<u>From the Exile to the End of the O.T.</u>

Historical Writings:

(Daniel)
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Prophets:

Major Prophets:

Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor Prophets:(last three books of the O.T.)

Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Companion Bible Appendix 1.

1

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT ACCORDING TO THE HEBREW CANON.

I.—THE LAW (*Tōrāh*).

A | GENESIS. The beginning. All produced by the Word of God (Gen. 1. 3). Israel as a "family" (Gen. 15. 1).

B | EXODUS. History. Israel emerging from Families and Tribes to a Nation. Called "Hebrews" according to their "tongue."

C | LEVITICUS. Worship. Jehovah in the midst. He, Israel's God; and they, His People.

B | NUMBERS. History. Israel, now a "Nation," numbered, and blessed, as such (23, 24).

A | DEUTERONOMY. The end. All depending on the Word of Jehovah. Israel regarded as in the "Land."

II.—THE PROPHETS (*Nᵉbīīm*).

A | JOSHUA. "The Lord of all the earth" giving possession of the Land. Government under Priests.

B | JUDGES. Israel forsaking and returning to God; losing and regaining their position in the Land. "No king." Bethlehem. Failure under Priests.

C | SAMUEL. Man's king "rejected"; God's king (David) "established."

D | KINGS. Decline and Fall under the kings.

D | ISAIAH. Final blessing under God's King.

C | JEREMIAH. Human kings "rejected." David's "righteous Branch" "raised up."

B | EZEKIEL. God forsaking Israel, and returning in glory, to say for ever of His Land and city "Jehovah-Shammah."

A | MINOR PROPHETS. "The Lord of all the earth" giving restored possession of the Land, and foretelling final and unending possession.

The former Prophets (Zech. 7. 7).

The latter Prophets.

III.—THE PSALMS (*Kᵉthūbīm*, Writings).

A | PSALMS. *Tᵉhillīm*. "Praises." God's purposes and counsels as to His doings in the future.

B | PROVERBS, i.e. Rules: Words which govern or rule man's life. God's moral government set forth.

C | JOB. "The end of the Lord" shown in Satan's defeat, and the saint's deliverance from tribulation.

D | CANTICLES. Virtue rewarded. Read by the Jews at the Passover: the Feast which commemorates the deliverance from Pharaoh, the Jews' oppressor.

E | RUTH. The stranger gathered in to hear of, and share in, God's goodness in Redemption. Read at Pentecost, which commemorates God's goodness in the Land.

F | LAMENTATIONS. "Alas!" The record of Israel's woes. Read at the *Fast* of the ninth of Abib.

E | ECCLESIASTES. "The Preacher." The People collected to hear of man's vanity. Read at the Feast of Tabernacles, which commemorates God's goodness in the wilderness.

D | ESTHER. Virtue rewarded. Read at the Feast of Purim, which commemorates the deliverance from Haman, "the Jews' enemy."

The five *Megilloth*.

C | DANIEL. "God's judgment." Here are shown the final defeat of Antichrist, and the deliverance out of "the Great Tribulation."

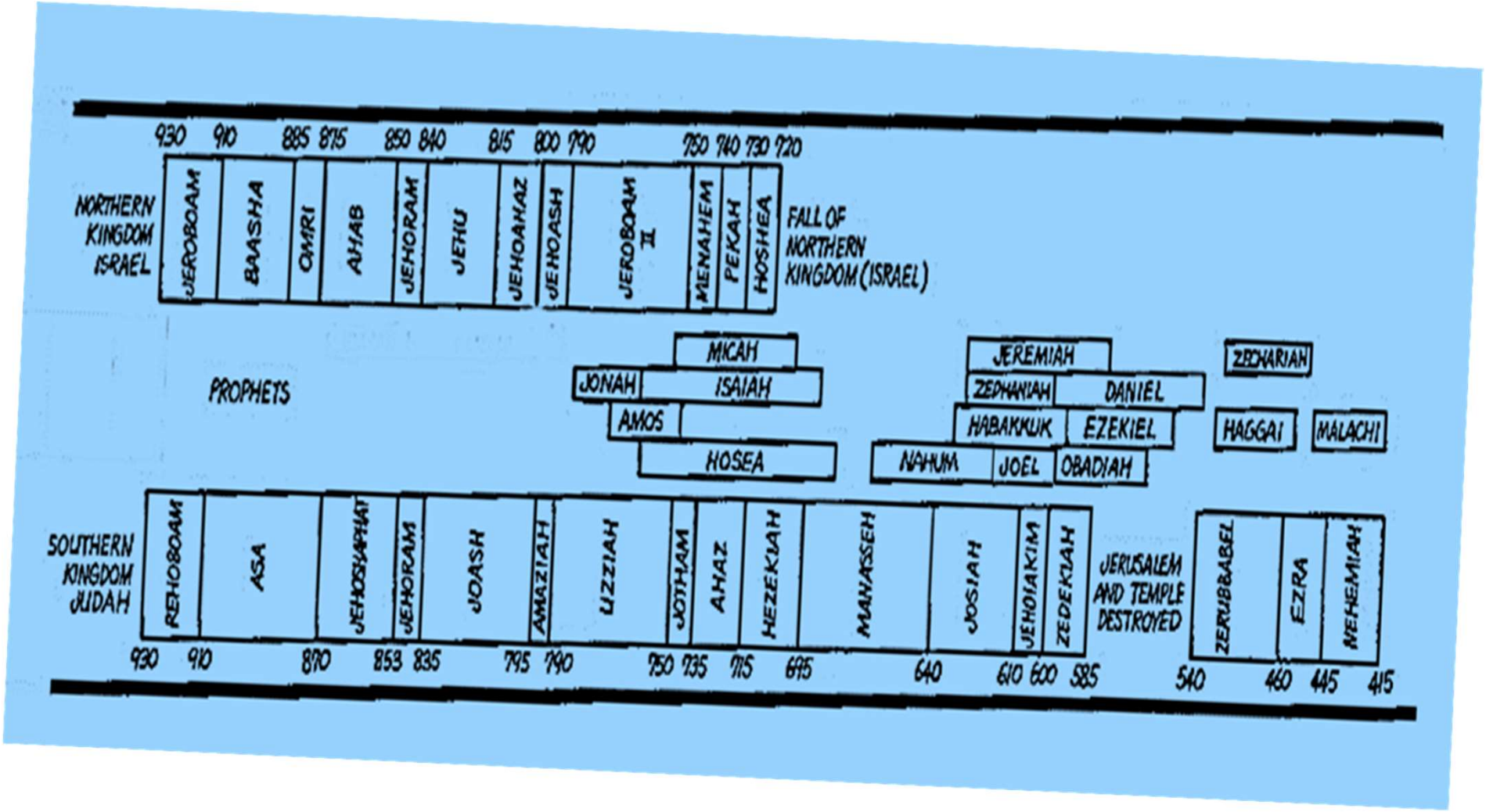
B | EZRA-NEHEMIAH. Men who governed and ruled God's People in their resettlement in the Land.

