

THE BOOK OF

# EZRA

430 B.C.

## Construction

Leader Zerubbabel the prince

## Reformation

Leader Ezra: priest, teacher, scribe

1 & 2 Chronicles

Cyrus' Decree to Return

538 BC

Cyrus decrees to send Zerubbabel

1-2

Altar Rebuilt and Temple Foundation Laid

536 BC

3

Political Opposition Halts Work

535 BC

4-6

Temple Completion

520-516 BC

5-6

70 years

Book of Esther

(God is not Silent)

Xerxes Ahasueres 486-464

ca. 60 years

Artaxerxes Commissions Ezra Preparation, Journey, and Arrival

458 BC

7-8

Ezra Repents, Prays, and Calls for Separation

9-10

MEDO-PERSIAN KINGS:

Cyrus 559-530

Cambyses 530-522

Darius 521-486

Ahasueres I 464-423

First Return

49,897 Men and families

Restoration of Temple

Second Return

1754 Men and families

Restoration of People

“Don’t stay in Babylon”

“Don’t be deterred from doing God’s will.”

“Don’t settle for half-done.”

“Don’t repeat past mistakes.”

“ This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years...For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and i will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.” (Jeremiah 25:11, 29:10)

# THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

about a century since the 1<sup>st</sup> return

Artaxerxes stirs and sends Nehemiah

444 BC

1-3

The wall is rebuilt despite external opposition and internal oppression

4-7

Spiritual Renewal and Wall is dedicated

8-12

Unfinished: Leaders lapse into sin and people follow

13

Malachi

“Remnant...in great trouble; Wall broken down” (1:3)

“The wall...finished... in fifty-two days” (6:15)

“The people... (committed) to walk in God’s Law” (10:28-29)

Anticlimactic ending of renew to sin

## Construction

## Instruction

Rebuilding the Wall

Restoring the People

## Prayers:

1:4-11; 2:4; 4:4-5; 4:9; 5:19; 6:9; 6:14; 9:5-38; 13:14; 13:22; 13:29; 13:31

Nehemiah:

Effective Leader of the Project

Respected Governor of Judah

Powerful Reformer of Society

Trusted Cupbearer to the King

increasing responsibility and authority

## Nehemiah 6:15

15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.



