

# The Exile, Return & the Prophets / Part 2

## Understanding the Old Testament: Part 11

### What God Did

### What God Said

605 B.C.	Judah falls to Egypt and then Babylon (2 Kings 23)	
597 B.C.	Jerusalem captured & exiled to Babylon (2 Kings 24)	
586 B.C.	Temple destroyed, more exiled to Babylon (2 Kings 25)	
538 B.C.	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Return to Jerusalem: Temple Rebuilt</b> <u>Ezra 1-6: (1:1-8)</u> -The Lord moves King <u>Cyrus</u> ' heart to allow a return to Judah and aid in rebuilding the temple. ( <u>50,000</u> return)	<u>Haggai</u> : Temple rebuilding was <u>delayed</u> & God sent Haggai with a message. -You're putting the wrong things <u>first</u> (1:1-11) -Seek first <u>God's</u> things & the rest will be added. (1:12-2:9)
458 B.C.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Return to Jerusalem: People Renewed</b> <u>Ezra 7-10: (7:1-6)</u> -Ezra the <u>priest</u> & scribe "skilled in the Law of Moses" goes to Jerusalem & helps restore <u>worship</u> ( <u>1,750</u> return)	<u>Zechariah</u> : Future <u>blessings</u> from God -The coming <u>Messiah</u> (3:8-9/12:10) -The coming <u>Kingdom</u> (12-14) -----
444 B.C.	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Return to Jerusalem: Walls Rebuilt, Renewal</b> <u>Nehemiah 1-13: (1:2-4/2:1-8)</u> -Nehemiah returns to <u>lead</u> the rebuilding of the wall and the renewal of the people with Ezra. ( <u>others</u> return)	<u>Malachi</u> : The last prophet before <u>Jesus</u> -Addressed <u>sins</u> of divorce, social injustice & tithing. (3:7-8,13) -Spoke of coming <u>Messiah</u> (4:1-6)

- 1) It was God who restored His people to Jerusalem.
- 2) God's people have always encountered opposition (and always will in this life).  
"Do not be afraid of them. Remember the LORD, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes. . . Our God will fight for us."  
Nehemiah 4:14,20
- 3) The need for boundaries (spiritual, social and physical) was stressed.  
-City walls protected them and kept them separate.  
-Marriage to those of the faith was important (Ezra 9-10, Neh 13:1-3,23-27)
- 4) God's people were called to return and be faithful to the Lord.  
-The priesthood, Temple worship, treatment of the poor, the Sabbath and marriage were practical areas of faithfulness that God addressed.
- 5) Humble and dependent prayer was a recurring practice.  
(Neh 4:4-5/5:19/9:32ff/13:14,22,29,31 Ezra 9:6-15)