A | CHRONICLES. *Dibrae hayyāmīm*. "Words of the Days"; or, God's purposes and counsels as to Israel's doings in the past, and until the time of the end.

Hebrew Scriptures at the time of Christ

The same 39 books as we have in our O.T. today, but set out as 24 books. Books marked with ● are divided up into two or more in most present-day Bibles.

Note Ezra-Nehemiah was considered to be one book, not two.


930 910 885 875 850 840 815 800 790 750 740 730 720
NORTHERN KINGDOM ISRAEL
JEROBOAM
BAASHA
OMRI
AHAB
JEHORAM
JEHU
JEHOAHAZ
JEHOASH
JEROBOAM II
MENAHEM
PEKAH
HOSHEA
FALL OF NORTHERN KINGDOM (ISRAEL)
PROPHETS
MICAH
JONAH
ISAIAH
AMOS
HOSEA
JEREMIAH
ZEPHANIAH
DANIEL
HABAKKUK
EZEKIEL
NAHUM
JOEL
OBADIAH
ZECHARIAH
HAGGAI
MALACHI
SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH
REHOBOAM
ASA
JEHOSHAPHAT
JEHORAM
JOASH
AMAZIAH
UZZIAH
JOTHAM
AHAZ
HEZEKIAH
MANASSEH
JOSIAH
JEHOIAKIM
ZEDEKIAH
JERUSALEM AND TEMPLE DESTROYED
ZERUBBABEL
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
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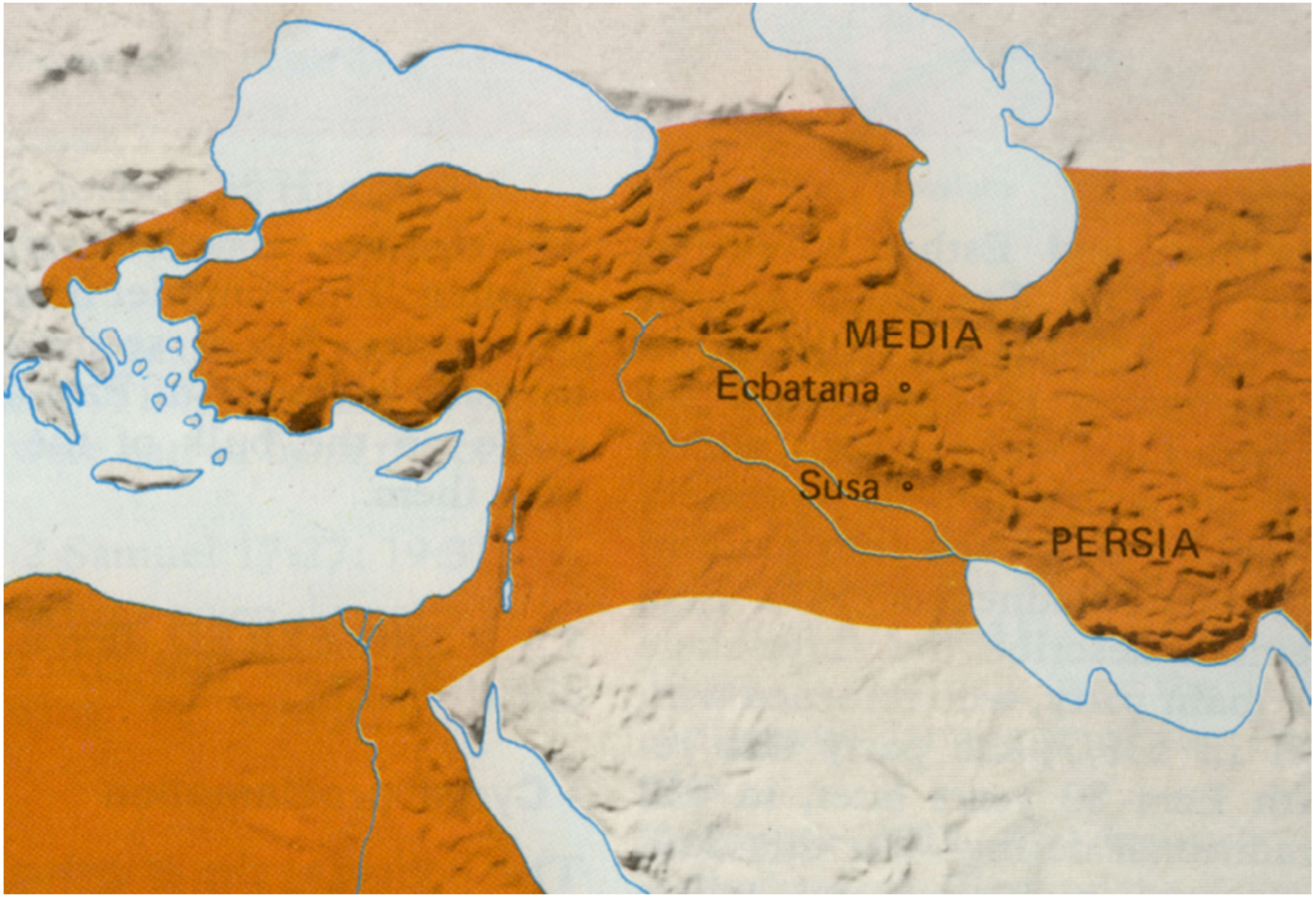
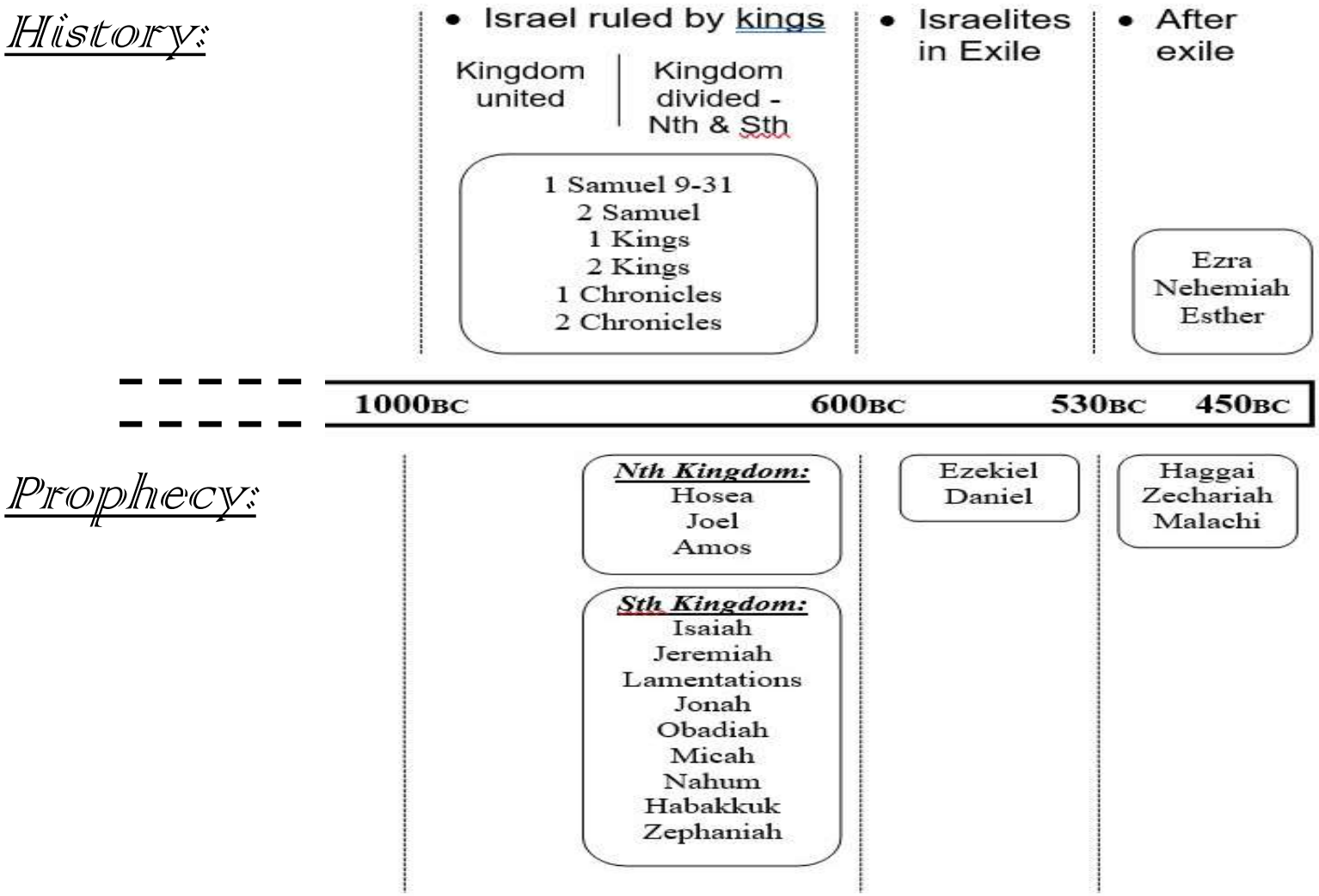
The exile of Judah

The Medo-Persian Empire




History:
Israel ruled by kings
Kingdom united
Kingdom divided - Nth & Sth
1 Samuel 9-31
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Israelites in Exile
After exile
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
1000BC
600BC
530BC
450BC
Prophecy:
Nth Kingdom:
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Sth Kingdom:
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Jonah
Obadiah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Ezekiel
Daniel
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Who is who in Ezra-Nehemiah?

