Class Outline (Chronological Study)

- First Exile Expedition: Temple from Ruins (Ezra 1-6).
- Back in Persia: Everyone almost Dies (Esther).
- Second Exile Expedition: A Return to the Law (Ezra 7-10).

Background of Ezra

- Ezra & Nehemiah were originally written as one book.
- Ezra-Nehemiah is the sequel to the Chronicles.
- Israelites desire a restoration of the theocratic kingdom:
 - Need a Davidic King.
 - Need Priesthood (Temple)
 - Need to keep the Mosaic Covenant
- “The good hand of our God is upon us.”
(Ezra 7:6, 9, 28; 8:18, 22, 31)

Lesson 1 – Ezra 1-2:67

1. God moves to send a remnant back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple (1).
 - a. God moves the heart of the Persian king to keep His promise (1-6).
 - b. God moved the heart of the Persian king to give temple articles back (7-11).

2. God gives a list and numbering of the returning remnant (2:1-67).
 - a. Some people (2:1-35), the priests (2:36-39), the Levites (2:40), the singers (2:41), the gatekeepers (2:42), the Nethinim (2:43-54), the sons of Solomon's servants (2:55-58), and the unregistered (2:59-63).

So What?

- We can trust the promises of God no matter how bad it gets.
- We need not fear world leaders.
- We can trust the good hand of God to guide us through His Word and to provide for us according to His plan.

Jensens Survey of the Old Testament – Irving L. Jensen (Moody Press, Chicago) 1978, p. 26.

