

RETURN TO JERUSALEM TIMELINE

Year	539 BC	535 BC	515 BC	479 BC	458 BC		445 BC
		1st Wave Returns Ezra 2			2nd Wave Returns Ezra 7		3rd Wave Returns Nehemiah 2
Babylonian Rule		After 50 years of exile ¹	60–77 Years between 1st and 2nd Wave ²		50+ years after temple built	13-Yr. Gap	
Persian Rule		Cyrus invites Jews to return	Temple finished 25 years later	Esther (Jews who remain in Babylon)			
Number of Exiles		50,000			2,000+		Unknown
Led by		Zerubbabel	>		Ezra		Nehemiah
King		Cyrus	Darius I		Artaxerxes I	>	Artaxerxes I
Other Officials	Darius the Mede ³	Artaxerxes (AKA Cambyses?) ⁴ stops construction		Xerxes (Ahazerus)			
Prophets	Daniel		Haggai, Zechariah				Malachi
Worship		Altar built, sacrifices resume					
Focus		The Temple	>		The Law		The Wall

¹ The total time Judah is ruled by foreign powers is 70-plus years. The time between the destruction of Jerusalem and the first return is approximately 50 years.

² Variations in years depend on whether calculations are made from the time when the previous event starts or ends.

³ It is unclear if Darius is another name for Cyrus or if Darius was a sub-king under Cyrus.

⁴ The question of whether Artaxerxes is a second name for Cambyses is unsettled.