- **Nehemiah** – cupbearer to Artaxerxes, the Persian king. *(Nehemiah 1:11b; 2:1)*
  Oversaw the reconstruction of the walls around Jerusalem

- **Ezra** – a priest /scribe *(Ezra 7:11,12).*
  Led some exiles back to Judah, and addressed some unlawful practices by the people.

  However … the first part of the book of Ezra doesn't even mention him.
  The book of Ezra, chapters 1 to 6, features another person –

- **Zerubbabel** - the first (or one of the first) governors of Judah upon their return from exile. *(Ezra 2:1,2)*
  Under him, the second temple was constructed, sometimes called "Zerubbabel's temple" *(Ezra 5:2)*

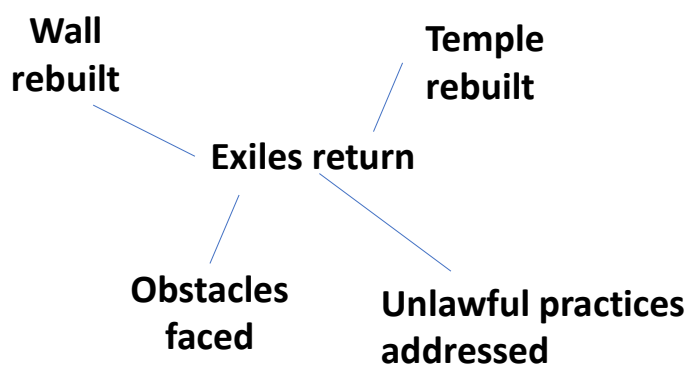
<u>Also mentioned:</u>

Haggai and **Zechariah** – prophets involved in encouraging the people to get on with the building of the temple *(Ezra 5:1; 6:14). S*ame prophets as the Bible books bearing their names.

Cyrus, Darius, Artaxerxes - Persian, or Medo-Persian, kings *(Ezra 6:14).* There is great debate concerning the exact identity and chronology of these kings, and their place in the narrative of the Bible.

Rehum, Shimshai, Sanballat, Tobiah – enemies of the returned exiles, who attempted to thwart the rebuilding of Jerusalem.

Ezra–Nehemiah Events



Ezra–Nehemiah Events

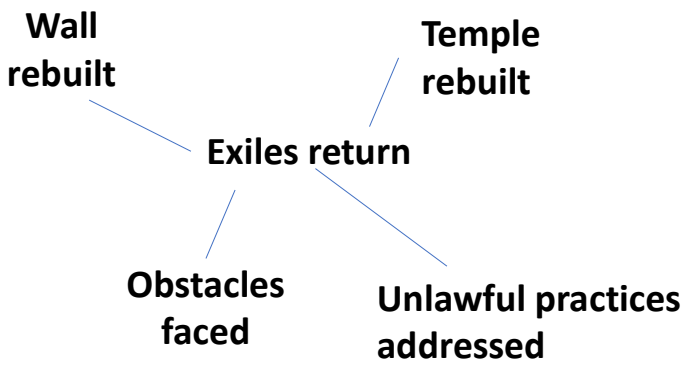
Traditional order

Return of exiles under Zerubbabel
Ezra ch.1

Temple rebuilt despite interruptions and obstacles
Ezra ch. 3 to 6

Wall rebuilt, despite interruptions and obstacles
Nehemiah ch. 1 to 7

Unlawful practices addressed
Ezra ch. 9,10
Nehemiah ch. 9, 10, 13



Approximate Year	Event(s)	Reference	Notes
539 BC	Fall of Babylon	Dan 5:30	Cyrus 550-530BC in Persia
539 – 538	First year of Cyrus in Babylon	Ezra 1:1-4	Cyrus 539-530BC over Babylon
538	Zerubbabel and 1st return of exiles	Ezra 1-6	.
537	Building of Altar	Ezra 3:1-3	7th month = Tishri – Sep/Oct
536	Work on temple begins	Ezra 3:8	.
536 – 530 BC	Opposition during Cyrus's reign	Ezra 4:1-5	.
530 – 520 BC	Work on temple ceases	Ezra 4:24	Persian Kings: Cambyses 530-522 Smerdis 522
520	Work begins again under Darius	Ezra 5:2	Darius I 522-486
520	Events of book of **Haggai**	Hag 1	.
520 – 518 BC	Events of book of **Zechariah** 1-8	Zec 1	.
516	Temple completed	Ezra 6:15	.
483 – 471 BC	Events of Book of **Esther**	Esther	Xerxes I (Ahasuerus) 486-465
458	Ezra and 2nd return of exiles	Ezra 7-10	.
445 – 444 BC	20th year Artaxerxes 1	Neh 1:1	Artaxerxes I (Artahasta) 465-424; Chislev= Nov/Dec
444	Nehemiah approaches King	Neh 2:1	Nisan=Mar/Apr
444	Nehemiah and 3rd return of exiles	Neh 2:11	.
444	wall complete	Neh 6:15	Elul = Aug/Sep
444 – 432 BC	Nehemiah governor of Judah	Neh 5:14	.
432	Nehemiah goes to Babylon	Neh 13:6	.
430?	Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem	Neh 13:6	Xerxes II 424; Darius II 423-404

Return of exiles under Zerubbabel

Temple rebuilt despite interruptions and obstacles

Wall rebuilt, despite interruptions and obstacles

Ezra-Nehemiah timeline (traditional approach)

This particular chart retrieved from: https://www.wednesdayintheword.com/chronologyezra-nehemiah/

Ezra – Nehemiah - Esther

Book of Ezra covers: 538 - 516 (Temple rebuilt); 458 - 457 (Reform of people)

