

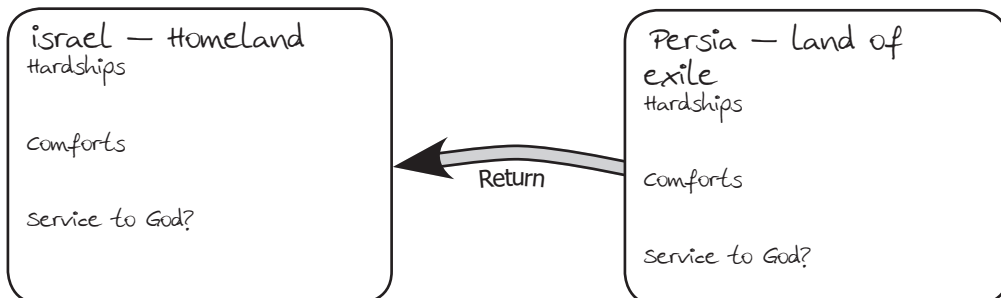
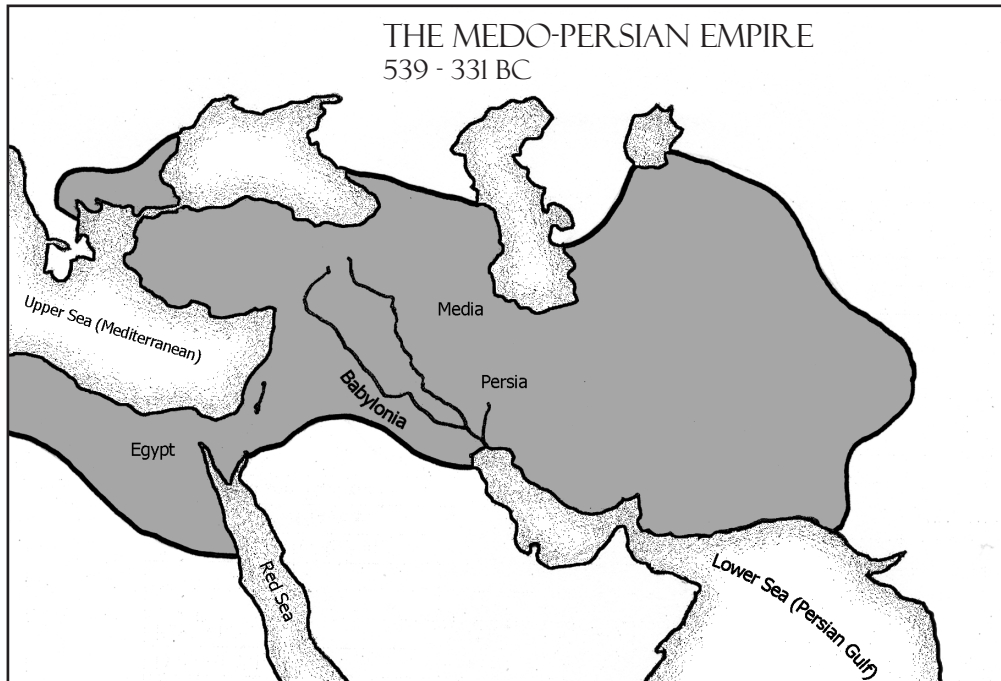
20 Know that God is there

The return of the exiles - Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther



This is a picture of Cyrus the great, who allowed the Jews to return home. His decree is recorded in Ezra 1:1-4.

The cylinder of Cyrus (below) is in the British Museum. It records 'I returned the images of the gods, who had resided there [i.e. in Babylon], to their places and I let them dwell in eternal abodes. I gathered all their inhabitants and returned to them their dwellings.'



References		2 Kings 24:10-16	2 Kings 25:8-12	Ezra 1:1-4, 2:2	Ezra 3:7-11, 4:4-5,24
Date	606 BC	597 BC	587-6 BC	536 BC	535 BC
King of Persia / Babylon	Nebuchadnezzar	Nebuchadnezzar	Nebuchadnezzar		
Jewish leader		Jehoiachin	zedekiah		
What happened?	Neb. became king. Babylon became most powerful nation. All the skilled people (inc Daniel) taken to Babylon.	Neb. besieged Jerusalem. Second deportation (including Ezekiel)	Neb. destroyed Jerusalem, took all but poorest people to Babylon.		

650 BC

600 BC

550 BC

Completing the Picture - What's happening here?



Did you know?

Chapters 1-6 of Ezra aren't about him. How long is the gap between ch 6 and 7?

Did you know?

God isn't referred to in the book of Esther? Can you see him at work?

Did you know?

The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9. How many words? What is it about?

Did you know?

Ezra appears again in Nehemiah chapter 8. What is he doing?

Nehemiah and Malachi

- Did they work together to reform the people?
- Compare Nehemiah 13:6-31
- Malachi 1:6-14, 2:14-16, 3:8-11
- What had gone wrong?

The Good News

Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.'

Nehemiah 1:8-9

Ezra 5:1-2	Ezra 6:1-2,6-8,13-16	Esther 1:1-2, 2:17-18, 3:7-9	Ezra 7:1-8	Nehemiah 2:1-5, 6:15-16, 8:1-2	Nehemiah 13:6
520 BC	516 BC	483-474 BC	458 BC	444 BC	432 BC

500 BC

450 BC

400 BC