

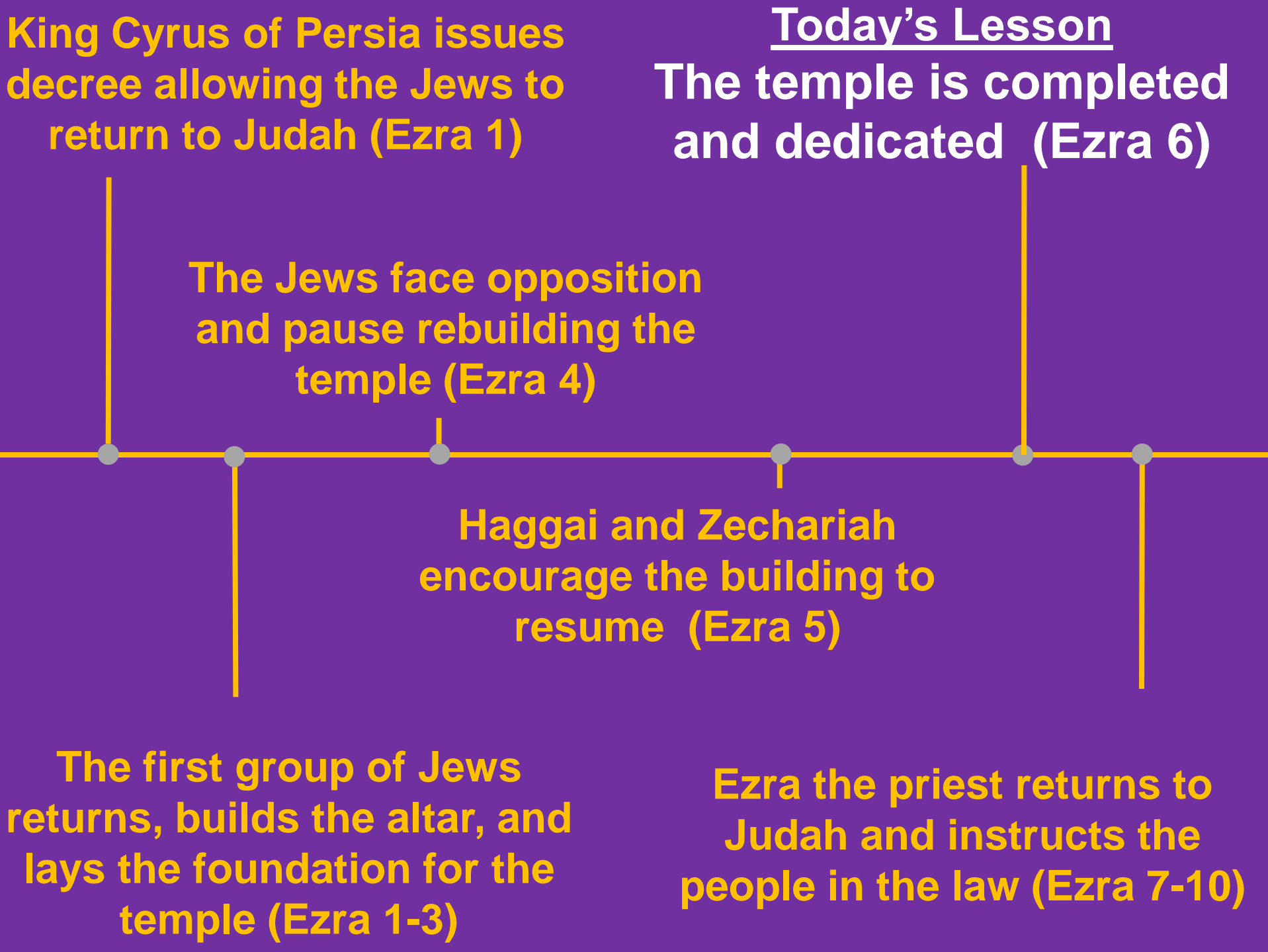
# The Temple Rebuilt

**Ezra 6:6-12, 16-22**



## Key Concept

**God will restore worship of Him, resulting in a joyful celebration of His faithfulness.**



# Kings & Prophets

## Legend

**JOSIAH**  
641-609 BC  
Name of king and years of reign

**AMOS**  
Name of prophet and approximate dates of influence

**Governor Nehemiah**  
Leaders of the Jewish people after they returned from the Exile in Babylonia

? Dates Unknown

NAHUM

ZEPHANIAH

JEREMIAH

DANIEL EZEKIEL

HABAKKUK

OBADIAH?

ISAIAH

AMON  
643-641 BC

JEHOAHAZ  
(SHALLUM)  
609 BC

JEHOIACHIN  
(JECONIAH)  
598-597 BC

Temple Destroyed

MANASSEH  
697-643 BC

JOSIAH  
641-609 BC

JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)  
609-598 BC

ZEDEKIAH (MATTANIAH)  
597-586 BC

HAGGAI ZECHARIAH

Temple Rebuilt

MALACHI?

JOEL?