Zerubbabel governed: *538 - 516*

Ezra ministered: *458 - 445*

Nehemiah governed: *445 - 425*

Esther as Queen: *478 - 464*

Persian Kings: Cambyses *530-522*, Smerdis *522*, Cyrus *559-530*, Darius *522-486*, Ahasuerus *486-464*, Artaxerxes *464-423*

Book of Nehemiah covers: 445 - 425 (Wall rebuilt | Further reforms of people)

Book of Esther covers: 483 - 471 (Preservation of Jews)

Ezra – Nehemiah

Book of Ezra covers: 538 - 516 (Temple rebuilt); 458 - 457 (Reform of people)

Zerubbabel governed: *538 - 516*

Ezra ministered: *458 - 445*

Nehemiah governed: *445 - 425*

Persian Kings: Cambyses *530-522*, Smerdis *522*, Cyrus *559-530*, Darius *522-486*, Ahasuerus *486-464*, Artaxerxes *464-423*

Book of Nehemiah covers: 445 - 425 (Wall rebuilt | Further reforms of people)

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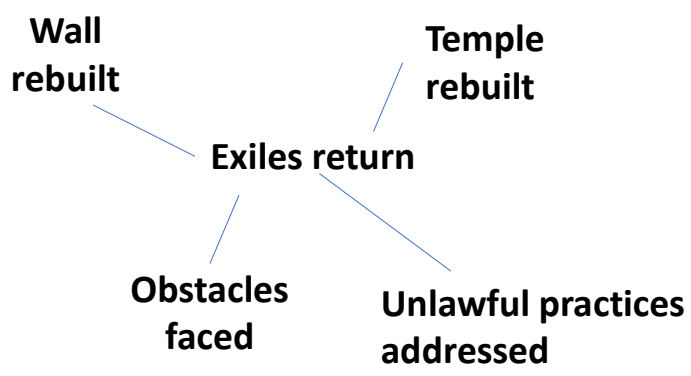

Alternative order

Wall rebuilt, despite interruptions and obstacles
Nehemiah ch. 1 to 7

Return of exiles under Zerubbabel
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Ezra ch. 9,10
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Ezra -Nehemiah as a whole

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K     Neh. 1:1 to 6:19.    The Wall.  Rebuilding.
                           External disorders overcome.

   L | N    Neh. 7:1 -4.       Jerusalem.        Charge over it.
     |   O  Ezra 1:1 -4.       The People. Emancipation.

     M |  P     Neh. 7:5 -73 -.    Return under Zerubbabel.
       |        Ezra 1:5 to 2:70. Return under Zerubbabel.
       |     Q  Neh. 7:73 to 8:18.  Feast of the seventh
       |                            month (426 B.C.).
       |        Ezra 3:1 -7.    Feast of the seventh
       |                        month (426 B.C.).
       |
       |        R    Ezra 3:8 -12.  The Temple.
       |                            Foundation.
       |
       |        R    Ezra 4:1 to 6:22.   The Temple.
       |                                 Building and
       |                                 Dedication.

      M | P     Ezra 7:1 to 8:36.        The Return under Ezra.
        |    Q  Neh. 9:1 -3.             Feast of the seventh
        |                                month (404 b.c.).
        |        Ezra 9:1 -4.            Feast of the seventh
        |                                month (404 b.c.).
        |
     L  |  O  Neh. 9:4 to 10:39.    The People. Separation.
        |     Ezra 9:5 to 10:44.    The People. Separation.
        N  Neh. 11:1 to 12:26.      Jerusalem.  Residents in it.

K     Neh. 12:27 to 13:21.    The Wall.    Dedication.
                              Internal disorders overcome.
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Wall rebuilt, despite interruptions and obstacles

Return of exiles under Zerubbabel

Temple rebuilt despite interruptions and obstacles

Order of events described in Ezra-Nehemiah, according to C.H.Welch in Alphabetical Analysis, Part 8. See also Companion Bible Appendices 57, 58 and 50 (Chart V, p.60)

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Non-chronological approach

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah are two accounts of the same period, not including every event, but each account emphasising different aspects.
Events include …

