

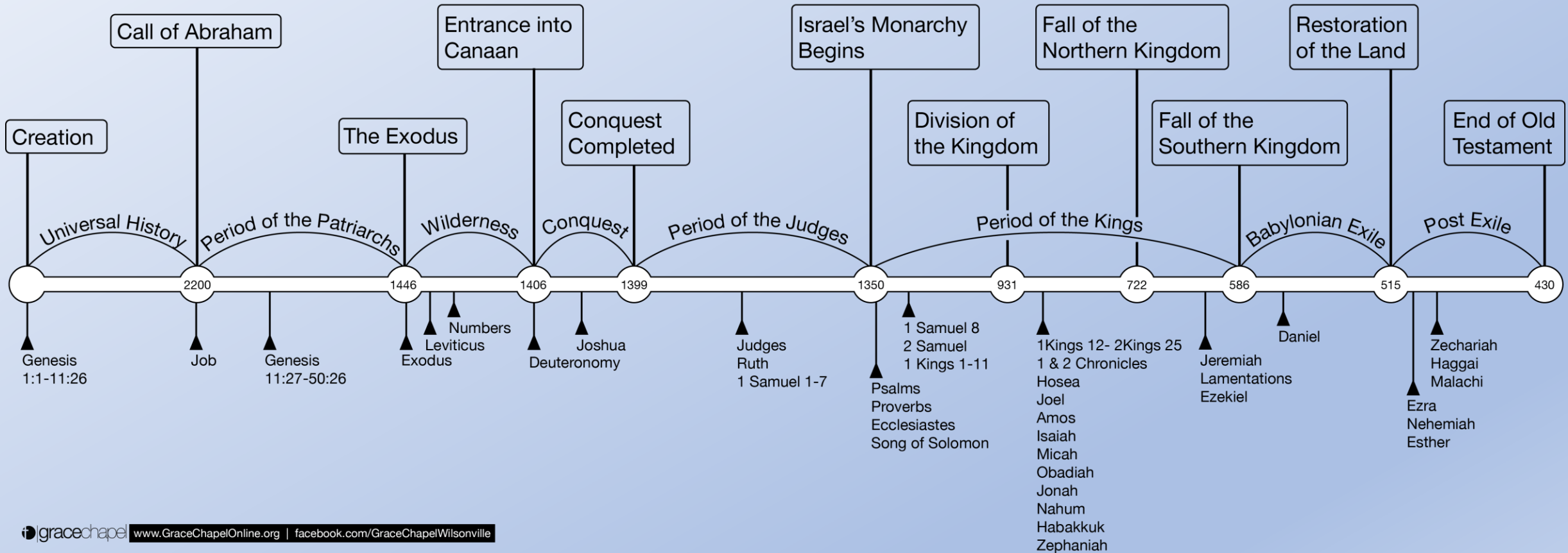
Chronicles

Esther

Ezra

Nehemiah

OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE



Intro

Israel divided into two nations in 930BC

Two separate Kingdoms continue side by side for over 200 years

Northern Kingdom – Israel (Ephraim) is totally apostate

Southern Kingdom – Judah has Davidic Kings on the Throne (good, bad, mixed)

Before Israel is destroyed, they enjoyed great prosperity under Jeroboam II

In 722BC Assyria destroys Israel and takes the people away

In 586BC Babylon destroys Jerusalem and takes Judah into exile

Chronicles

536BC: 50,000 Jews left Babylon have settled into the promised land.

Written around 430BC – 100 years after the return from Babylon

They had a time of great revival followed by terrible deterioration

Prominent Sins

- Neglecting God's Word
- Intermarrying with unbelievers
- Materialism
- Priests lead worship without heart, ritual

It was written during Nehemiah's 2nd reformation when he and Malachi worked together for spiritual reformation. Probably written by Ezra.

- Compare 2 Chron 36:22-23 with Ezra 1:1-2

Chronicles

1 book split into two when translated into Greek

During a time of widespread religion with no heart or substance, spiritual decline

History book that scans the time of Adam to the decree of Cyrus ending the exile

Why write a history book during a time of spiritual decline?

