

# 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.

King Cyrus of Persia issues decree allowing the Jews to return to Judah (Ezra 1)

Today's Lesson  
The temple is completed and dedicated (Ezra 6)

The Jews face opposition and pause rebuilding the temple (Ezra 4)

Haggai and Zechariah encourage the building to resume (Ezra 5)

The first group of Jews returns, builds the altar, and lays the foundation for the temple (Ezra 1-3)

Ezra the priest returns to Judah and instructs the people in the law (Ezra 7-10)

# 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**

**ISAIAH**

**DANIEL EZEKIEL**

**HABAKKUK**

**OBADIAH?**

**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

**Governor Sheshbazzar**

536? - ? BC

**Governor Zerubbabel**

Dates unknown

**MALACHI?**

**JOEL?**

**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.

**Governor Ezra**

457 - ? BC

**Governor Nehemiah**

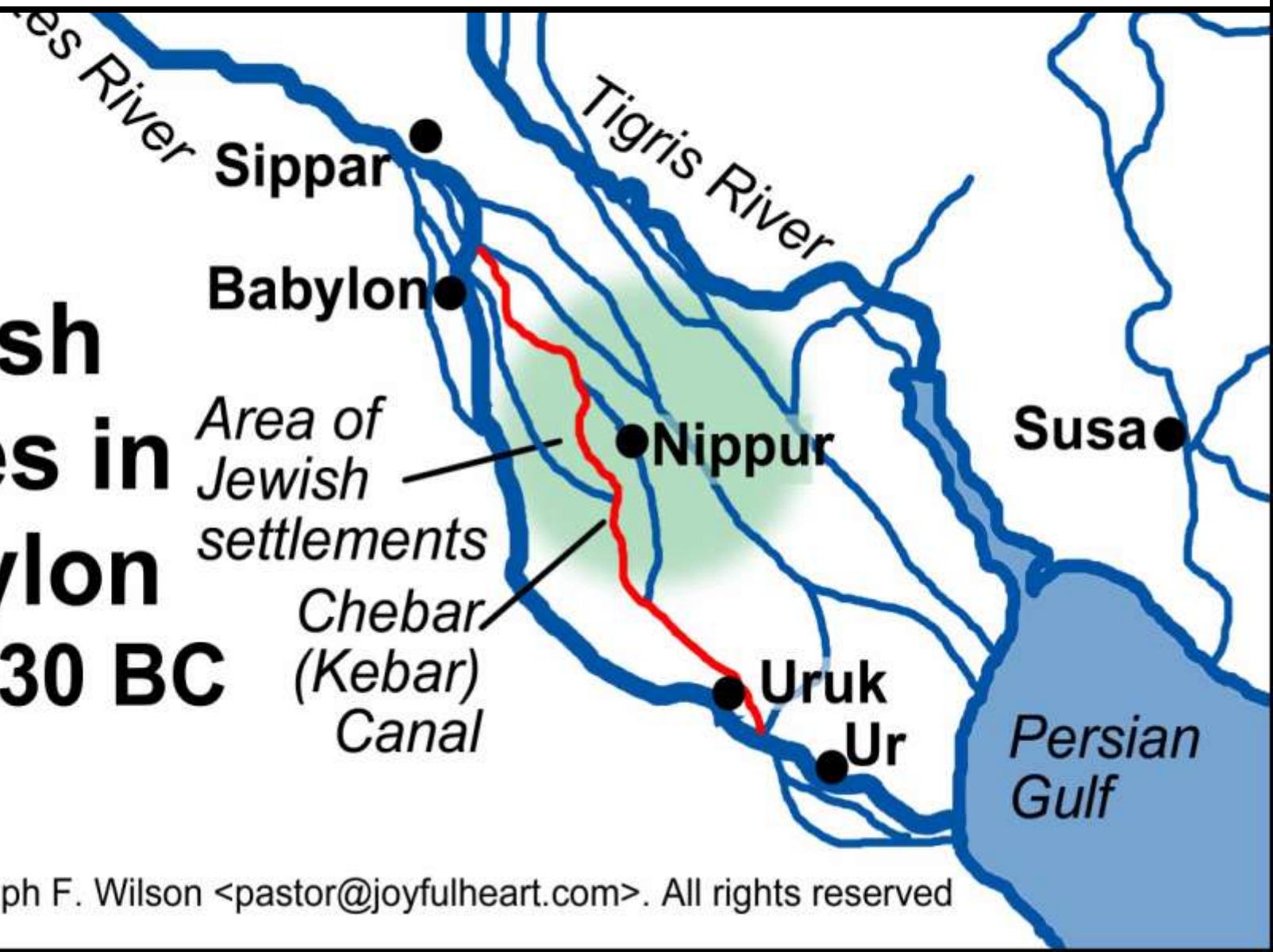
444-432 BC

690 BC  
680  
670  
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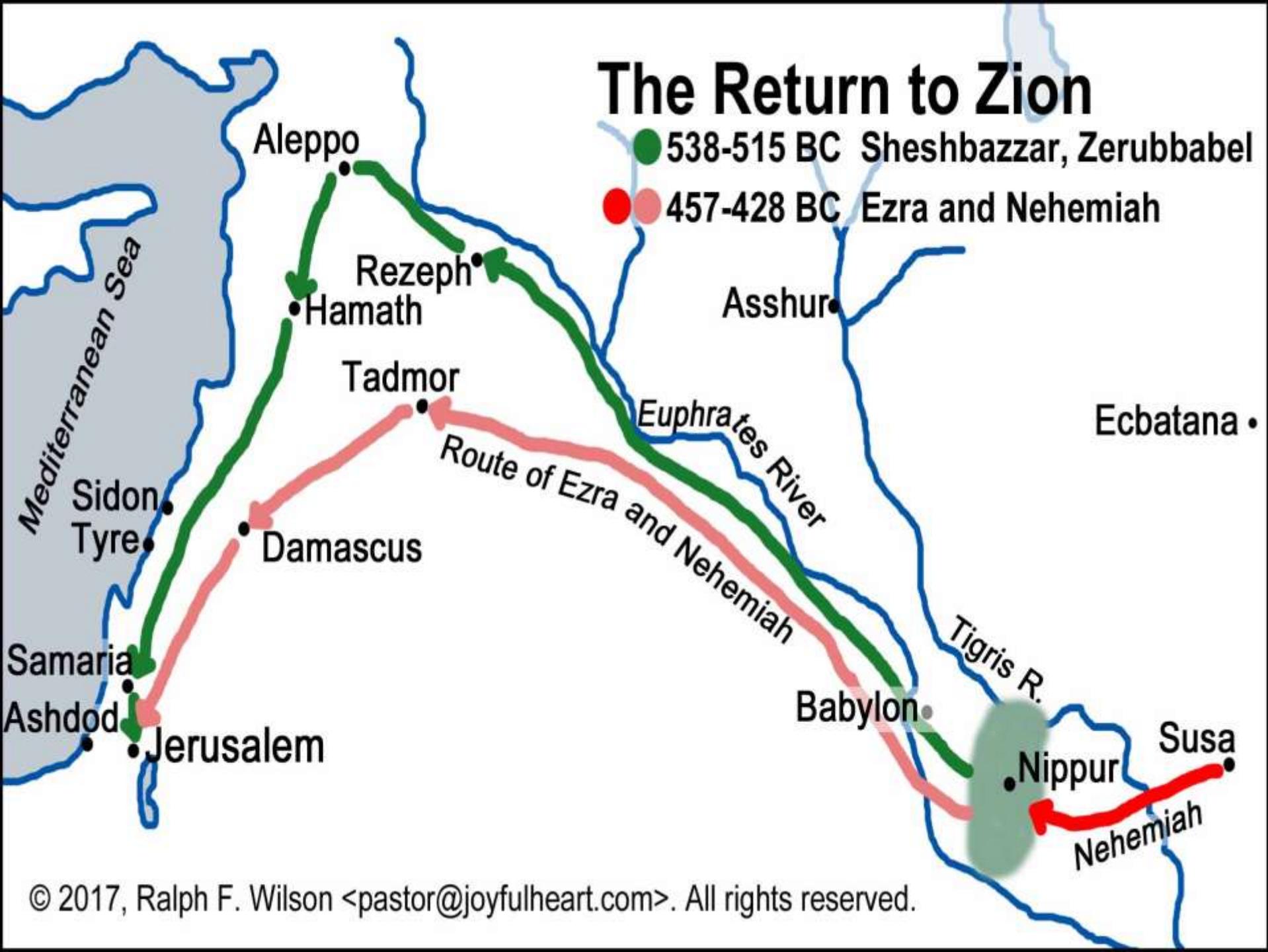
70 years

# Location of Jewish exile settlement in Babylon

**Jewish  
Exiles in  
Babylon  
539-430 BC**



# The Return to Zion



**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**

# Ancient 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 keys 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*