



- EPOCH FIVE -

THE RETURN

& THE 400 SILENT YEARS

ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

THE AGE OF TIME

1. Origins
2. Deliverance
3. Kings & Kingdoms
4. Prophets & Captivity
5. Return & the 400 Silent Years
6. The Shining Light
7. To the Ends of the Earth
8. The End of the Age

ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

DAY TWENTY-SIX 26

WATCH VIDEO FIVE
"THE RETURN"
as you work through
this section.

5

Israel paid a severe price for her idolatrous heart. True to His word, Yahweh is bringing His people back from the futility of captivity. But only a few will return - a "remnant." It appears that those who cling to God are a very small group!
(see [MATTHEW 7:13,14](#)).

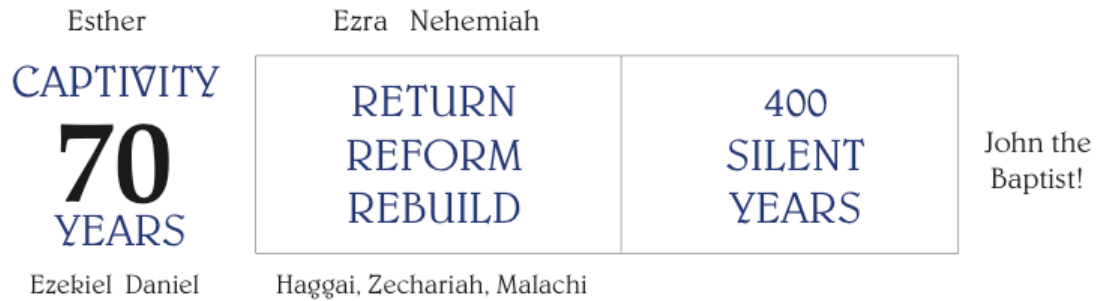
MY WORLDVIEW

In what ways do I feel I have returned to God?

In what ways do I have yet to surrender to God?

DAY TWENTY-SIX 26

TIMELINE OF THE LAW & PROPHETS *Three*



TAKE SOME TIME TO OBSERVE THE TIMELINE ABOVE

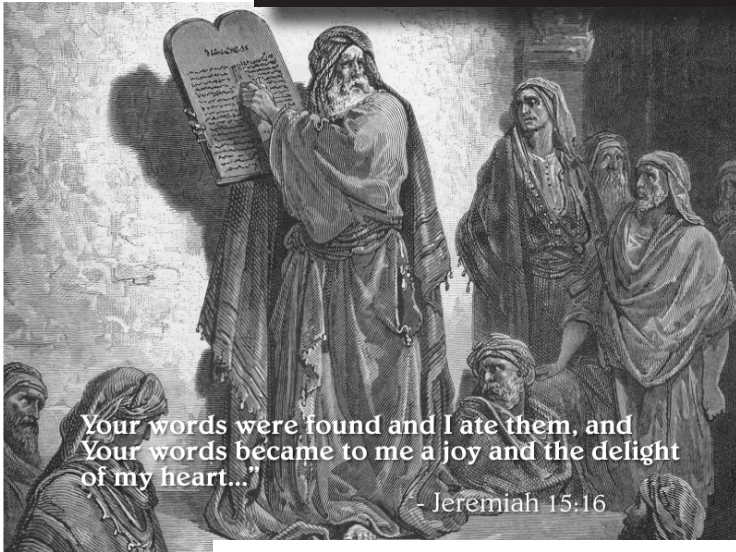
What do you notice about the corresponding books?

In what ways do you feel that the overall timeline is coming into focus?

In what ways is it still fuzzy?

How does John the Baptist fit in with “old” and “new” testament prophets?

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN 27



Your words were found and I ate them, and
Your words became to me a joy and the delight
of my heart..."