He is selective on the history he includes. Heavy focus on some things and skips or barely mentions other things...Why?

He has a lesson to teach Israel

The Jews are beginning to go the way of Israel and Judah. He is afraid they will flounder again

Chronicles

Ezra explains that all of Israel's history, and all of its glory, comes from its covenant relationship with God.

- When the nation has honored the covenant, they have prospered.
- When they have disregarded the covenant, they have had nothing but trouble.
- When the nation has been obedient to God, God has blessed it.
- When the nation has been disobedient to God, God has punished it.

In this history book, Ezra selects times and events that will underline this message.

He also makes it plain that if you are going to be faithful to God you must come to him by the means of grace.

Chronicles

The book starts with genealogies

Gives some time on the Levites

Gives time to the tribes of Benjamin and Judah

Highlights David's life

Focuses on the Temple when he gets to Solomon ❖ 1 Chron 28:9-10

1 Chronicles 28:9-10

⁹ “And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.¹⁰ Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work.”

Chronicles

The book starts with genealogies

Gives some time on the Levites

Gives time to the tribes of Benjamin and Judah

Highlights David's life

Focuses on the Temple when he gets to Solomon ❖ 1 Chron 28:9-10

He writes about the split of the nation. He says nothing about the northern nation. Why?

He focuses on the Davidic line and how the Lord has preserved it

He explains why even Judah had to go into exile and ends with the pronouncement of Cyrus ending the exile

Chronicles

Kings and Chronicles Comparison

Kings Emphasizes judgment

Chronicles emphasizes judgement, but also hope.

Kings has war & conflict

Chronicles focuses on the Temple

Kings talks about a lot of thrones

Chronicles talks about David's throne

King deals with both kingdoms

Chronicles only deals with Judah – the Davidic Kingdom

Kings deals morality

Chronicles deals with morality, but much more with redemption

Chronicles

The book ends with a tone and message of hope

2 Chronicles 36

¹⁵ The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. ¹⁷ He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁸ He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the Lord's temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. ¹⁹ They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.

²⁰ He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. ²¹ The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah.

²² In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

²³ "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

"The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you—may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up."

The writer is showing his readers how Judah lived and acted and who they were. He is asking the 'new Israel,' are we going to repeat their failures, or are we going to learn from them, and trust in the Lord?

Esther

Occurs in Susa, the summer capital of Persia during the reign of Xerxes. Approx 500BC

Xerxes ruled over 127 provinces from India to Egypt. Susa is in modern day Iran.



Esther

Occurs in Susa, the summer capital of Persia during the reign of Xerxes. Approx 500BC

Xerxes ruled over 127 provinces from India to Egypt. Susa is in modern day Iran.

During the reign of Xerxes

- Buddha lived, taught and died
- Confucius was peaking wise sayings and died in China
- War with Greece and battle of Marathon right before his reign

Approximately 3 million Jews lived in Persia and Babylon during this time.

50 years before Xerxes' reign, 50,000 Jews went back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.

This book occurs during the time period Ezra 6-7

Esther

Tells the story of how the Jews were saved from extermination.

The Messianic line was preserved

We see the doctrine of providence – We see that God rules the world for the benefit of his people.

The name of God isn't in Esther, but His fingerprints are...

Esther

Author is unknown – probably Ezra

The book is named after its main character

The last of the books in the historical section of the OT

Persian name mean's Star. Hebrew name is Hadassah (2:7) which means myrtle.

Raised by her cousin, Mordecai, who was an official in the king's palace in Susa.

Key word is Jew - 51 times

Jews were preserved

Messianic Line was preserved

Esther

Outline

Chapters 1-4 The Jews are Threatened

1: The deposition of Vashti

Esther

Esther 1:15-18

¹⁵ “According to law, what must be done to Queen Vashti?” he asked. “She has not obeyed the command of King Xerxes that the eunuchs have taken to her.”

