

A Smaller Story Embedded in a Bigger Story

Psalm 78:4 “We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.”

A Holy History

Date (BC)	Event	Scripture
FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE ISRAEL’S CIVIL WAR		
1004	David captures Jerusalem.	2 Samuel 5
c. 1000	God promises David’s son an everlasting kingdom	2 Samuel 7
c. 970–931	Solomon reigns; First Temple built (begun in his 4th year, c. 966/965).	1 Kgs 6–8
931/930	Kingdom splits. Rehoboam rules Judah; Jeroboam I rules Israel.	1 Kgs 12
DIVIDED KINGDOM TO THE ASSYRIAN INVASION – ISRAEL DESTROYED		
930-722	Era of the Kings, with two nations: Israel (Northern Kingdom) and Judah (Southern Kingdom).	1 Kgs 12-2 Kgs 17
722/721	Northern Kingdom (also known as Samaria) falls to Assyria. End of the Northern Kingdom.	2 Kgs 17
701	Assyria invades Judah; Jerusalem miraculously spared by God through Hezekiah’s intercessory prayer.	2 Kgs 18–19
JUDAH TO THE BABYLONIAN INVASION – JUDAH DEPORTED		
721-586	Era of the Southern Kingdom.	2 Kgs 18-2 Kgs 25
609*	Babylon defeats the Israelite king, Josiah. Establishes its dominance over the nations.	2 Kgs 23, Jer 25
605**	First Babylonian deportation (Daniel and others).	Dan 1; 2 Kgs 24
586***	Jerusalem and Solomon’s temple destroyed. Main exile.	2 Kgs 25
JUDAH’S EXILE, RETURN, AND REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE		
539*	King Cyrus of the Persians conquers Babylon.	Dan 5
538-536	Cyrus’s decree orders the Jews return to Judea. round 50,000 Jews go back to Jerusalem. Altar rebuilt.	Ezra 1–2
520	Haggai and Zechariah preach; work resumes (2nd year of Darius I).	Hag 1; Zech 1
516***	Second Temple finished (6th year of Darius I, Adar).	Ezra 6:15
NEHEMIAH AND THE WALL		
December 445	Hanani reports to Nehemiah in Susa: walls down, gates burned.	Neh 1:1–4
March 444	Nehemiah before Artaxerxes; permission to rebuild the wall.	Neh 2
same year	Wall finished in 52 days (Elul 25).	Neh 6:15
445/444–433	Nehemiah’s first term as governor (12 years).	Neh 5:14
433	Nehemiah returns to the king; later comes back for a second stay.	Neh 13
c. 430–420	Malachi (often placed here). Prophetic voice fades until John the Baptist.	Malachi

Seven “Bricks” of Faith

Believe when everything looks hopeless

Believe in the only hope that never fails

Believe that God blesses the work done for his glory

Believe that the sacrifice is worth it

Believe because God fulfills what he has spoken

***Fulfillment 1:** It was 70 years of Babylonian domination over Judah and the surrounding nations (609 – 539 BC)

Jeremiah 25:11 “...these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.”

****Fulfillment 2:** It was 70 years of Jewish captivity in Babylon (605 – 536 BC)

Jeremiah 29:10 “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will... bring you back to this place.”

*****Fulfillment 3:** It was 70 years from the destruction and rebuilding of the temple (586 – 516 BC)

Zechariah 1:16 “I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy; my house shall be in it.” (regarding 70 years of anger)

Believe that God shows mercy when you turn to him

Believe that God will make a way

Questions for Further Study and Application

1. How's your faith lately? Strong or waning? How can remembering God's wondrous works build it up?
2. Which of the seven “Bricks of Faith” do you need to freshly believe? Why?
3. What sacrifices do you have to make for God as you follow Jesus? Why is it worth it?
4. How is the rebuilding of the wall a story of mercy?