

## Nehemiah: The “Good Hand of God”

### Lesson 1 – Nehemiah in Context

Historical background, Biblical context, and the flow of God’s redemptive story

#### Biblical Context

Chronicles → Ezra & Nehemiah

39 Old Testament Books				
Pentateuch (Books of the Law)	<b>History</b>	Wisdom & Poetry & Psalms	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
Genesis – Deuteronomy	Joshua – Esther	Job – Songs of Solomon	Isaiah – Daniel	Hosea – Malachi

#### Ezra Outline

1. First Wave Returns from Exile and Rebuilds the Temple (1-6)
2. Ezra’s Return & Reforms (7-10)

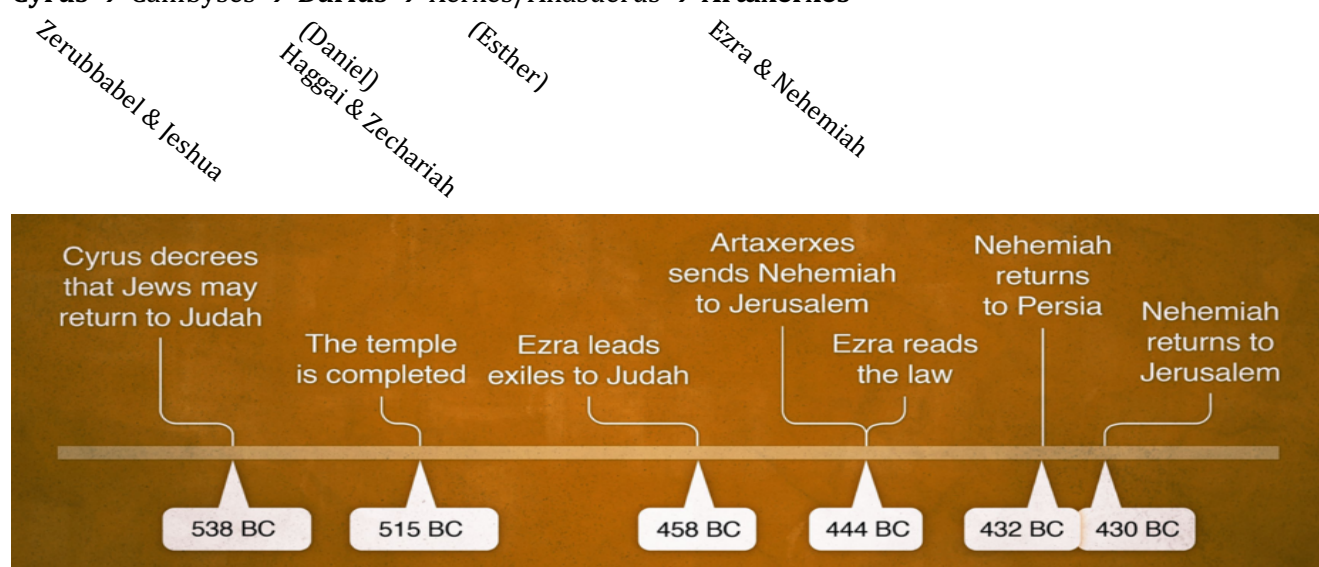
#### Nehemiah Outline

1. Wall Rebuilt (1-7)
2. Covenant Renewed (8-10)
3. Society Reformed (11-13)

#### History & God’s Story

Empires: Assyrian → Babylonian → **Persian**

**Cyrus** → Cambyses → **Darius** → Xerxes/Ahasuerus → **Artaxerxes**



(image credit: Logos Bible Software)

*“Thus in the stream of history is the undercurrent of the will of God that steers the history of his people in a given direction, guided by his grace and love for his people.” (F. Charles Fensham)*

#### Take It Home:

- Does confirmation of accurate historical context help to reinforce your faith? Doesn’t the cohesiveness of the Bible do the same? [What other examples come to mind? Are there any biblical-historical areas that still cause some confusion for you?]
- Do you see the pattern and flow of God’s faithfulness to his covenant love unfolding as revealed in the Bible? How have you responded to the covenant loving relationship that God offers through his Son Jesus Christ? (What impact should that currently have on your daily living?)
- What does all we’ve discussed say about who God is? Why does it matter?