¹⁶ Then Memucan replied in the presence of the king and the nobles, “Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces of King Xerxes. ¹⁷ For the queen’s conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, ‘King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.’ ¹⁸ This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen’s conduct will respond to all the king’s nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.

Esther

Outline

Chapters 1-4 The Jews are Threatened

- 1: The deposition of Vashti
- 2:1-20 The exaltation of Esther
- 2:21-23 The plot against Xerxes (Ahasuerus)
- 3: The malice of Haman
- 4: The appeal of Mordecai

Esther 4:12-14

¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther

Outline

Chapters 5-10 The Jews are Spared

5:1-8 The venture of Esther

5:9-14 The design of Haman

6:1-12a The recognition of Mordecai

6:12b-7:10 The downfall of Haman

8: Mordecai is honored

9: Triumph of the Jews and Purim is Celebrated

10: The greatness of Mordecai

Esther

Esther 10

¹ King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the empire, to its distant shores. ² And all his acts of power and might, together with a full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king had raised him, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Media and Persia? ³ Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.

Ezra

A scribe and a priest

Name means helper

He has a strong focus on Scripture and zealously point the people to God's Word

He was the first to start synagogues so Jews could gather around God's Word

He wrote Chronicles, probably wrote Ps 119, also wrote Ezra-Nehemiah

He was a direct descendant of Aaron

Major Theme:

God works sovereignly through responsible human agents to accomplish His redemptive purpose

Ezra

Outline

Part 1 – The return from captivity: under Zerubbabel – Chapters 1-6: 536-515BC: 21yrs

The Journey (1:1 – 2:70)

- | | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| 1:1-4 | The decree of Cyrus |
| 1:5-11 | Preparations for the journey |
| 2:1-70 | List of returning exiles |

The Work (3:1 – 6:22)

- | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------|
| 3:1-13 | The work begun | 536 BC |
| 4:1-24 | The work opposed | 534 BC |

Ezra 4:4 Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building

Ezra

Outline

Part 1 – The return from captivity: under Zerubbabel – Chapters 1-6: 536-515BC: 21yrs

The Journey (1:1 – 2:70)

| | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| 1:1-4 | The decree of Cyrus |
| 1:5-11 | Preparations for the journey |
| 2:1-70 | List of returning exiles |

The Work (3:1 – 6:22)

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--------|
| 3:1-13 | The work begun | 536 BC |
| 4:1-24 | The work opposed | 534 BC |
| 5:1-6:12 | The work resumed | 520 BC |
| 6:13-6:22 | The work finished | 515 BC |

Ezra

Outline

Part 2 – The return from captivity: under Ezra – Chapters 7-10: 458-457 BC: 1 year

The Journey (7:1 – 8:32)

7:1-26

Permission

Ezra

Ezra 7

¹ After these things, during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, ² the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ³ the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, ⁴ the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, ⁵ the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest— ⁶ this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him. ⁷ Some of the Israelites, including priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers and temple servants, also came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

⁸ Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. ⁹ He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰ For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

¹¹ This is a copy of the letter King Artaxerxes had given to Ezra the priest and teacher, a man learned in matters concerning the commands and decrees of the Lord for Israel:

¹² Artaxerxes, king of kings,

To Ezra the priest, a teacher of the Law of the God of heaven:

Greetings.

Ezra

Ezra 7

¹³ Now I decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including priests and Levites, who wish to go to Jerusalem with you, may go. ¹⁴ You are sent by the king and his seven advisers to inquire about Judah and Jerusalem with regard to the Law of your God, which is in your hand. ¹⁵ Moreover, you are to take with you the silver and gold that the king and his advisers have freely given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, **16** together with all the silver and gold you may obtain from the province of Babylon, as well as the freewill offerings of the people and priests for the temple of their God in Jerusalem. ¹⁷ With this money be sure to buy bulls, rams and male lambs, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and sacrifice them on the altar of the temple of your God in Jerusalem.

