

## Chronology of the Persian Period

Persian King	Dates B.C.	Biblical Correlation	Greek Correlation
CYRUS	539-530	Return of Zerubbabel & Jeshua (Ezra 1-3)	
CAMBYSES	530-522	Rebuilding at Jerusalem Stopped (Ezra 4)	
DARIUS I	522-486	Haggai & Zechariah Prophecy (520). Temple completed (516) (Ezra 5 & 6)	Greeks defeat Persians at Marathon (490)
XERXES (AHASUERUS)	486-464	Story of Esther	Greeks defeat Persians at Thermopolaie (480) and Salamis (479) Herodotus (485-425)
ARTAXERXES I	464-423	Return of Ezra (458) (Ezra 7-10) Return of Nehemiah (445) Nehemiah 1,2. Prophecy of Malachi (433)	Golden Age (461-431) Pericles (460-429) Athens rules.
DARIUS II	423-404	No Biblical Material During These Years.  No prophet again until John the Baptist	Peloponnesian Wars 431-404 Athens falls 404 Sparta Rules
ARTAXERXES II	404-359		Socrates 470-399 Plato 428-348 Aristotle 384-322
Artaxerxes III	359-338		Phillip II of Macedon defeats Greeks at Chaeronea 338
ARSES	338-335		
DARIUS III	335-331		Alexander the Great overthrows Persian Empire
ALEXANDER	336-323		Establishment of Greek Empire

## Returns from Exile

RETURN	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Reference	Ezra 1-6	Ezra 7-10	Nehemiah 1-13
Date	538 B.C.	458 B.C.	444 B.C.
Leaders	Sheshbazzar	Ezra	Nehemiah
Persian King	Cyrus	Artaxerxes (Longimanus)	Artaxerxes (Longimanus)
Elements of the Decree	As man as wished could return. Temple could be rebuilt, partially financed by royal treasury. Vessels returned	As many as wished could return. Finances provided by royal treasury. Allowed to have own civil magistrates	Allowed to rebuild the wall
Number Returning	42,360 <u>7,337</u> (Servants) <b>49,697</b>	1,500 men 38 Levis <u>220</u> helpers 1,758	unknown
Events. Accomplishments Problems	Temple begun: sacrifices made & Feast of Tabernacles celebrated. Samaritans caused work to cease until 520. Temple completed in 516	Problems with inter-marriage dealt with.	Wall rebuilt in 52 days though opposed by Sanballat, Tobiah & Geshem. Walls dedicated and Law read

Old Testament Survey  
**Nehemiah**

(Rebuilding walls)

**Author:** Ezra & Nehemiah

**Date :**445+ B.C.

**Theme:** "The reconstruction of the Theocracy on physical foundations"

**Outline:**

- I. Rebuilding of the walls. (1-6)
- II. Rebuilding of the people. (7-13)

**Key People:** Nehemiah, Artaxerxes, Ezra

**Key Chapters & Verses** (Bold is required for Elders)

**1,2:** Nehemiah's prayer, Artaxerxes' decree, return to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls. He surveys the damage & begins work.

**3-7:** The walls are rebuilt despite local opposition. Census of first returned exiles.

**8:4-8** - Ezra reads the law, *"and they read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading"* (v.8)

Nehemiah is a contemporary with Ezra. He is the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia. His concern for Jerusalem results in being granted a decree to return and rebuild the walls which he does in 52 days despite local opposition. The reforming of the people takes years under his leadership as governor and Ezra as priest.

Detailed Outline of Nehemiah

- I. Rebuilding of the Walls. (1-6)
  - A. Preparations (1-2)
    - 1. Nehemiah's Grief and Prayer (1)

2. Nehemiah's Prayer Answered (2:1-8)

- 3. Arrival in Jerusalem (2:9-20)
  - a. Arrival (2:9-11)

- b. Inspection (2:12-16)
- c. Exhortations (2:17-18)
- d. Refutations (2:19,20)
- D. Reconstruction (3-6)
  - 1. Organizing the Workers (3)
  - 2. Overcoming the Opposition (4:1-6:14)
    - a. Opposition by Ridicule (4:1-6)
    - b. Opposition by Threat of Attack (4:7-9)
    - c. Opposition by Discouragement (4:10-23)
    - d. Opposition by Extortion (5:1-13)
    - e. Nehemiah's Unselfish Example (5:14-19)
    - f. Opposition by Compromise (6:1-4)
    - g. Opposition by Slander (6:5-9)
    - h. Opposition by Treachery (6:10-14)
  - 3. Completion of the Wall (6:15-19)

- II. Rebuilding of the people. (7-13)
  - A. Reorganizing the People (7)
    - 1. Census of the People (7:1-69)
    - 2. Census of their Gifts (7:70-73)

B. Renewing the Covenant (8-10)

1. Reading the Law (8:1-12)
2. Responding to the Law (8:13-18)
3. Confessing Their Sin (9)
4. Signers of the Covenant (10:1-27)
5. Obligations of the Covenant (10:28-39)

C. Obedience to the Covenant (11-13)

1. Resettlement of the People (11)
2. Register of Priests & Levites (12:1-26)
3. Dedication of the Wall (12:27-47)
4. Living by the Covenant (13)
  - a. Removing the Heathen (13:1-9)
  - b. Restoring the Tithes (13:10-14)
  - c. Restoring the Sabbath (13:15-22)
  - d. Removing Improper Marriage (13:23-29)
  - e. Summary Conclusion (13:30-31)