Wall rebuilt

Temple rebuilt

Exiles return

Obstacles faced

Unlawful practices addressed

Alternative order

Wall rebuilt, despite interruptions and obstacles
Nehemiah ch. 1 to 7

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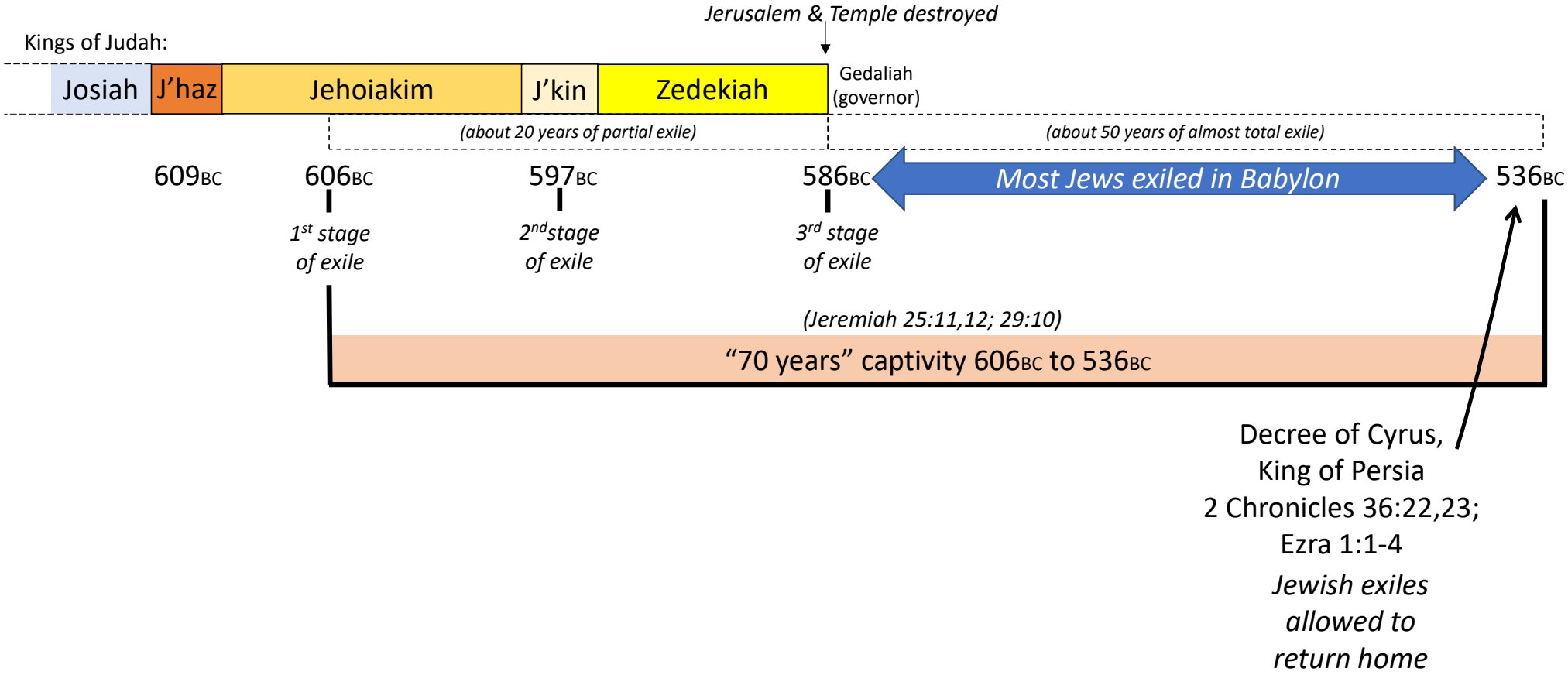
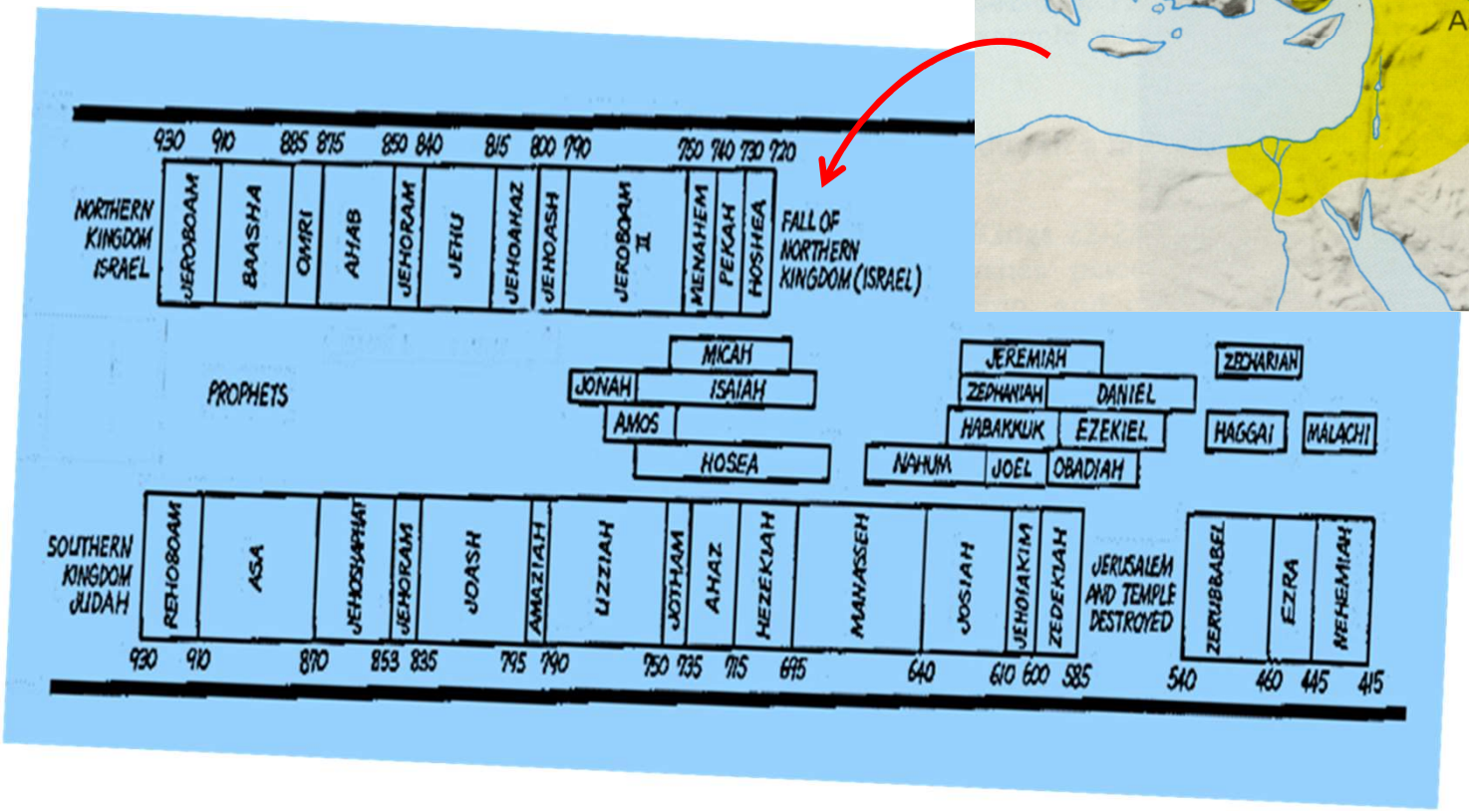
From Josiah to the Captivity – major events