¹⁸ You and your brother Jews may then do whatever seems best with the rest of the silver and gold, in accordance with the will of your God. ¹⁹ Deliver to the God of Jerusalem all the articles entrusted to you for worship in the temple of your God. ²⁰ And anything else needed for the temple of your God that you may have occasion to supply, you may provide from the royal treasury.

Ezra

Ezra 7

²¹ Now I, King Artaxerxes, order all the treasurers of Trans-Euphrates to provide with diligence whatever Ezra the priest, a teacher of the Law of the God of heaven, may ask of you— ²² up to a hundred talents of silver, a hundred cors of wheat, a hundred baths of wine, a hundred baths of olive oil, and salt without limit. ²³ Whatever the God of heaven has prescribed, let it be done with diligence for the temple of the God of heaven. Why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and of his sons? ²⁴ You are also to know that you have no authority to impose taxes, tribute or duty on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants or other workers at this house of God.

²⁵ And you, Ezra, in accordance with the wisdom of your God, which you possess, appoint magistrates and judges to administer justice to all the people of Trans-Euphrates—all who know the laws of your God. And you are to teach any who do not know them. ²⁶ Whoever does not obey the law of your God and the law of the king must surely be punished by death, banishment, confiscation of property, or imprisonment.

Ezra

Outline

Part 2 – The return from captivity: under Ezra – Chapters 7-10: 458-457 BC: 1 year

The Journey (7:1 – 8:32)

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| 7:1-26 | Permission |
| 7:27:28 | Psalm |
| 8:1-32 | People & Pilgrimage |

The Work (8:33 – 10:44)

| | |
|---------|--|
| 8:33-36 | Program |
| 9:1-4 | Problem |
| 9:5-15 | Prayer |
| 10:1-44 | Penitence, Propitiation, People Involved |

Nehemiah

His name means 'The Comfort From Jehovah'

He was born in Babylon

He was cupbearer to the king

He is appointed Governor to Jerusalem

He is given royal authority to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem

Nehemiah leads the people to build the wall in 52 days

God works sovereignly through responsible human agents to accomplish His redemptive purpose

Nehemiah

Ch 1 – starts with a broken heart and prayer

Ch 2 – King Artaxerxes notices his sadness

Nehemiah 2:1-5a

¹ In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before; ² so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much afraid, ³ but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

⁴ The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king,...

Nehemiah

Ch 1 – starts with a broken heart and prayer

Ch 2 – King Artaxerxes notices his sadness

He goes to Jerusalem and inspects the wall and gates and they begin the work

Immediately mocked and scorned by outside oppressors

Ch 3 – He lists the builders and their allotted work.

Ch 4 – External opposition grows more intense

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 4:7-18

⁷ But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the men of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. ⁸ They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

¹⁰ Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall."

¹¹ Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work."

¹² Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

¹³ Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. ¹⁴ After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work.

¹⁶ From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸ and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

Nehemiah

Ch 1 – starts with a broken heart and prayer

Ch 2 – King Artaxerxes notices his sadness

He goes to Jerusalem and inspects the wall and gates and they begin the work

Immediately mocked and scorned by outside oppressors

Ch 3 – He lists the builders and their allotted work.

Ch 4 – External opposition grows more intense

Ch 5 – Internal issues

Nehemiah

Ch 6 – Nehemiah's determination

Ch 6 – The wall completed!

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

When God's people work, it is seen to be God's work.

Nehemiah

Ch 7 – A register of the people and their gifts to the work

Ch 8 Ezra reappears to read the Law of God

Nehemiah 8:8

They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

Nehemiah

Ch 7 – A register of the people and their gifts to the work

Ch 8 Ezra reappears to read the Law of God

Ch 9 Israel confesses their sin

9:28a “But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in your sight...

Nehemiah

Ch 7 – A register of the people and their gifts to the work

Ch 8 Ezra reappears to read the Law of God

Ch 9 Israel confesses their sin

Ch 10 The covenant to obey God

Ch 11 List of those who live in Jerusalem and the surrounding towns and villages

Ch 12 They dedicate the wall

Ch 13 – Nehemiah goes away for a short time and returns with thunder

The stage is set for the Messiah.