Innocence



Conscience



Government



Promise



Law



Grace



Church



Rapture

Tribulation



Second Coming



Millennial Kingdom

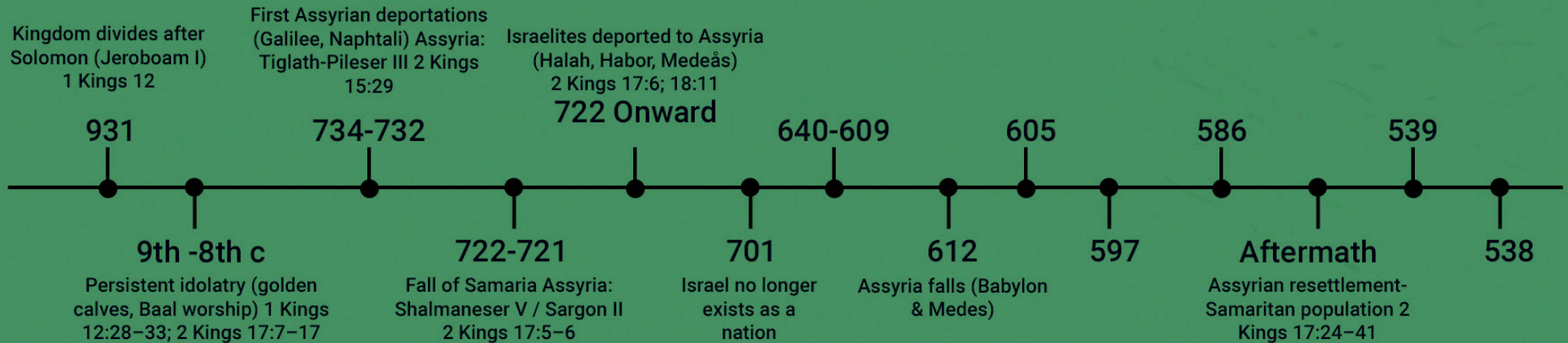


Eternal State

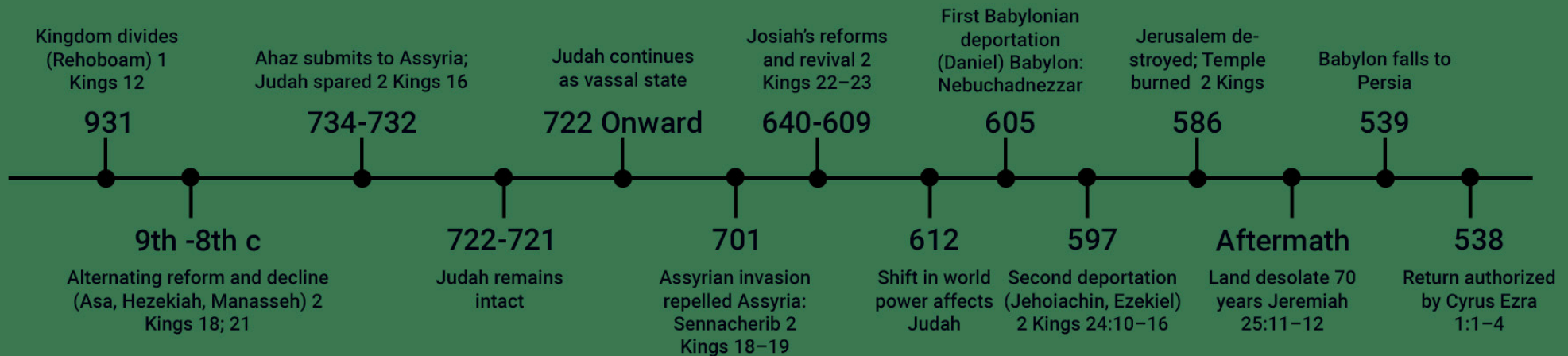
<b><i>Group</i></b>	<b><i>Who They Were</i></b>	<b><i>Primary Responsibilities</i></b>
Priests	Descendants of Aaron	Offer sacrifices, pronounce blessings, teach the Law
Levites	Tribe of Levi (non-Aaronic)	Assist priests, teach the Law, care for Temple furnishings
Singers	Levites from the sons of Asaph	Lead musical worship and praise
Gatekeepers	Levitical families assigned to the gates	Guard Temple entrances, regulate access, protect holiness
Temple Servants	Likely descendants of the Gibeonites (Josh 9)	Manual and logistical labor (wood, water, support)
Sons of Solomon's Servants	Descendants of royal laborers (1 Kgs 9:20-21)	Skilled and support labor

<b>Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>% of Total Returnees (42,360)</b>
Priests	4,289	10.13%
Levites	74	0.17%
Singers	128	0.30%
Gatekeepers	139	0.33%
Temple Servants (including Solomon's)	392	0.93%
Total Temple Workers	5,022	11.85% (1 out of every 8)

