



Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church

Dr. Brad Strait
May 29, 2022
Memorial Day

Key Sources:

Hildbert Bronkhorst, Derek
Kidner, Bible Project, David
Malick

Now There Is
HOPE

The Books of Ezra & Esther

Hope From
God's Promise

Hope?

ES F
MEY
EI
AVY
NAM
1942
1988



Hope?

ES F
MEY
EI
AVY
NAM
1942
1988



Is there any hope
for ending the evil in
humanity's heart?



God's
Covenant
Faithfulness

Joshua 23:9-15

“¹⁴ You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.”

Why did a good God
allow his beloved people
to be killed and
enslaved?

Now There Is
HOPE

The Books of Ezra & Esther

2 Chronicles 36:15-17

A horizontal timeline arrow pointing right, with four vertical lines marking the years 722 BC, 586 BC, 516 BC, and 430 BC. Three curved arrows above the timeline point from each year to the next. A white callout box is attached to the left side of the timeline.

722 BC

586 BC

516 BC

430 BC

The Fall of Israel
to Assyria

A horizontal timeline arrow pointing right, with four vertical lines marking the years 722 BC, 586 BC, 516 BC, and 430 BC. Three curved arrows above the timeline point from 722 BC to 586 BC, 586 BC to 516 BC, and 516 BC to 430 BC. Two white callout boxes are positioned below the timeline, one under 722 BC and one under 586 BC, containing red text.

722 BC

586 BC

516 BC

430 BC

The Fall of Israel
to Assyria

The Fall of Judah
to Babylon

722 BC

The Fall of Israel
to Assyria

586 BC

The Fall of Judah
to Babylon

516 BC

The Hope of
Restoration

430 BC

Return to
Jerusalem



- God's Fulfilled Promise to Abraham (Gen. 12)
- God's Messianic King (Isa. 11, Jer. 31, Hosea 3)
- God's Presence in a New Temple (Eze. 40-48, Zec.2)
- God's Kingdom Rule for All Nations (Isa. 2, Zech. 8)

*The Hope of
Restoration*

Return to Jerusalem In Ezra-Nehemiah

516 BC

478

458

444

430 BC

Zerubbabel 1st

“Born in Babylon”

Ezra 1-6

The Temple

Esther

“The Star”

Ezra 2nd

“The Helper”

Ezra 7-10

The Heart

Nehemiah 3rd

“God Comforts”

Nehemiah

The Walls



God's
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Mankind's Sinful Nature

Now There Is
HOPE

The Books of Ezra & Esther

Ezra 5 and 6

Ezra 5:1-2

^{1b} Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. ² Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.



Now There Is
HOPE

The Books of Ezra & Esther

Haggai 1:1-5

¹ In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: ² This is what the Lord Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet

Haggai 1:1-6

come to rebuild the Lord's house.”

³ Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”

⁵ Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways...”

Zechariah 1:1-6

¹ In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo: ² “The Lord was very angry with your ancestors. ³ Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Return to me,’

Zechariah 1:1-6

declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty. ⁴ Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.' But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the Lord.

Zechariah 1:1-6

⁵ Where are your ancestors now? And the prophets, do they live forever? ⁶ But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your ancestors?

“Then they repented and said, ‘The Lord Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do.’”

Now There Is
HOPE

The Books of Ezra & Esther

Ezra 5 and 6

Ezra 5:11-12

11 “We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago, one that a great king of Israel built and finished.”

Ezra 5:11-12

¹² But because our ancestors angered the God of heaven, he gave them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar the Chaldean, king of Babylon, who destroyed this temple and deported the people to Babylon.”



Now There Is
HOPE

The Books of Ezra & Esther

Ezra 6:19-22

¹⁹ On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover. ²⁰ The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were all ceremonially clean. The Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their relatives the priests and for themselves. ²¹ So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with

Ezra 6:19-22

all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors in order to seek the Lord, the God of Israel. ²² For seven days they celebrated with joy the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because the Lord had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel.

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The Books of Ezra & Esther

Hope From God's
Promise

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HOPE

The Books of Ezra & Esther

Nehemiah 13

Return to Jerusalem

516 BC

478

458

444

430 BC

Zerubbabel

Ezra

Nehemiah

“Born in Babylon”

“The Helper”

“God Comforts”

Temple

Ezra 7-10

The Walls

Ezra 1-6

Esther

Heart

“The Star”
Book of Esther

Book of Nehemiah

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“Born in Babylon”

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Temple
Sin!
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Sin!

Esther

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“The Star”

Book of Esther

Book of Nehemiah

Nehemiah 13

- ¹⁴ Remember me for this, my God, and do not blot out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services.
- ²² Remember me for this also, my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love.
- ²⁹ Remember them, my God, because they defiled the priestly office and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites.

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Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord.

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

- God's Fulfilled Promise to Abraham (Genesis 12)
- God's Messianic King (Isaiah 11, Hosea 3)
- God's Presence in a New Temple
(Ezekiel 40-48, Zechariah 2)
- God's Kingdom Rule for All Nations
(Isaiah 2, Zechariah 8)

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