Samarians / Samaritans

2 Kings 17:5-41



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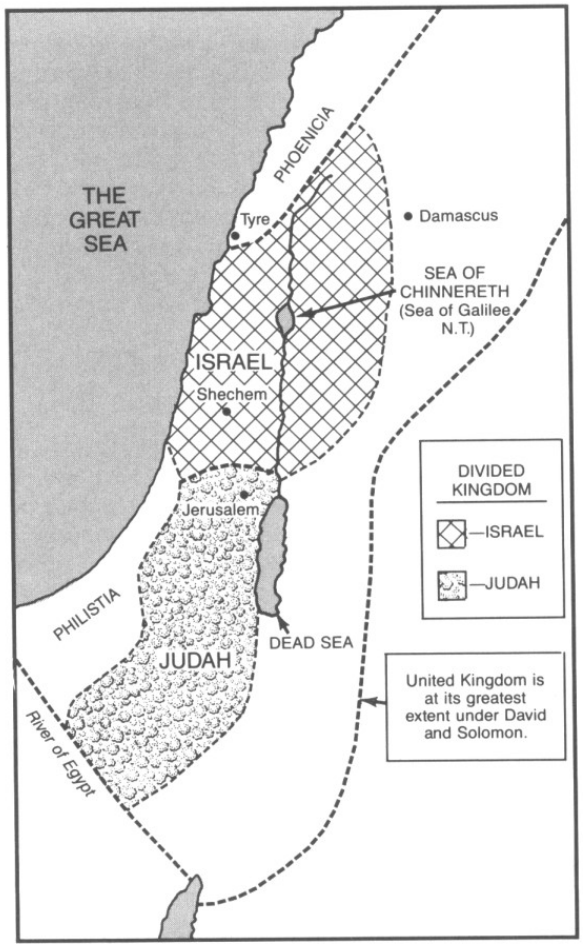
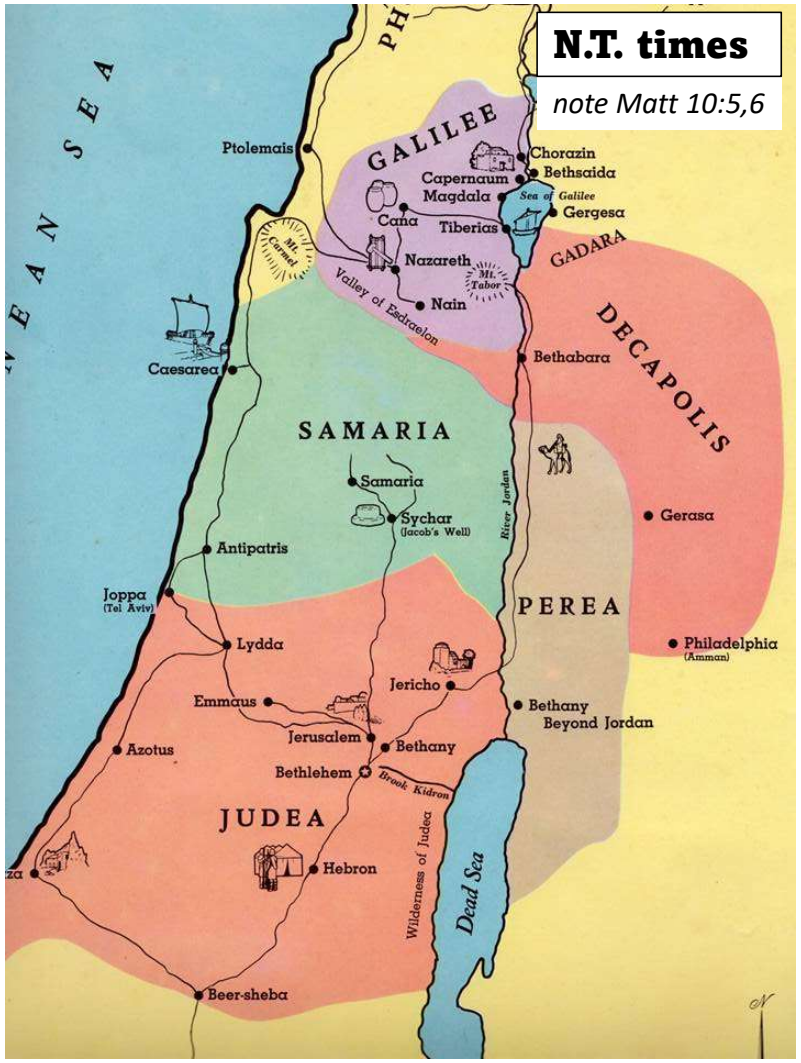
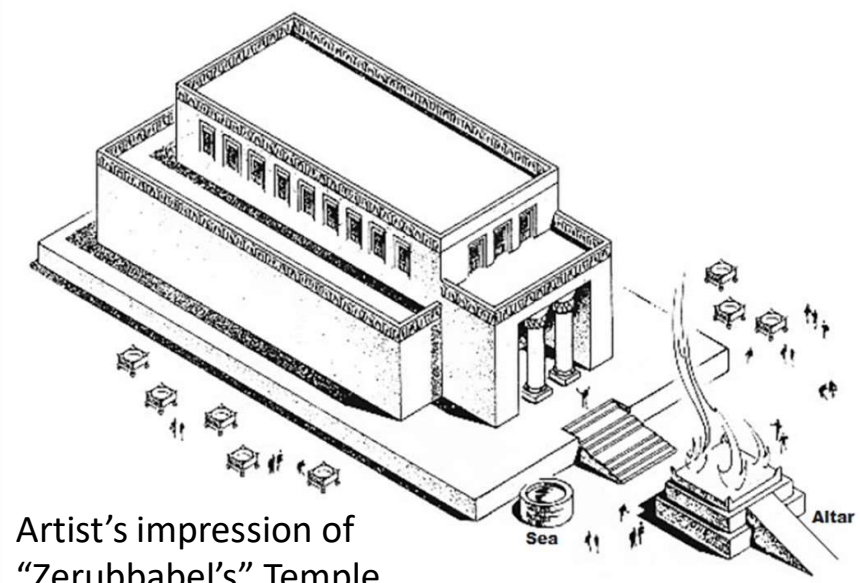




