

#1436 (Re)building the Walls of the *Christian* New Israel and the *Jewish* new Israel – The three return expeditions to Jerusalem: Zerubbabel in 538-537 B.C.; Ezra in 458-457 B.C.; Nehemiah in 445-444 B.C.

Key Understanding #1: After Cyrus the Great and Media-Persia conquered Babylon in 539 B.C., the famous Edict of Cyrus was issued in 538 B.C. Government controls on captive peoples were loosened. The way was opened for exiled Judah to begin the return to her homeland. Three major expeditions made the journey:

- 538-537 B.C. under **Zerubbabel** – the start of rebuilding **the City** and **the Temple**
- 458-457 B.C. under **Ezra** – bringing order to the people of Jerusalem; furnishing the Temple
- 445-444 B.C. under **Nehemiah** – rebuilding **the Wall**

A map illustrating the three major exiles of the Jews and the three major returns of the Jews



Nehemiah 2:17 (KJV) Then said I [Nehemiah] unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and LET US BUILD UP THE WALL OF JERUSALEM, that we be no more a reproach.

Key Understanding #2: It was the third return expedition to Jerusalem under the leadership of Nehemiah that was focused on rebuilding the Wall. We will see that the Lord connects Nehemiah's rebuilding of the Wall of Jerusalem with our current subject matter of (Re)building the Walls of the Christian New Israel and the Jewish new Israel.



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