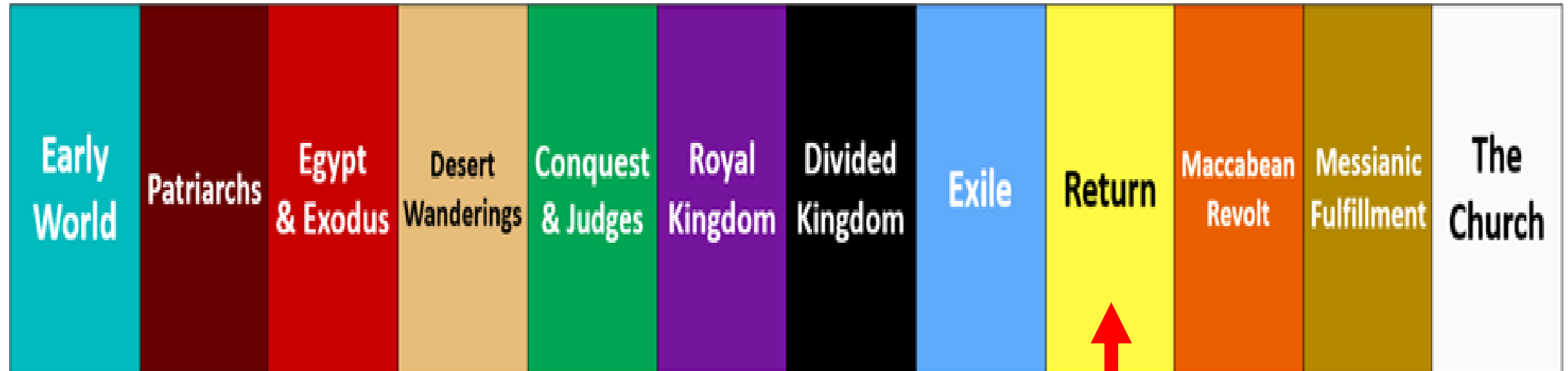


Timeline

Return & Restoration



Adam & Eve Abraham Jacob Moses Joshua David Solomon Isaiah Jeremiah Mary **JESUS** Peter Paul