Governor  
Sheshbazzar  
536? - ? BC

Governor  
Zerubbabel  
Dates unknown

Governor  
Ezra  
457 - ? BC

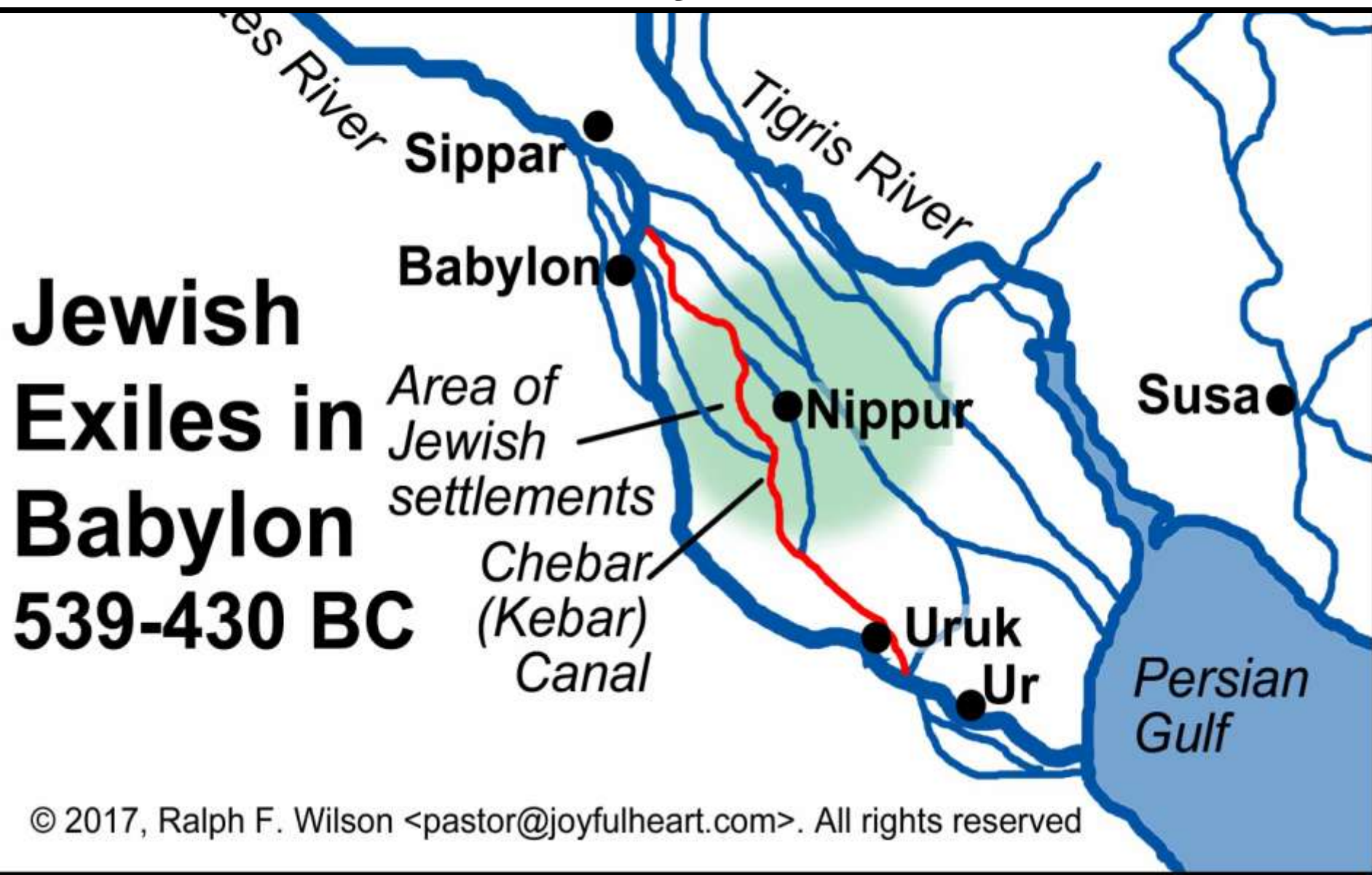
Governor  
Nehemiah  
444-432 BC

**THE EXILE:** Judah fell to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Many of the inhabitants were deported to Babylon. In 539 BC, Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians. In 538 BC, King Cyrus of Persia issued a proclamation allowing the Jewish people to return to Palestine. Some Jews stayed in Babylon, but those who returned went back in several groups over many years. The temple was rebuilt in 516 BC, 70 years after its destruction.

70 years



# Location of Jewish exile settlement in Babylon



# The Return to Zion

● 538-515 BC Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel

● 457-428 BC Ezra and Nehemiah



**Approximately 200 “Al-Yahudu Tablets”  
discovered in ancient Babylon. The tablets  
detail tax payments, rental agreements,  
contracts etc that clearly illustrate the exiles  
were not enslaved but retained their  
communal identity**

**Prominent names found on the tablets  
include**

**Haggai, Zechariah, Jonathan and other  
common Hebrew names**

# Ancients ruins in Babylon believed to be near the Ahava Canal Jewish settlement





- How long did it take Ezra to return to Jerusalem from Babylon?

**~ 4 months (900 mile journey)**

- How long was it between the first group of exiles returning to Jerusalem from the second group led by Ezra?

