



# NEHEMIAH

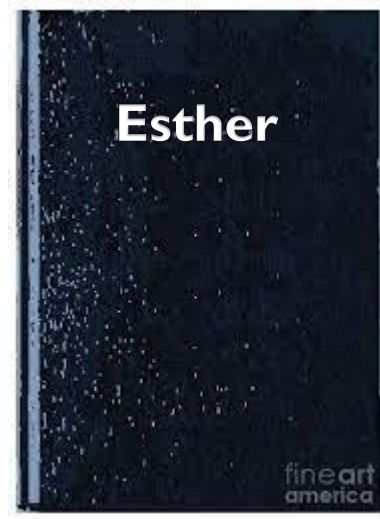
## AN INTRODUCTION

RICHARD BROWN

# EZRA, NEHEMIAH & ESTHER



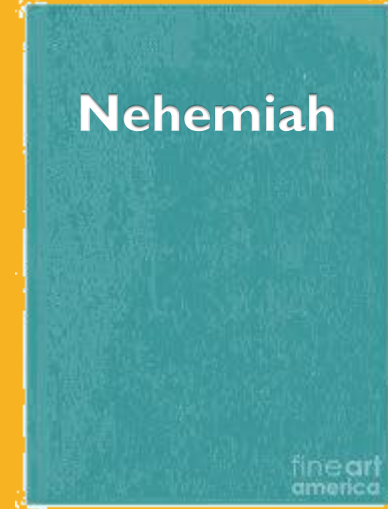
537-515 BC



483-473 BC



458-433 BC



445-433 BC

Israel's return from exile

# A QUICK HISTORY LESSON...



- After King Solomon, the nation of Israel splits into two kingdoms

# A QUICK HISTORY LESSON...



925 BC  
Kingdoms  
Split

727 BC  
N. kingdom  
of Israel  
exiled to  
Assyria

609 BC  
Babylon  
conquers  
Assyria

605 BC  
Jeremiah  
prophesies  
against  
Judah

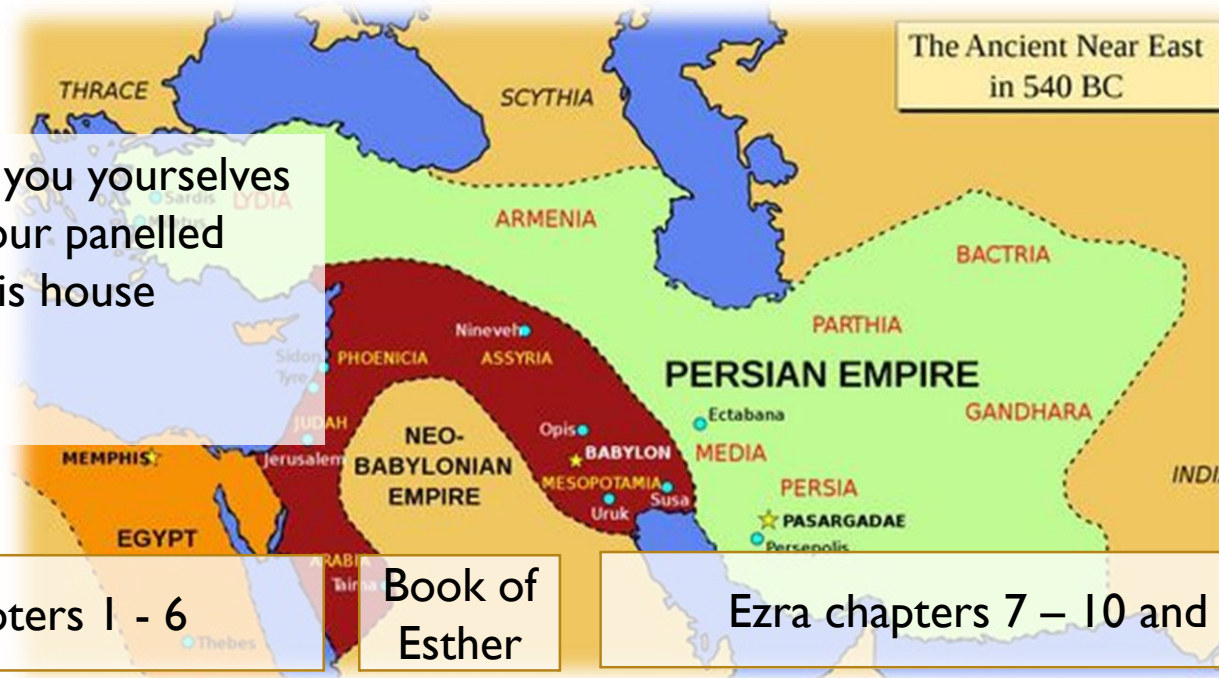
587 BC  
Judah  
exiled to  
Babylon

539 BC  
Persia  
conquers  
Babylon

537 BC  
Jews start  
to return to  
Jerusalem

# A QUICK HISTORY LESSON...

“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”  
Haggai 1:4



Ezra chapters 1 - 6

Book of Esther

Ezra chapters 7 – 10 and Nehemiah

536 BC

Rebuilding of the temple ceases

520 BC

Rebuilding starts again

516 BC

Rebuilding the temple complete

458 BC

Ezra returns to Jerusalem

445 BC

Nehemiah approaches Artaxerxes

445 BC

Nehemiah rebuilds the city walls

433 BC

Nehemiah returns to Susa

# FORGET THE FORMER THINGS...

**ISAIAH 43:18,19**

<sup>18</sup> “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. <sup>19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

(Spoken whilst the Jewish nation were in exile in Babylon.)



# WHAT ARE WE GOING TO LEARN?

- Our hearts need to be broken for the broken world
- We need to leave the safety of our current walls and start rebuilding the Kingdom of God
- We need to assess the damage and take time to really understand what's broken
- We need to learn how to deal with opposition in its various forms and the importance of prayer and the word of God.
- It's going to require good old fashioned "hard work", and we all need to be involved.
- It's going to require sacrifice and generosity.
- It's a story of revival, and it's a story of reform.

# NEXT WEEK – NEHEMIAH 1

- Please read through the chapter and ask God to speak to you.
- Think about how Nehemiah feels about the state of his own nation.
- How do I feel about the state of our own nation?
- Why was building the city walls so important and why did it take so long to get started after rebuilding the temple?