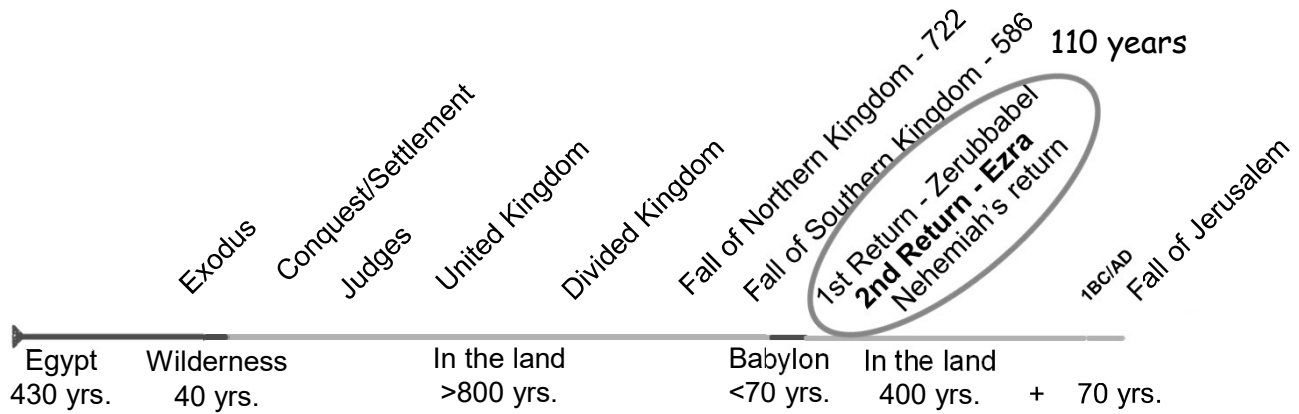


1

The Big Story



2

Ezra-Nehemiah: Overarching Framework

- Prologue: Setting the Stage
 - Episode 1: Zerubbabel and the Temple (Ezra 1-6)
 - **Episode 2: Ezra and the Law (Ezra 7-10)**
 - Episode 3: Nehemiah and the Wall (Nehemiah 1-13)
- Postlude: Now What?

3

Reflecting on Zerubbabel and the Temple (1-6)

- Anti-climactic - no comment from author or response from God
 - Promises re: Zerubbabel as king? (Hag 2:20ff/Zech 4:6ff)
 - No glory at temple like Solomon's (Hag2:9)
 - No dominion over nations, no rest from enemies, no coming of nations
 - God is at work, but not by evidently miraculous; but internal, gradual, and unspectacular
- 50+ years pass between ch.6-7 (what about Zerubbabel? Matthew 1:12)

4

Ezra and the Law

- 7:1-6 - Introduction of Ezra
- 7:7-10 - Description of the Returnees
- 7:11-28 - Another Royal Decree
- 8:1-23 - Genealogy of the Returnees
- 8:24-36 - The Return
- [Nehemiah 8:1-8 - Teaching the Law]
- 9 - The Prayer of Ezra (themes of idolatry and slavery)
- 10 - Confession, Identification (c.100), and Pledge

5

Application/Reflections

- Scene conclude with no response from the Lord, no comment by author - we aren't told what happens to women and children
- Story moves on (originally in same book) to next leader (Nehemiah) who will rebuild the walls of the city
- So far we have a **king** who builds a temple and goes mostly unnoticed and a **priest** who teaches the law, prays and confesses for the people and their sins
 - They are, by all accounts, good men without major failure (unlike the kings and priests of the past)
 - And yet, the package of prophetic promises has not yet been fulfilled - perhaps as the book concludes?
- When will the victorious King and the liberating Priest appear?

6