

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

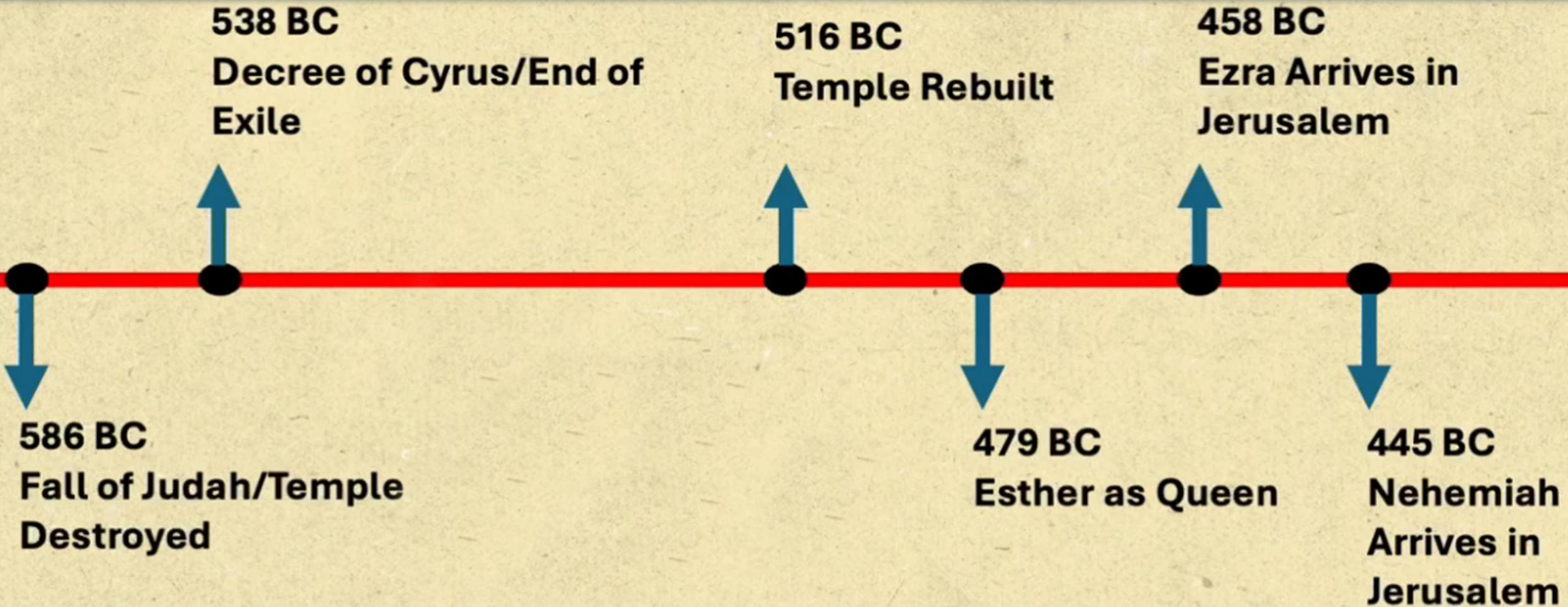
FOR LIVES OF FAITH



Purim



Timeline



Persian Empire



“And in every province and city, wherever the king’s command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.”

Esther 8:17

“Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwalled towns celebrated the fourteenth day of the month of Adar with gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and for sending presents to one another.”

Esther 9:19

A coastal scene at sunset. On the left, a white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on wooden stilts atop a rocky cliff. The foreground is a sandy beach with wet sand reflecting the sunset. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun on the horizon. The text "Story of Esther" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Story of Esther

A photograph of a white, two-story house on stilts, situated on a rocky beach. The house has a dark roof and several windows. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden glow on the horizon and the sky transitioning from dark blue to orange. The ocean is visible in the background, and the foreground shows a sandy beach with some rocks. The overall mood is serene and somewhat somber.

Tensions Often Avoided

Tensions

- They did not return to Jerusalem
- Esther eats royal food
- Conceals their identity
- Esther enters the king's harem
- Marries a pagan king

Tensions

- **No direct mention of God**
- **No explicit prayer recorded**
- **Fasting mentioned, prayer not stated**
- **Mourning over danger, not confession**



Hidden Faithfulness

- **Vashti removed**
- **Esther's chosen**
- **Assassination plot revealed**
- **Lots cast for distant date**
- **King's Sleepless night**
- **The right page read**
- **Gallows reversed**
- **Second decree issued**
- **Fear shifts to authority**
- **Jews preserved across the empire**

A white, two-story house with a dark roof and a chimney, built on stilts on a rocky beach. The scene is set at sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden glow on the horizon and a dark, cloudy sky. The ocean waves are visible in the distance, and the wet sand of the beach reflects the light. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

God's Faithful Loyal Love

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

Matthew 5:43-46

Ask Yourself:

**What has God already
prepared you for?**

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