The Second Temple



Artist's impression of "Zerubbabel's" Temple. Dedicated around 515 B.C., it was possibly much plainer than this. See Ezra chapters 1 to 6; Haggai 2:3.

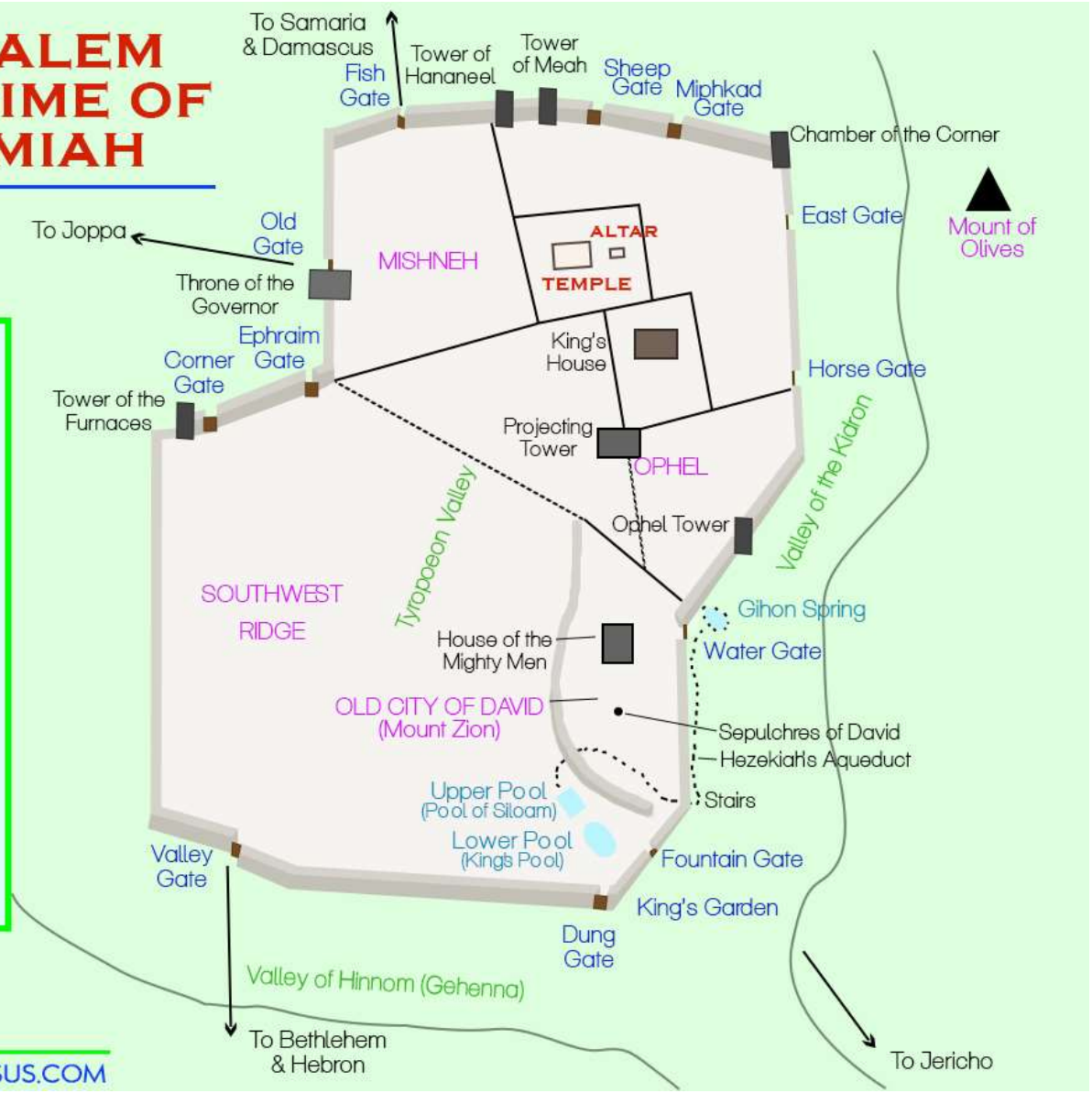
Often called "Herod's" Temple, this was how the temple looked in N.T. times. It was a major refurbishment of "Zerubbabel's" Temple.

Jerusalem in the Time of Nehemiah

C. 445 B.C.

Book of Nehemiah

Nehemiah was governor of Judah under Artaxerxes I of Persia. He rebuilt Jerusalem during the Second Temple period



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