

# DATES

4000 BC 2000 BC 1500 BC

1000 BC

500 BC

# PEOPLE

ADAM  
NOAH  
ABRAHAM  
ISAAC  
JACOB  
JOSEPH

BONDAGE IN EGYPT  
(400 YEARS)

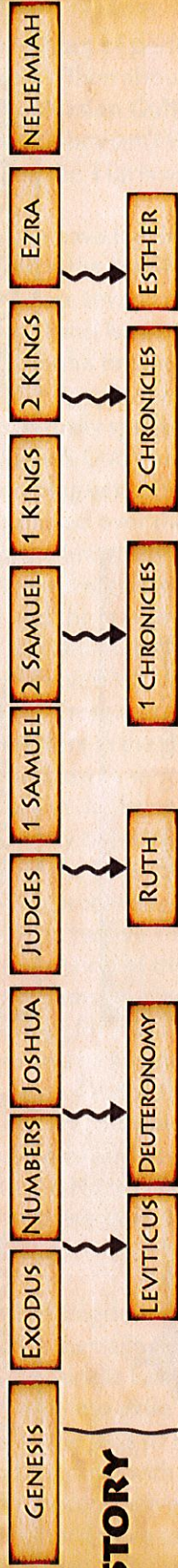
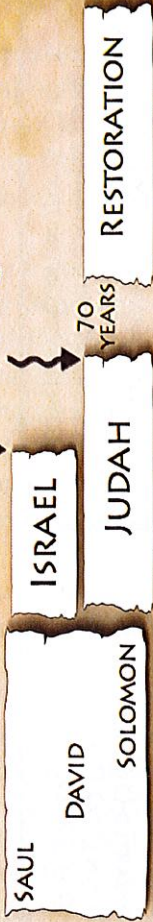
UNITED KINGDOM  
(120 YEARS)

DIVIDED KINGDOM  
(400 YEARS)

BABYLON CAPTIVITY  
(586 BC)

70 YEARS

ASSYRIA DESTROYS  
(722 BC)



# HISTORY

JOB

LEVITICUS

DEUTERONOMY

RUTH

1 CHRONICLES

2 CHRONICLES

ESTHER

**POETRY**

- PSALMS
- PROVERBS
- ECCLESIASTES
- SONG OF SOLOMON

# PROPHETS

**TO ISRAEL:**  
OBADIAH  
AMOS  
JONAH  
HOSEA  
NAHUM

**TO JUDAH:**  
JOEL  
ISAIAH  
MICAH  
ZEPHANIAH  
JEREMIAH  
HABAKKUK  
LAMENTATIONS

PRE-EXILIC

EXILIC

**POST-EXILIC**

- HAGGAI
- ZECHARIAH
- MALACHI

# CHRONOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

KEN WILSON  
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH



# THE POST-EXILIC PERIOD

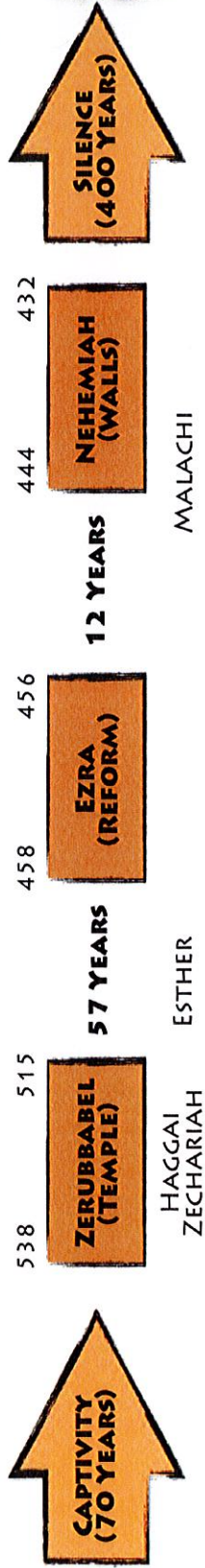
## THE UNSTOPPABLE STORY OF GOD'S PLAN WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

THE EVENTS IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER TOOK PLACE OVER A TEN YEAR PERIOD FROM THE 3RD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF XERXES IN 483 B.C. (ESTHER 1:3) UNTIL THE 12TH YEAR OF HIS REIGN IN 473 B.C. (ESTHER 3:7). CHRONOLOGICALLY THEY FIT IN BETWEEN EZRA 6 AND 7 AFTER MANY OF THE JEWISH EXILES HAD RETURNED TO JERUSALEM WITH ZERUBBABEL AND EZRA. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE POST-EXILIC PERIOD DURING WHICH THESE EVENTS OCCURRED.