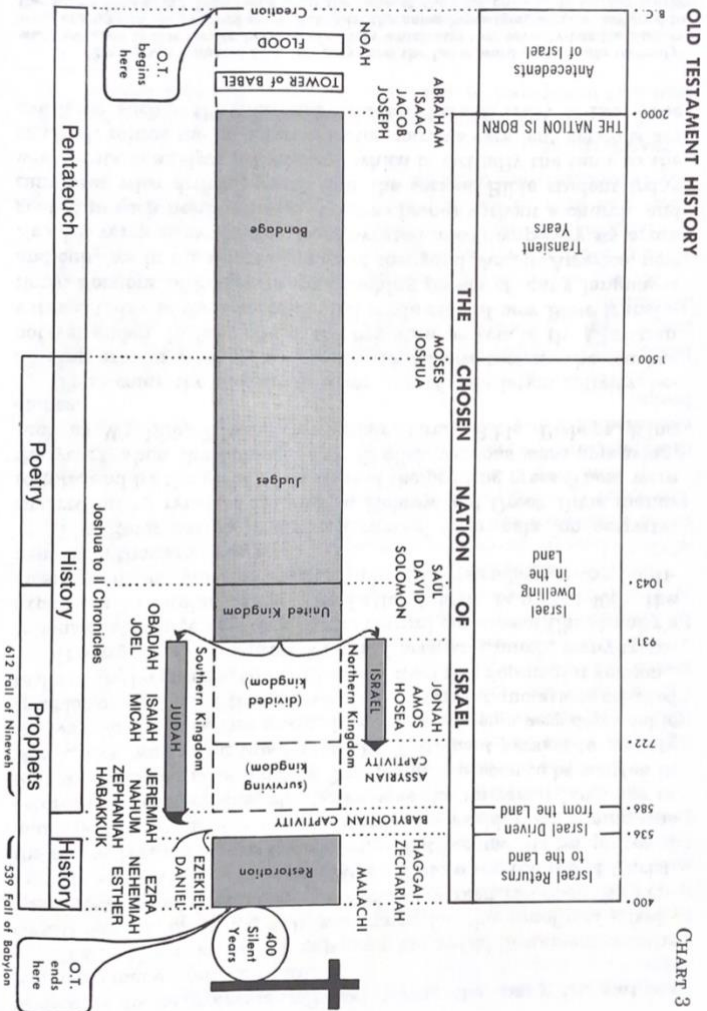
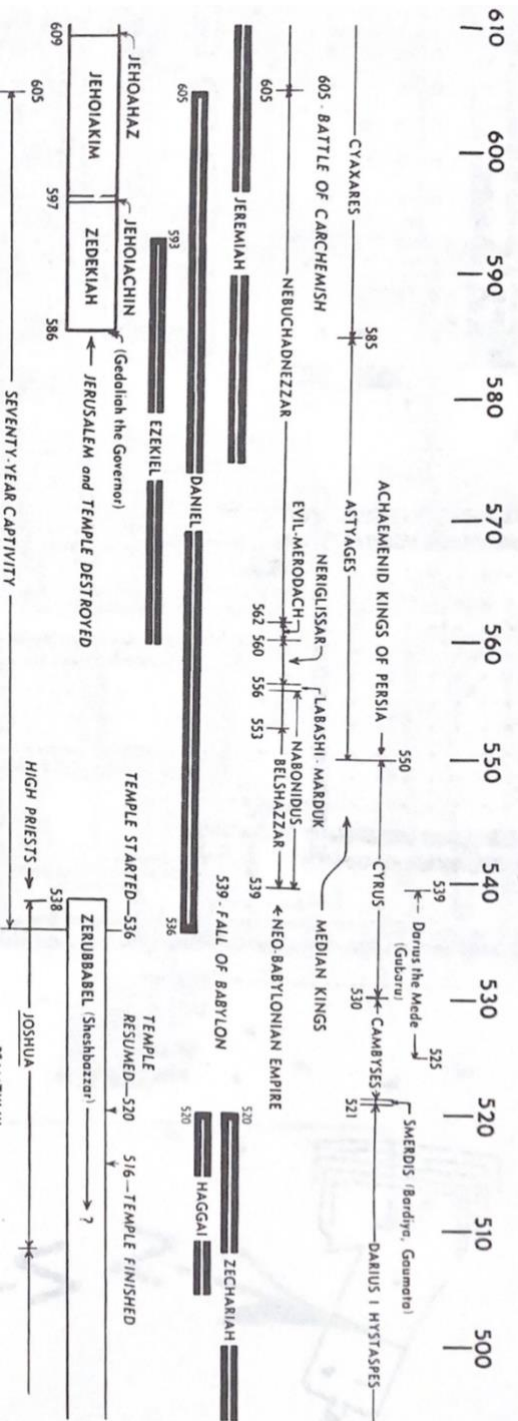
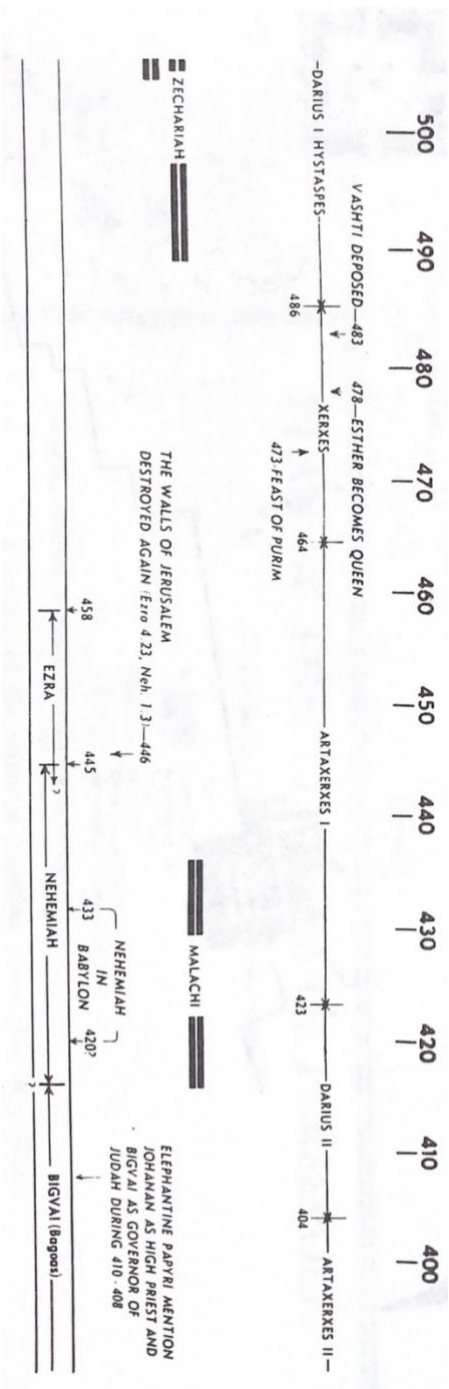


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Esther: Triumph of Gods Sovereignty – John C. Whitcomb (Moody Press, Chicago) 1979, p. 5.



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