**Approximately 80 years**

• Although not part of this lesson, what did Ezra discover upon returning to Jerusalem? Why was it such a serious issue?

**Intermarriage – women that worshipped pagan gods**

- 1) Threatens the purity of Israel's faith*
- 2) Risk of being led back to idolatry (Exiled again)*
- 3) Endangered their distinct identity of God's holy people*
- 4) Violation of Mosaic Law*
- 5) Risk of "holy seed" compromising their unique covenant relationship with God*
- 6) Defilement of the land*

- Ezra was a descendant of who?

**Aaron – brother to Moses**

- List some key factors of how / why Ezra was leading exiles back to Jerusalem?

**1) Religious Expert (scribe and priest)**

**2) Royal commission from Artaxerxes**

**3) Tasked with transporting significant donations (gold / silver)**

- (T/F) Most of the book of Ezra details his activities of leading the exiles back to

**Jerusalem? False – Although it is titled Ezra**

**He is introduced in Chp 7 (2<sup>nd</sup> group return)**

- What is a historical fact about the book of Ezra's arrangement?

**Originally it was a book of Ezra and Nehemiah combined**

- The first part of Ezra details events about who? What did his name mean?

**Zerubbabel - Planted (sown) in Babylon**

- The book of Ezra can be summed up how?

- 1. Zerubbabel – Led 1<sup>st</sup> group return***
- 2. Ezra – Led 2<sup>nd</sup> group return / teaches law***
- 3. Nehemiah – Led the rebuilding of city walls***