

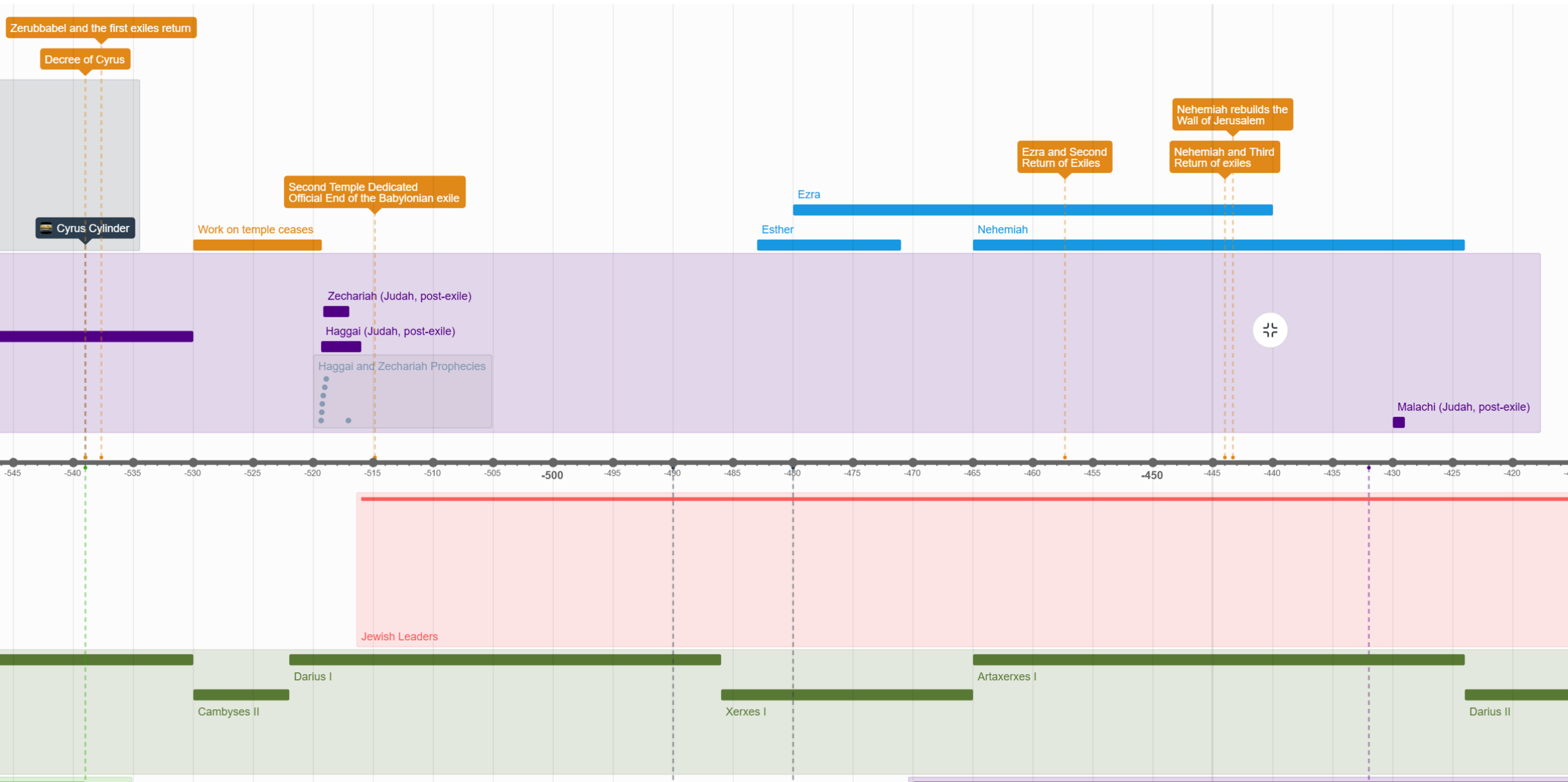


VENTURE
CHURCH

Through the Bible

Nehemiah 1-7

Mak Swift, 9/11/2024





Achaemenid inscriptions and Greek sources leave an incomplete and sometimes seemingly contradictory picture of the administrative make-up of the Achaemenid Empire. The evidence has been reconciled by Bruno Jacobs, as reflecting a three-tier organization of seven "Great Satrapies," each subdivided into "Main Satrapies," most of these subdivided into "Minor Satrapies." The map reflects the reconstruction by B. Jacobs, *Die Satrapieverwaltung im Perserreich zur Zeit Darius' III.*, Wiesbaden 1994, and "Achaemenid Satrapies," in *Encyclopaedia Iranica* (2006). Since the Greek sources cover the details most thoroughly, the nomenclature is given in Greek forms. For the full listing of administrative divisions and subdivisions (not all labeled on the map), see the Key below (including Persian names, where known). "Great Satrapies" are bounded by thick borders, "Minor Satrapies" by thin borders; "Main Satrapies" are indicated through the color scheme.

Ezra – Nehemiah Chiasm

- A. Zerubbabel's return and list of returnees (Ezra 1—2)
 - B. Building of the temple and opposition (Ezra 3—6)
 - C. Return of Ezra (Ezra 7—8)
 - D. Center: Purification of the people (Ezra 9—10)
 - C.' Return of Nehemiah (Neh. 1—2)
 - B.' Building of the walls and opposition (Neh. 3:1—7:3)
- A.' Zerubbabel's return and list of returnees; final reforms (Neh. 7:4—13:31)

Components of Nehemiah's Prayer

- Addressee is the LORD
- Praise
- Recognition of the LORD's character as a promise keeper
- Petition for the LORD to hear his prayer regarding the Israelites
- Confession of the corporate sin of Israel
- Reminder of the if->then promise given to Moses for Israel
- Reminder that the Israelites are the LORD's chosen people
- Petition to hear his prayer
- Asking for success by gaining favor from the king

- Address to the LORD
 - LORD, the God of Heaven (v5a)
- Praise
 - the great and awesome God (v5b)
- Recognition of the LORD's character as a promise keeper
 - who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments (v5c)
- Petition for the LORD to hear his prayer regarding the Israelites
 - let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel (v6a)
- Confession of the corporate sin of Israel
 - I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. (vv6b-7)
- Reminder of the if->then promise given to Moses for Israel
 - "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, 9 but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' (v8)
- Reminder that the Israelites are the LORD's chosen people
 - They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand (v10)
- Petition to hear his prayer
 - Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name (v11a)
- Asking for success by gaining favor from the king
 - Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man (v11b)

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