EZRA-NEHEMIAH – IMPORTANT DATES

(10/27/2019; Ezra 1:1-2:70; Steve Thiel; Christ Proclamation Church)

IMPORTANT DATES – BEFORE EZRA

- **722 BC** – Assyria (Shalmaneser IV) defeats Israel (Northern Kingdom) and takes over 27,000 people into captivity, replacing them with other people from Mesopotamia and Syria, establishing a new culture.
- **605 BC** – Battle of Carchemish – Nebuchadnezzar, Babylonian king, establishes himself as a powerhouse in the region – Probably takes Daniel and his friends into captivity in Babylon at this point in time.
- **597 BC** – Babylon's first siege on Jerusalem under Nebuchadnezzar where he carried off all the "officers and fighting men" (including King Jehoiachin) totaling about 10,000 (30,000 if numbers indicate heads of households) and made Zedekiah the new king (2 Kings 24:10-17).
- **586 BC – Nebuchadnezzar sacks Jerusalem, burns down the temple** and takes Judah (Southern Kingdom) into captivity and exile, leaving only the poorest of the land and some farmers (2 Kings 25:3-12).
  - **559-530 BC** – Reign of King Cyrus (Ezra 1:1-4; 6:3-5; Is. 45:1)
- **539 BC** – Cyrus king of Persia captures Babylon and overthrows the Babylonian King Nabonidus (Daniel 5:30-31).

IMPORTANT DATES – START OF EZRA

- **538 BC** – Cyrus king of Persia decree to allow Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and city (2 Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4)
- **537 BC** – Alter rebuilt, Jewish sacrifices restored (Ezra 3:1-7).
  - **537-515 BC** – Time period that includes Ezra 1-6.
- **536 BC** – Temple rebuilding begins (Ezra 3:8-13).
  - **536-520 BC** – Adversaries oppose temple rebuilding (Ezra 4:1-6).
  - **530-522 BC** – Reign of Cambyses II (Not mentioned in Bible)
  - **522-486 BC** – Reign of Darius (Ezra 6:13-15)
- **520 BC** – Temple building resumes (Ezra 5:2; Haggai 1:14-15).
- **516 BC – Temple completed (6th year of Darius reign) (Ezra 6:15).**
  - **486-465 BC** – Reign of Xerxes (Not mentioned in Ezra-Nehemiah) Also known as Ahasuerus in the Book of Esther (Esther 1:1)
  - **465-425 BC** – Reign of Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 1:11-2:1)
- **458 BC** – Ezra brings second wave exiles from Babylon to Jerusalem. Arrive in the 7th year of the reign of Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:6-9).
  - **458-433 BC** - Time period that includes Ezra 7 - Nehemiah 13.
- **445 BC** – Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem, completes walls (Neh. 1-6)
- **433 BC** – Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem after being away, most likely to report back to King Artaxerxes on progress (Nehemiah 5:14; 13:6)
  - **433-424 BC** – Time period of Ezra and Nehemiah writing.

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