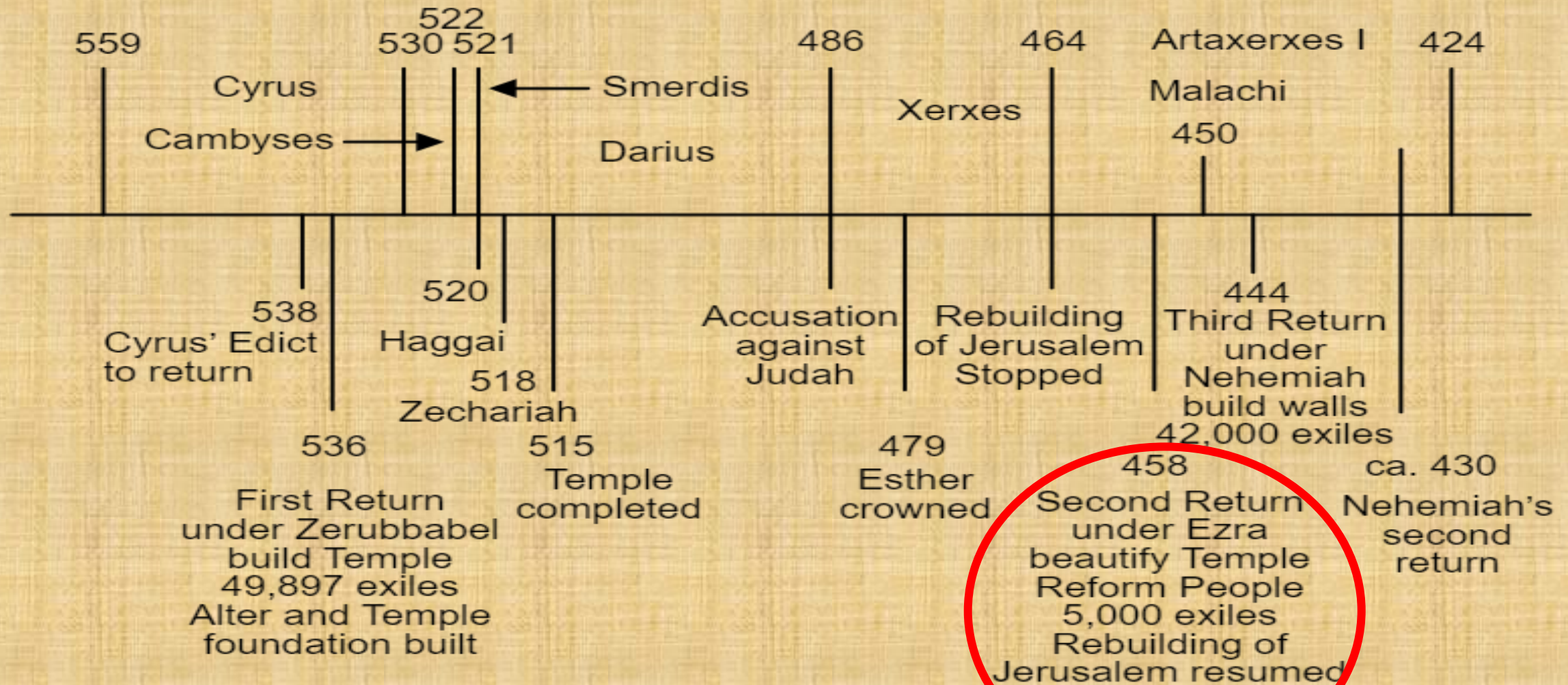
444BC



Ezra

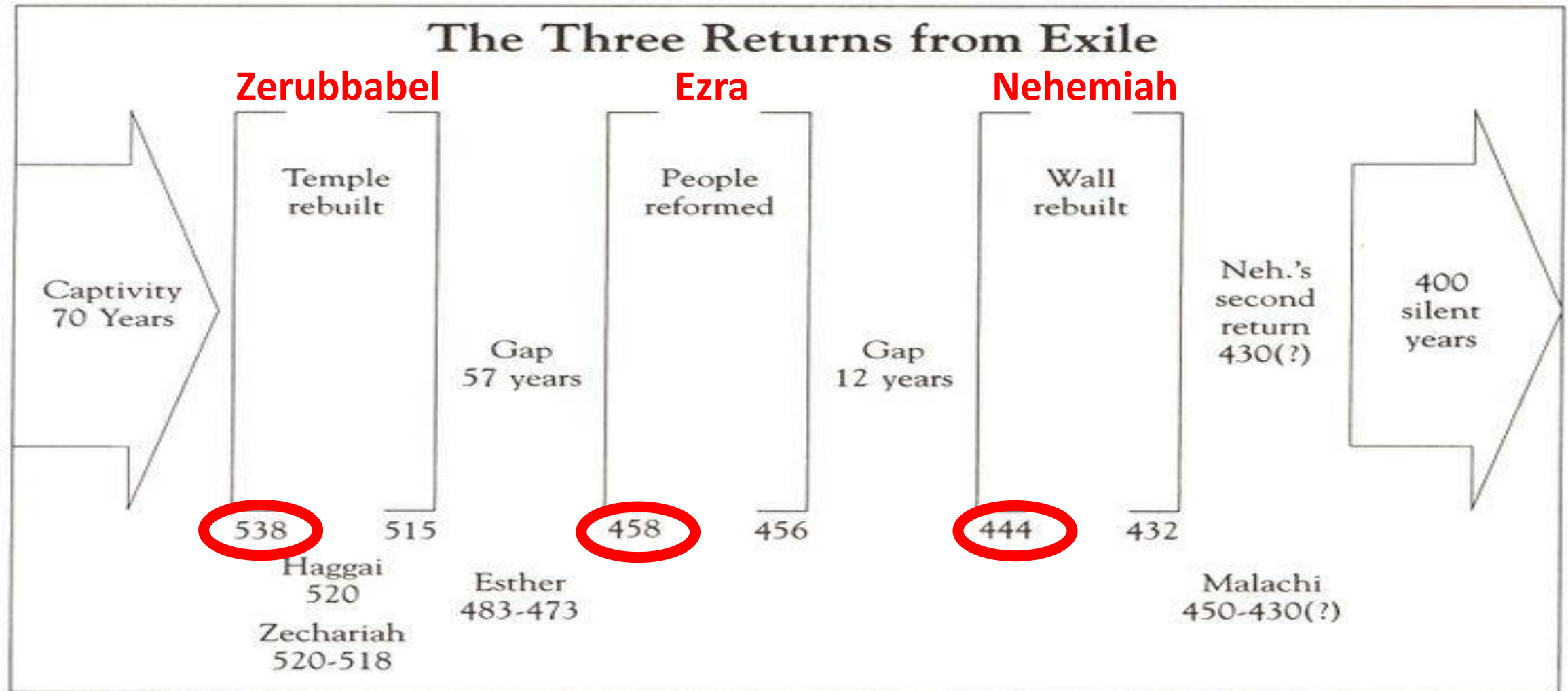
Introduction

The Restoration Period



538-444BC

Ezrah

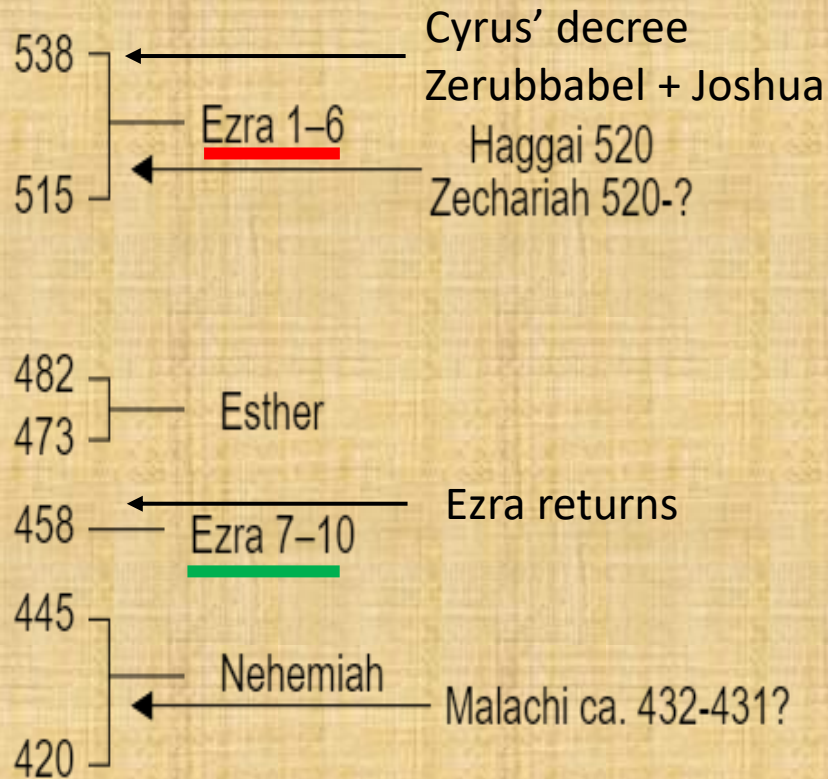


538-444BC

Ezra

Outline

Chronology of the Restoration Period



538-444BC

1-6 The 1st return from Exile.

- Cyrus's decree to return.
- Cyrus releases the Temple utensils.
- Revival of Temple worship.
- Opposition to rebuilding.
- Completion of the Temple.
- Haggai + Zechariah encourage.

7-10 Ezra's return and reform.

- Ezra teaches the Law.
- The offense of Mixed marriages.
- Mixed marriages dissolved.

Ezra

Key themes

1. The Foundational event in Ezra is Judah returning from Exile.
2. The Foundational theme in Ezra is returning from Backsliding
 - A. Practical sanctification.
 - B. Parallels with Conversion/Discipleship.
3. Judah had lost sight of the fact that it was God's Word that was the foundation of their relationship with God.
 - A. Not the land.
 - B. The temple.
 - C. Material blessings.
 - D. Unique national status and fellowship (family).
 - i. Any of which can become idols, or distractions.

Ezrah

Significant Issues

- **Cyrus's decree - Judah can only return God's way (Cyrus God's Messiah).**
- **Temple utensils - Judah are Devoted to God's use + liberated... to serve God.**
- **Revival of temple worship - Judah must prioritise their relationship with God.**
