



# UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Seeing the Big Picture

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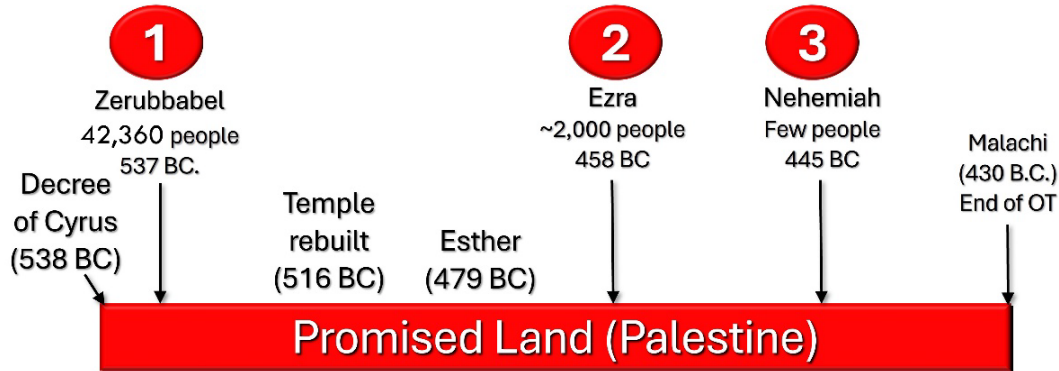
### PART 11: THE RESTORATION PERIOD

The Jews had to wait in exile 70 years and during this time they had to be very patient. At the end of the 70 years God moved the heart of Cyrus, king of Persia, to let his people return to Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-4). The Cyrus Cylinder gives us biblical evidence of this restoration.



#### THE RESTORATION PERIOD

- The Jews returned to Jerusalem in three waves (See the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther).



- The first wave of returnees: Zerubbabel brought 42,360 Jews to Jerusalem in 537 B.C. <sup>1</sup>
- The second wave of returnees: Ezra brought about 2,000 Jews to Jerusalem in 458 B.C.
- The third wave of returnees: Only a few Jews returned with Nehemiah around 445 B.C.

#### WAITING VS. PATIENCE

- Waiting is an \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> The remaining Jews stayed in Babylon. Historians estimate there were between 100,000 and 150,000 Jews living in Babylon prior to the return to the Promised Land. The number of remaining Jews at this time would then be about 50,000 to 100,000.

- Patience is an \_\_\_\_\_.

## WHERE I AM TO BE PATIENT

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- I am to be patient with \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am to be patient with \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am to be patient in \_\_\_\_\_.

## WHY I AM TO BE PATIENT

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- **Patience will get me in step with \_\_\_\_\_.**

*John 11:5-6 “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.”*

- **Patience will bring me a wonderful sense of \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Lamen. 3:25-26 “The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”*

*Micah 7:7 “But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.”*

- **Patience will restore me when I am \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Ps. 23:1-3a “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. “Don’t place a limit on how long you will wait.*

- **Patience will shift my focus from my weaknesses to \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Ps. 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

- **Patience will give me peace \_\_\_\_\_ the situation is resolved.**

*Isa. 26:3 “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.”*

- **Patience will bring me \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Ps. 40:1-3 “I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry 2 He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. 3 He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD.*