

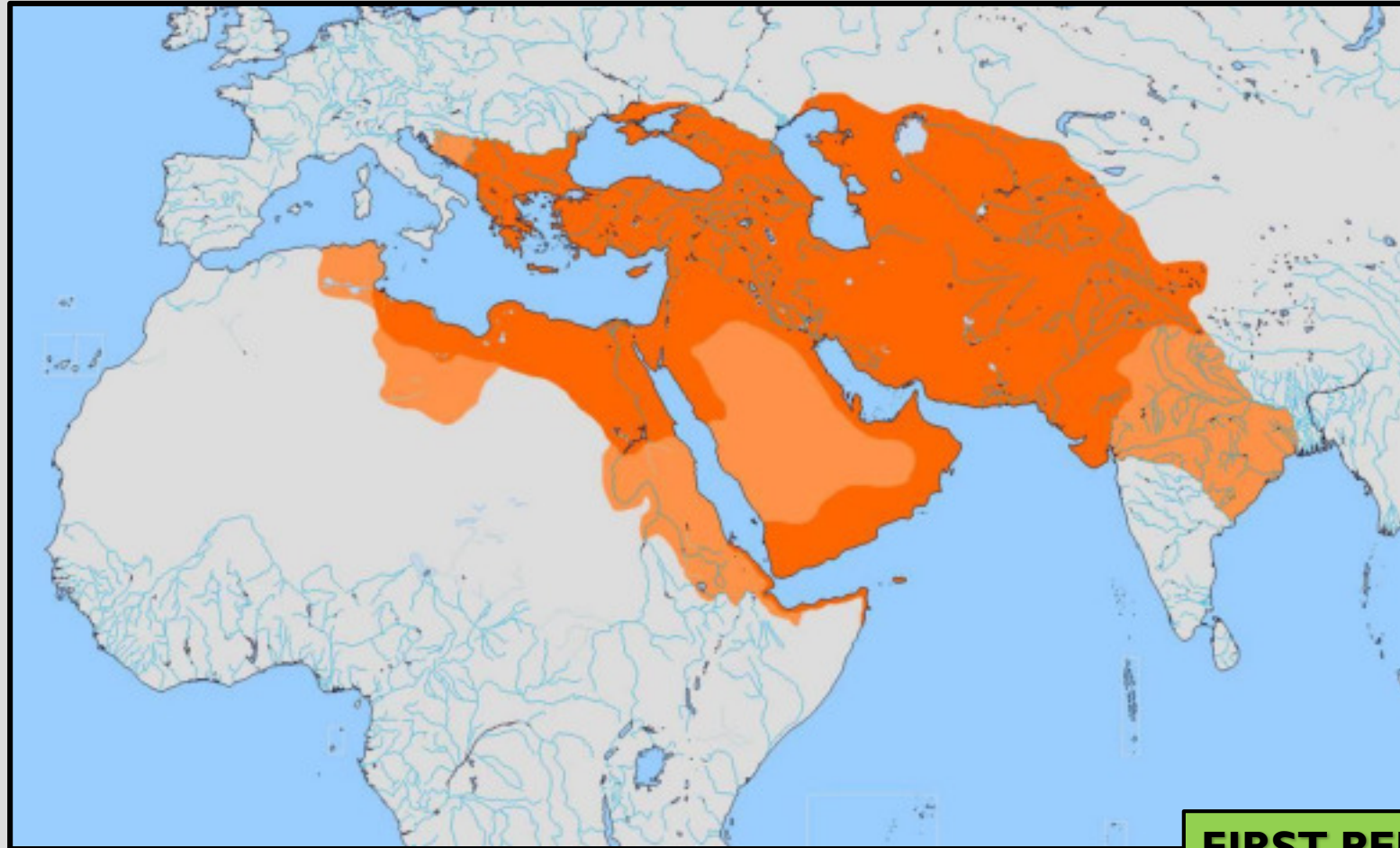
EZRA-NEHEMIAH

Old Testament Workshop
Morrison Heights Baptist Church
November 17, 2019

ANCIENT PERSIA

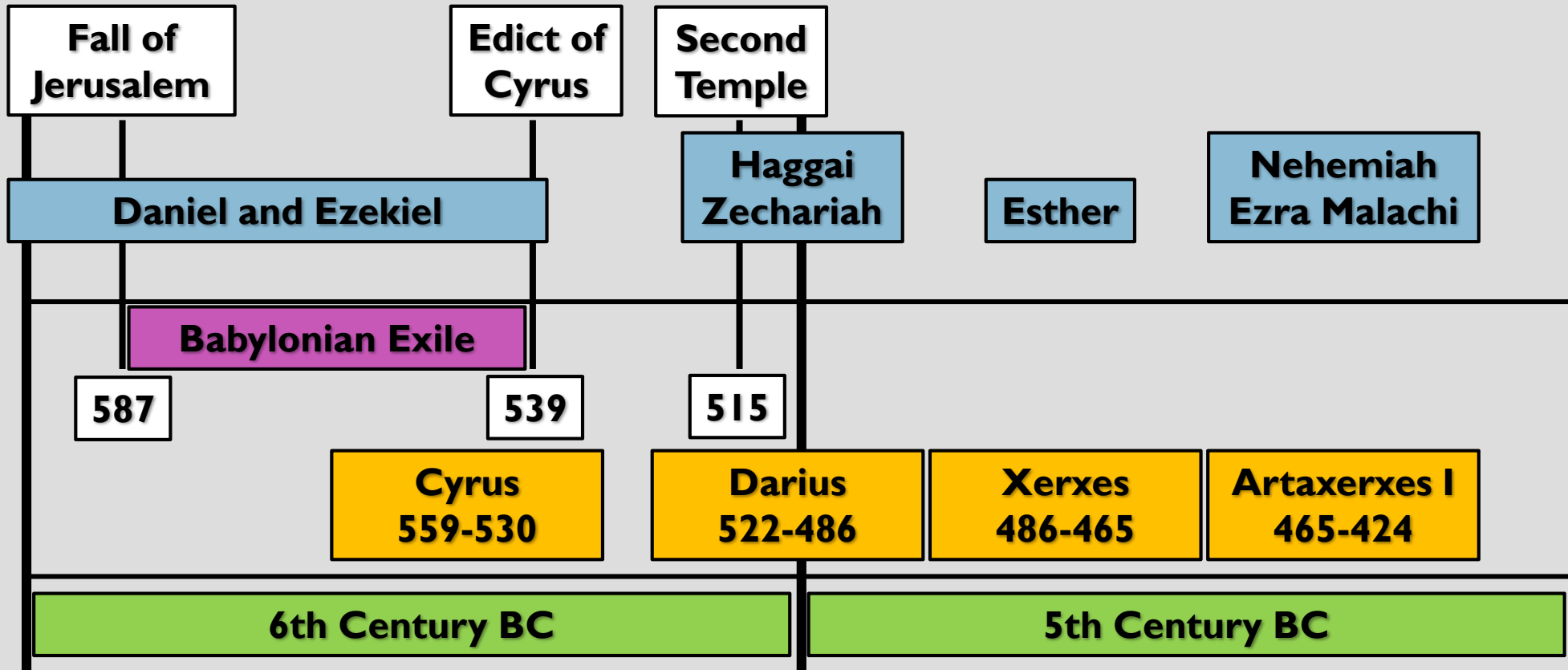
“From India
to Ethiopia
over 127
provinces”

Esther 1:1



FIRST PERSIAN EMPIRE

ACHAEMENID DYNASTY





EMPHASIS

Ezra and Nehemiah address rebuilding, NOT building.

BUILDING	REBUILDING
proactive moving forward exciting	reactive getting back to before the tragedy exhausting

**** NOTE the many occurrences of “rebuild,” “repair,” and “restore” in the ESV.**

LEADERSHIP

EZRA

Spiritual Rebuilder: Tribe of Levi and Line of Aaron

Ezra 7:1-5

“Scribe”

Ezra 7:6, 11-12, 21; Nehemiah 8:1, 4, 9, 13; 12:26, 36

regarding Ezra, not just a “secretarial” position

In the Book of Ezra, compare Shimshai and Ezra.

Shimshai

“the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes (4:8)

Ezra

“a scribe skilled in the law of Moses (7:6)

“the scribe, learned in the words of the commandments of the Lord” (7:11)

LEADERSHIP

EZRA

In Jewish society, beginning with Ezra, the office of scribe became a prominent, respected role.

* Recall the MANY encounters between Jesus and the SCRIBES in the Gospels.