- **Opposition - Judah must resist temptation and intimidation.**
- **Completion of the Temple - Judah must stay focused on God's purpose.**
- **Prophets - God provided Judah with supernatural encouragement.**
- **Ezra teaches the Law - God's Word identifies the root of the problem.**
- **Mixed marriages – Jeopardised the fulfilment of God's Cov't promises.**
 - **Lineage of Messiah.**
 - **Inheritance of the Land (would go to other nations)**

Ezrah

Present Application

Cyrus's decree	The New Covenant/Cross is the only foundation of our relationship with God
Temple utensils	Devoted to Scripture + Serving in the Spirit.
Worship	Prioritise our relationship (worship) with God over the world.
Opposition	Resist temptation and trials (distractions disappointment).
Completion	Stay focused on God's purpose (Salvation/New Creation).
Spiritual	Look with faith, and walk in the Spirit, and God will strengthen you.
The Word	The Word discerns our hearts, revealing our secrets.
The Mixture	A double mind is the result of a double heart.
Lineage	Don't lose sight of our identity in Christ
Inheritance	Don't lose sight of the reward that awaits in Jesus.

- Ezra prefigures Messiah as the Instructive, Exemplary, High Priest.
- Ezra emphasises our need to focus upon The Word of God, personally, and in the written form (over Church attendance, spiritual experiences/gifts).