

### Chronology of the Postexilic Period

Persian Kings	Dates of Their Reigns	Biblical Events	Scripture References	Dates
Cyrus	559-530 b.c.	Edict of Cyrus for the return	<a href="#">Ezra 1:1-4</a>	538 b.c.
		<i>First return</i> of 49,897 exiles, under Zerubbabel (to build the temple)	Ezra 2	538
		The altar and temple foundation built	<a href="#">Ezra 3:1-4:5</a>	536
Cambyses	530-522			
Smerdis	522			
Darius I	521-486	Haggai prophesied	Book of Haggai	520
		Zechariah prophesied	Book of Zechariah	520-518
		The temple completed	<a href="#">Ezra 5-6</a>	515
Xerxes (Ahasuerus)	485-465	Accusation against Judah	<a href="#">Ezra 4:6</a>	486
		Esther became queen	<a href="#">Esther 2:17</a>	479
Artaxerxes I (Artashasta)	464-424	Artaxerxes stopped the rebuilding of Jerusalem	<a href="#">Ezra 4:7-23</a>	ca. 464-458
		<i>Second return</i> of 4,000-5,000 exiles, under Ezra (to beautify the temple and reform the people)	Ezra 7-10	458
		<i>Third return</i> of exiles, under Nehemiah (to build the walls of Jerusalem)	Book of Nehemiah	444
		Nehemiah's second return	<a href="#">Nehemiah 13:6</a>	ca. 430
		Malachi prophesied	Book of Malachi	450-430 (?)