## Israel – Northern Kingdom



## Judah – Southern Kingdom



**Ezra 1-3 → 538 BC (Temple begins)**

**Ezra 4:1-5 → 538-520 BC (Opposition)**

**Ezra 4:6-23 → 486-423 BC (Flash-forward)**

**Ezra 4:24 → 520 BC (Back to temple story)**

**Ezra 5-6 → Temple completed, 516 BC**

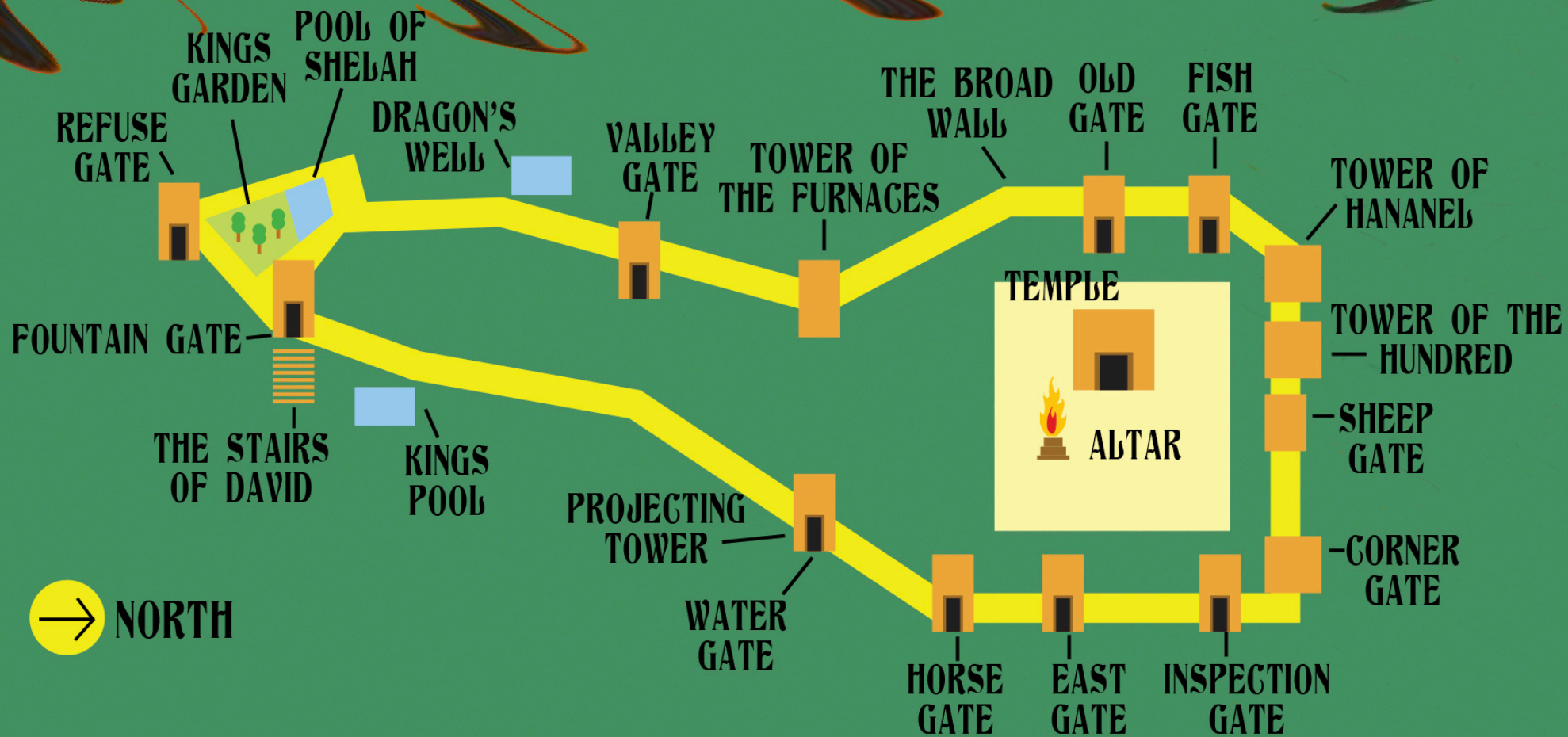
**Cyrus II: 559-530**

**Cambyses II: 529-522**

**Darius I: 522-486**

**Xerxes I: 485-465 (Ahasuerus of Esther)**

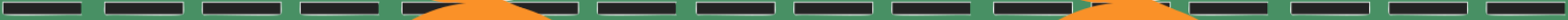
**Artaxerxes I: 464-424**



**Responsible For**

**Move  
Towards**

**Depend  
On**



**Passivity**

**Self  
Reliance**



**Independence**