### EVENT DATE REFERENCE

CYRUS' DECREE TO RETURN	538 B.C.	EZRA 1:1-4
FIRST RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL (49,897 RETURNEES LEAVE BABYLON FOR ISRAEL)	538 B.C.	EZRA 2
TEMPLE RECONSTRUCTION STARTED	536 B.C.	EZRA 3-4
<b>HAGGAI &amp; ZECHARIAH PREACH</b>	520-518 B.C.	EZRA 5:1-2
TEMPLE COMPLETED	515 B.C.	EZRA 5-6
ESTHER IS QUEEN	479 B.C.	ESTHER 1-10
SECOND RETURN UNDER EZRA (5,000 RETURNEES)	458 B.C.	EZRA 7-10
THIRD RETURN UNDER NEHEMIAH (49,942 ARRIVE TO RESIDE IN JERUSALEM)	444 B.C.	NEHEMIAH 1-2
REBUILDING THE WALLS IN 52 DAYS	444 B.C.	NEHEMIAH 3-7
<b>MALACHI PREACHES</b>	450 B.C.	MALACHI

### CHRONOLOGY



# HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF ESTHER



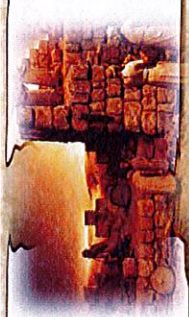
# Nehemiah Building the Walls & the Community

1	THE "MISERY" OF JERUSALEM REPORTED (1:1-3) Nehemiah's Confession & Intercession (1:4-11) Nehemiah sent to Jerusalem by the King (2:1-20) Nehemiah petitions the King (2:1-8) Nehemiah inspects the walls (2:9-16) Opposition by Sanballat & Tobiah Nehemiah challenges the people to rebuild (2:17-20) {Ridicule by Sanballat, Tobiah & Geshem}	2	2:20	Return (92 years after first return)	444 BC					
3	RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WALLS BEGINS Listing the workers by project (3:1-32)	4	4:1-3	External Ridicule of Neighboring Leaders (4:1-3) The Faithful Response of the People (4:4-6) External Threats of Neighboring Leaders (4:7-9) The Faithless Response of the People (4:10-12) Nehemiah's Inspiring Response (4:13-23)	5	RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WALLS COMPLETED Nehemiah's Just and Generous Solution (5:6-19) Further Opposition from Neighboring Leaders (6:1-19) Completion of the Wall & Safeguarding the City (7:1-3)	7	7:3	Rebuilding the Walls (72 years after Temple Reconstruction)	73
8	THE REVIVAL OF THE PEOPLE The List of the Inhabitants of Jerusalem (7:4-73) Ezra's Exposition of the Law (8:1-8) The Response & Comforting of the People (8:9-12) <i>Observation of the Feast of Tabernacles (8:13-18)</i> Fasting and Confession (9:1-4) Praise and Adoration (9:5-15) Confession of Their Sin & God's Faithfulness (9:16-31) Pledge of Covenant Faithfulness (9:32-38)	9	9:1-4	THE COVENANT OF THE PEOPLE WITH GOD The Covenant Participants (10:1-28) The Covenant Stipulation (10:29-39) Being Subject to the Word of God (10:29) No Intermarriage with Pagan Nations (10:30) Observing the Sabbath (10:31) Stewardship of the Temple (10:32-38)	10:38	Revival (14 years after Ezra's reform)	10:38	12:27	13:31	Reforms
11	SETTLEMENT OF THE CITIES The Residents of Jerusalem (11:1-19) The Residents outside Jerusalem (11:20-36) The Priests & Levites (12:1-26) Cleansing (12:27-30) Thanksgiving & Rejoicing (12:31-43) Appointment of Storekeepers (12:44-47) NEHEMIAH'S FINAL REFORMS (13:1-31)	12	12:27-30		12:27					



## Rebuilding the Walls <sup>(52 days)</sup>

**LEADERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION**  
 Nehemiah (Cupbearer in Persia): Governor of Jerusalem  
 Hanani (Nehemiah's Brother): The Civil Leader  
 Eliashib: The High Priest  
 Sanballat & Tobiah: Local Officials in Opposition



**LEADER OF THE REVIVAL**  
 Ezra, A Priest & Teacher of the Law  
 Well Versed in the Law of Moses  
 The Hand of the LORD Was on Him

The authors, likely Nehemiah & Ezra, recorded the third return under Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem so that the Law could be kept in safety, stressing the faithfulness of God to His people, even though they had been unfaithful throughout their history, and even in the third return, so that the remnant (i.e. the readers) would be faithful to the Covenant and would trust God to protect and forgive them as He had promised as a part of His Covenant Plan.