

**EZRA-NEHEMIAH**

# HOW WE GOT HERE: OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

1. Promise of a Seed – Genesis 3:15
2. Abrahamic Covenant – Genesis 12, 15, 17, 22
  1. Nation
  2. Land
  3. Seed

# HOW WE GOT HERE:

## OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

### 1. Israel in Egypt – The Exodus

#### 1. Exodus 1-14

### 2. Israel at Sinai – The Covenant

#### 1. Exodus 15-40, Leviticus

### 3. Israel in Wilderness – The Wanderings

#### 1. Numbers

# HOW WE GOT HERE: OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

## I. Deuteronomy

- I. 1<sup>st</sup> Sermon – Exposition of the Law
2. Purpose = Stay & Obey – Exodus 19:5-6, Deut 4:5-8
3. Obey Covenant = Blessing – Leviticus 26, Deut 27-28
4. Disobey Covenant = Judgment – Leviticus 26, Deut 27-28
  - I. \*Deut 28:36, 49, 64

# HOW WE GOT HERE:

## OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

1. Joshua – Israel Enters the Promised Land
2. Judges – Israel is Unfaithful in the Promised Land
  1. Does not drive out pagan nations
  2. Worship of God is mixed with pagan religion
  3. “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

# HOW WE GOT HERE: OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

- I. I & 2 Samuel – A King in Israel
  - I. Israel Rejects God as King
  2. Israel Elects Saul as King
  3. God Appoints David as King
    - I. Davidic Covenant – 2 Samuel 7

# HOW WE GOT HERE:

## OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

- I. I & 2 Kings – A Kingdom United & Divided
  - I. Solomon Starts Great, Ends Bad– I Kings 11
  2. Nation Splits
    - I. Israel in North – 10 Tribes
    2. Judah in South – 2 Tribes
  3. Prophets Appear – Call to Repent
    - I. Covenant Blessing or Covenant Judgment

# ISRAEL IN NORTH

- Jeroboam
- Nadab
- Baasha
- Elah
- Zimri
- Tibni
- Omri
- Ahab
- Ahaziah
- Joram
- Jehu
- Jehoahaz
- Jehoash
- Jeroboam II
- Zechariah
- Shallum
- Menahem
- Pekahiah
- Pekah
- Hoshea

# JUDAH IN SOUTH

- Rehoboam
- Abijah
- Asa
- Jehoshaphat
- Jehoram
- Ahaziah
- Athaliah
- Joash
- Amaziah
- Azariah
- Jotham
- Ahaz
- Hezekiah
- Manasseh
- Amon
- Josiah
- Jehoahaz
- Jehoiakim
- Jehoiachin
- Zedekiah



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Wicked &  
Disobedient

# GOD JUDGES ISRAEL

- 2 Kings 17:5-6
- 722 B.C.
- Assyria Conquers Israel
- Israel Taken into Exile by Assyrians

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Wicked &  
Disobedient

# GOD JUDGES JUDAH

- 2 Kings 24-25
- 605 B.C.
- Babylon Conquers Judah
- Judah Taken into Exile by Babylonians
- Deportation in 3 Stages
  - 605 BC; 597 BC; 586 BC

# ISRAEL IN EXILE

- Daniel (also Ezekiel, Lamentations)
- 70 years of exile in Babylon
  - No Temple, No Sacrifices, No Jerusalem, No Promised Land
  - Psalm 137
- Fall of Babylonians
- Rise of Medo-Persians (Cyrus)

# GOD RESTORES ISRAEL

- Ezra-Nehemiah
  - Return of Israel to Promised Land
- Post-Exilic Era
  - Other OT Books: Haggai, Zechariah, Esther, I-2 Chronicles, Malachi



# EZRA-NEHEMIAH – NOT TWO, BUT ONE

- External
  - Earliest manuscripts (including LXX/Septuagint)
  - Early Jewish (ex. Josephus, Talmud) and Christians
  - Masoretes – final book notation at end of Nehemiah (none found at end of Ezra); total verses, mid-point in Neh. 3:22-23
- Internal
  - Themes
    - Book of the Law (Ezra 7:6, 10 vs. Nehemiah 8:1)
    - Separation from Foreigners (Ezra 9:1-10:44 vs. Neh. 9:2; 10:29)
  - Dates – 7<sup>th</sup> year Ezra 7:7 vs. 20<sup>th</sup> year Nehemiah 1:1
  - Events – Destroyed Walls (Ezra 4:12, 13 vs. Nehemiah 1:3)

# EZRA-NEHEMIAH - OVERVIEW

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## Persian Leaders

**Cyrus**

(Cambyses)

**Darius**

**Ahasuerus/Xerxes**

**Artaxerxes I**

# EZRA-NEHEMIAH - OVERVIEW

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## **3 Returns**

538 BC - Ezra 1-6 – Zerubbabel

458 BC – Ezra 7-10 – Ezra

445 BC – Nehemiah 1-13 – Nehemiah

## **Total Time**

538 BC – 420 BC

# EZRA-NEHEMIAH - PURPOSE

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Ezra-Nehemiah displays **God's continued covenant faithfulness** (Abrahamic Covenant) and **Israel's continued covenant unfaithfulness** (Mosaic Covenant), revealing full and final blessings and fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant are still future.

# EZRA-NEHEMIAH – OUTLINE

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- Return under Zerubbabel – Ezra 1-6
  - Rebuilding the Temple
- Return under Ezra – Ezra 7-10
  - Rebuilding the Community
- Return under Nehemiah – Nehemiah 1-7
  - Rebuilding the City
- Renewed Community of Israel – Nehemiah 8-12
  - Rebuilding the Community
- Failure of the People – Nehemiah 13

# EZRA-NEHEMIAH - OUTLINE

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- **New Temple** – Ezra 1–6
- **New Rule** – Ezra 7–10
- **New City** – Nehemiah 1–6
- **New Society** – Nehemiah 7-12
- **Same Issues** – Nehemiah 13

# WHY STUDY EZRA-NEHEMIAH?

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- Sovereign God of Heaven
  - His Providence; Man's Responsibility
- Rebuilding Temple, City, People
- Sin and Confession
- Hostility to God's People
- Written Word of God (Ezra, Man of the Word)
  - Torah/Law of Moses
- Prayer (Nehemiah, Man of Prayer)

# **EZRA-NEHEMIAH**

THE GOOD HAND OF GOD



# HOMework ASSIGNMENT

1. Read Ezra-Nehemiah in one sitting.
2. Pray and ask for the Lord to teach you more about Himself.