

Bereans Bible Institute
Module V. The Redemption of Creation
Lesson 18 – The Return & Restoration

I. The First Exile was to last 70 years

A. The total time that the Temple and Jerusalem lay in ruins, desolate, with no one left to farm the land – 2 Chron. 36:15-21

1. Virtually all chronologists (including Ussher) allow for only about 50 years, trying to align the biblical chronology with secular chronology.
2. This mistake makes it impossible to correctly calculate the second exile from Lev. 26.

II. The End of the Exile.

A. Isaiah “anointed” Cyrus to be king over Israel 200 years before (**Isa. 44:24 – 45:13**).

B. Cyrus defeated the Babylonians (**Dan. 5**)

C. Daniel’s prayer of repentance in the 70th year, “70 weeks” (**Dan. 9 / Ezra 1:1**)

III. The rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple

A. Worship begins again on Rosh Hashanah (**Ezra 3**) – “7 weeks” begins

B. Resistance from Israel’s enemies, **Ezra 4:4-5** “Then the people of the land tried to discourage the people of Judah. They troubled them in building, and hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.”

C. Work resumes in 2nd year of Darius (Artaxerxes) under the direction of the prophets Haggai & Zechariah.

D. Temple completed in the 6th year of Darius (Artaxerxes) (Ezra 6:15) 24 years

E. Ezra arrives in the 7th year of Darius (Artaxerxes) (Ezra 7:1) 25th year

F. Nehemiah returns in 20th year to finish the walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 2:1-10)

G. Nehemiah institutes reforms from 20th to 32nd year of Artaxerxes (Neh. 5:14)

H. In the 32nd year (Neh. 13:6), Nehemiah purifies Temple, Sabbath Reforms.

I. From the decree of Cyrus until Nehemiah’s final reforms - 50 years (7 weeks).

1. Cyrus 9 years

2. Cambyses (Ahasuarus of Ezra 4:6) 8 years

3. Pseudo-Smerdis (Artaxerxes of Ezra 4:7) 1 year

4. Darius (Artaxerxes) 32 years (Temple finished 6th, Walls finished 20th, Nehemiah’s purification & reforms completed 32nd. (9+8+1+32=50)

IV. Add 442 years (62 weeks) until the cutting off of Messiah the Prince (Dan. 9).

A. Book of Malachi written – predicts destruction of the Temple & 2nd exile.