NEHEMIAH

Political Rebuilder
“Cupbearer”

Nehemiah 1:11-2:6

“associated intimately with the king’s inner household . . . apparently always a eunuch”

Emmett Willard Hamrick, “Ezra-Nehemiah,” *The Broadman Bible Commentary*

LEADERSHIP

Relationship between the Ministry of Ezra and the Governorship of Nehemiah

458 BC	Arrival of Ezra in Jerusalem
445 BC	Arrival of Nehemiah in Jerusalem
433 BC	Departure of Nehemiah to Susa
after 432 BC	Return of Nehemiah to Jerusalem

Did the
tenures of
Ezra and
Nehemiah
overlap?
YES
SEE
Nehemiah
8:9; 12:26;
12:27-47



LEADERSHIP

“Nehemiah . . . provided the physical structure and social and economic stability within which the religious community, formed by the zeal and erudition of Ezra, could grow Through the work of Ezra and Nehemiah Israel’s new identity became centered around the law and temple.”

La Sor, Hubbard, and Bush, *Old Testament Survey*

“Ezra and Nehemiah had played a vital role in preserving the religious life and culture of the Jews who returned from exile when the community was about to be swallowed up by its neighbors. The zeal they inspired would be carried over into a period which, in Jewish historical records, is almost blank.”

John Tullock, *The Old Testament Story*

CONTENT

EZRA

The Book of Ezra divides into two unequal parts, chapters 1-6 and 7-10.

Ezra does **NOT** appear in the book until chapter 7.

Chapters 1-6

covers Israel's history from the Edict of Cyrus (539 BC) to the completion of the Second Temple (515 BC), that which the prophets **Haggai** and **Zechariah** hastened

Ezra 5:1; 6:14

The Edict of Cyrus ended the Babylonian Exile. Two men, **Zerubbabel** (politician) and **Joshua** (priest), led the large group of returning Jews.



**CYRUS
CYLINDER**
British Museum

CONTENT

EZRA

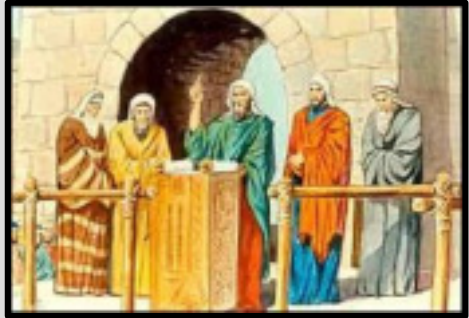
Chapters 7-10

chronicles Ezra's four-month journey from Babylon to Jerusalem

Ezra 7-8

details how he handled the dilemma of mixed marriages: a heart problem, **NOT** a skin problem; what the Apostle Paul called "unequally yoked" (**2 Cor. 6:14, KJV**)

Ezra 9-10



NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah prayed regularly and specifically. **ELEVEN** of his prayers appear in the book.

CONTENT

NEHEMIAH: "On Leadership"

TEN
Traits that
Enabled
Nehemiah
to be an
Effective
Governor

① Godly

fearing God (5:15); obedient (7:5); on-going dialogue with God (1:4-11; 2:4; 4:4-5, 9; 5:19; 6:9b, 14; 13:14, 22b, 29, 31b)

② Passionate

1:4; 5:6, 13; 13:8, 11a, 15b, 17, 21, 25, 28

③ Visionary

2:11-18

④ Comfortable in One-on-One Situations

2:1-8; 6:10-14; 13:4-9, 28

⑤ Comfortable in Large-Group Settings

2:16-18 (inspirational); 4:14 (encouraging); 5:1-13 and 13:10-11, 15-18, 20-22a, 23-27 (confrontational *in order to solve problems*)

CONTENT

NEHEMIAH: "On Leadership"

- ⑥ **Courageous**
2:19-20; 4:1-23; 6:1-19; 13:4-9, 28 (bold)
- ⑦ **Organized**
4:7-13, 16-23; 7:1-3; 12:27-47; 13:9, 13, 19, 22, 30-31
- ⑧ **Discerning**
4:14 (perceptive); 6:12
- ⑨ **Selfless**
5:14-19 = Profile of a Servant Leader
- ⑩ **Competent Delegator** → **NO Cronyism**
7:2

Nehemiah



*** READ 13:8, 11, 15, 17, 21, 23-28**

CONTENT

NEHEMIAH



① Rebuild Jerusalem's Walls

1:1-6:16; 12:27-43

② Repopulate Jerusalem

7:4; 11:1-36

③ Eliminate Pagan Influences (e.g. Mixed Marriages)

Covenant Promise (10:28-30) | Broken Promise (13:1-3, 23-29)

④ Stop Sabbath Violations

Covenant Promise (10:31) | Broken Promise (13:15-22)

⑤ Restart Tithing

Covenant Promise (10:32-39; 12:44-47) | Broken Promise (13:10-14)