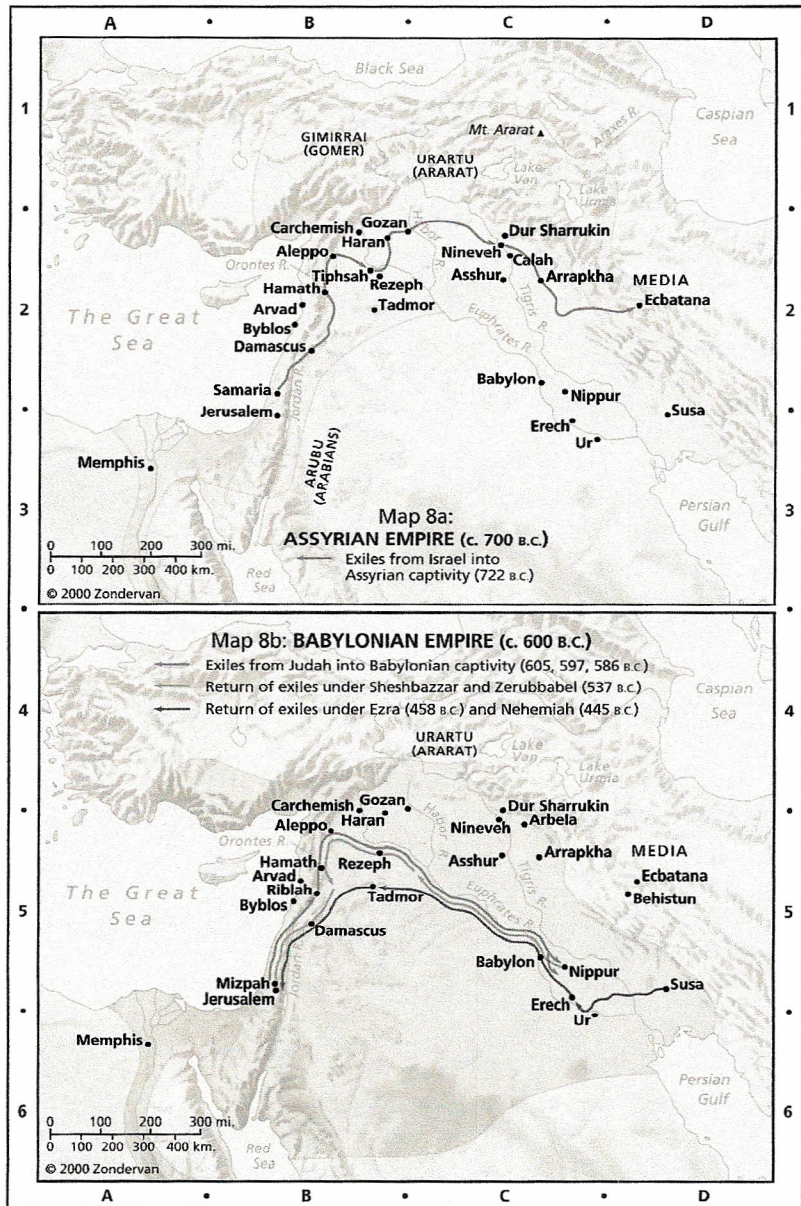


Ezra

The Judeans return to Jerusalem after spending several decade captive in Babylon. Ezra, a priest and scribe, is one of their leaders. He challenges people to be true to God's law.

LOOKING FORWARD TO JESUS

Ezra plays a critical role in the worthy effort to get the post-exile Hebrews to be true to God's law. Unfortunately, some of his followers carry his teachings too far, by Christ's time evolving into the Pharisees.



Old Testament Timeline

BC	2000-1700	1700	1250	1210	1030
Creation/Fall Adam & Eve Noah	Patriarchs Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph	Israel in Egypt	The Exodus Moses The Law	Promised Land Joshua Deborah Gideon Sampson	United Kingdom Samuel Saul David Solomon

Exile and return

PEOPLE

Amorites enemy of Israel living in Canaan **Ammonites** descendants of Lot living in land adjacent to Moab **Artaxerxes** a king of Persia during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah **Benjamin** tribe descended from Jacob's twelfth son **Canaanites** various tribes living in Canaan **Cyrus** a king of Persia who allows the Jews to return to their homeland **Darius** a king of Persia **Ezra** a priest, scribe and teacher, he returns to Jerusalem to help rebuild the Jewish community; his insistence on maintaining the Jewish ethnic community and its distinctive tradition survive to this day **Haggai** a prophet active after the exile in Babylon **Hittites** ancient tribe living in Canaan **Jebusites** inhabitants of the ancient city of Jebus, which later becomes Jerusalem **Judah** tribe descended from Jacob's fourth son **Levi/Levites** descendants of Jacob's third son **Mithredath** Cyrus' treasurer **Moabites** descendants of Lot living in land adjacent to Ammon **Mordecai** a Jewish leader that is not to be confused the prominent figure in the book of *Esther* **Nehemiah** after returning to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls, he becomes the governor of Judah **Perizzites** descendants of Perez, a son of Judah **Sheshbazzar** the governor of Judah **Xerxes** a Persian king **Zechariah** a prophet contemporary with Ezra **Zerubbabel** one of the leaders who begins rebuilding of temple, he is an ancestor of Christ

TERMS

Feast of Unleavened Bread a seven-day celebration, beginning with Passover, in which only unleavened bread is eaten to commemorate that the Hebrew women had no time to let their bread rise as they hastily fled Egypt during the Exodus; occurs during the first month of the Jewish year (March/April) **Feast of Tabernacles** a celebration lasting seven days during the harvest season in which the people live in shelters reminiscent of their days of living in tents in the Wilderness; the celebration begins on the 15th day of the seventh month of the Jewish year (September/October) **holy** set apart for God's use **governor** ruler of an area who is subordinate to the ruler of a larger area encompassing the first **Persia** empire roughly encompassing modern Iran; defeats Babylon and set Judeans free, allowing them to return to their homeland **royal satrap** governor **Temple of the Lord** the building where Israel worshipped and offered sacrifices to God

Genealogy of Christ



930	722	587	538	336	63 BC
Divided Kingdom North: Ahab Elijah	South: Hezekiah Isaiah	Samaria falls to Assyria, scatters	Jerusalem falls to Babylon, exiled	Judeans return Esther Ezra Nehemiah	Greek rule
					Roman rule