

Ezra Study #2

Background: Part II

The Captivity and the Return (John Phillips)			
The Captivity			
605 B.C.	Phase I	Nebuchadnezzar's invasion. Jehoiakim and Daniel taken.	
597 B.C.	Phase II	2 nd Babylonian invasion. King Jehoiachin, Ezekiel, ancestors of Mordecai taken.	
586 B.C.	Phase III	The final destruction of Jerusalem. The city and temple are destroyed.	
The Return			
538 B.C.	Phase I	Cyrus' decree - Zerubbabel returns to build the temple.	
458 B.C.	Phase II	One generation later, Ezra comes to prepare the hearts of the people.	
445 B.C.	Phase III	Nehemiah returns to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.	
👉 KEYS TO EZRA			
KEY THEME:	Rebuilding the house and the people of God.		
KEY WORD:	House of God, House of the Lord (some 26 times)		
KEY VERSE:	Ezra 6:14		
KEY PEOPLE:	Cyrus, Zerubbabel, Joshua, Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra, Artaxerxes.		
A Chronology of Period Events (Phillips)			
Kings of Persia	Important Events	Prophets	Work on Temple
Cyrus (550-530)	Entered Babylon (539) Cyrus Decree (538) Zerubbabel (538)		Temple foundation laid (536)
Cambyses (530-521)			
Smerdis (521)			
Darius I Hystaspes (521-486)	Joshua priest (519)	Haggai (520) Zechariah (520)	Work resumed (520) Work finished (516)
Xerxes (486-464)	Deposed Vashti (483) Married Esther (478)		
Artaxerxes (464-423)	Ezra returns (458) Nehemiah leaves Persia (445) Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem (444)		
SHIFTING WORLD POWERS			
Nation	Relation to Israel	Major Kings	
Assyria	Took the northern tribes captive in 722 B.C.	Tiglath-Pileser, Sargon, Sennacherib	
Babylon	Took the southern tribes captive in 586 B.C.	Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar	
Media-Persia	Allowed the Jews to return home in 538 B.C.	Cyrus, Darius, Xerxes, Artaxerxes	

CONCLUSION: See Daniel 2:1-23; Psalm 31:14-15