- Jeremiah 15:16

EZRA

Return/Reform

RECONSTRUCTION under Zerubbabel

1:3,5; 2:1,2

Return...2:1,2,68

Rebuild...6:15

1-6

REFORMATION under Ezra

7:25-28

Return...7:6; 8:31,32

Reform...10:19

7-10

"For Ezra had set his heart." 7:10

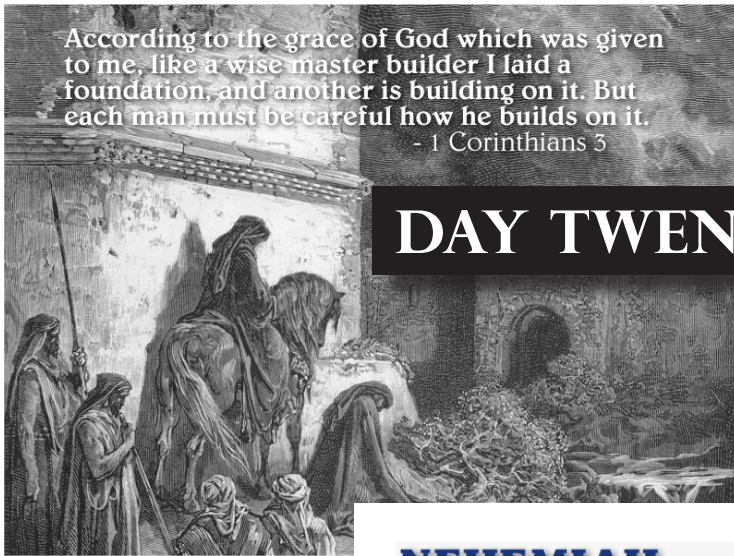
READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

What do you learn about reformation of heart from Ezra?

MY WORLDVIEW

Life reform follows a return to Him.

√ How do I feel about the reconstruction He is accomplishing in my heart?



According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.
- 1 Corinthians 3

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN 27

NEHEMIAH

Renew/Rebuild

Nehemiah Arrives	Walls Restored	People Revived
2:11,12	6:15,16	8:3,17,18
1-2	3-6	7-13

"I also applied myself to the work on this wall." 5:16

READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

What do you learn about principles for rebuilding from Nehemiah?

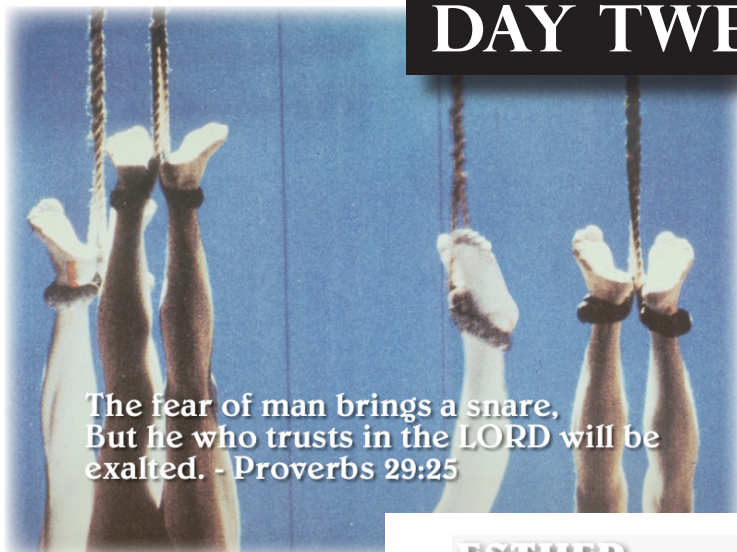
MY WORLDVIEW

The rebuilding of the **Temple** was the first task, and it was accomplished under the leadership of Ezra. Now it was time to rebuild the **walls** of the city to protect the people.

✓ In what ways is my spiritual rebuilding process protecting my heart?

✓ The hearts of those I love and care for?

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN 27



The fear of man brings a snare,
But he who trusts in the LORD will be
exalted. - Proverbs 29:25

ESTHER

God Delivers

DANGER TO THE JEWS

3:1-15

The plot is set...2:21-23

The plot is formed...3:5,6

1 - 3

DELIVERANCE OF THE JEWS

The plot is frustrated...6:1-3

The plot is dissolved...7:8-10

4 - 10

"Relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews..." 4:14

**What then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?**

- Romans 8:31

READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

What do you learn about deliverance from this basic sketch of the book of ESTHER?

How does PROVERBS 29:25 fit with the theme of Esther?

MY WORLDVIEW

√ In what ways do I feel others are against me?

√ That God is against me?

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT 28

HAGGAI Obedient Building

REVERENCE FOR GOD Priorities...1:2-6 Produce...1:7-14	ENCOURAGEMENT FROM GOD Vision...2:3-5 Acceptance...2:20-23
1	2

"Consider your ways" 1:4,5

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

- 1 Corinthians 3:10

What does HAGGAI offer the builders under Ezra and Nehemiah?

ZECHARIAH Lord of Hosts

EIGHT NIGHT VISIONS 1:1-6,9	HOLY PROPHECIES 6:12-13; 14:20
1-6	6-14

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit." 4:6

Then he said to me... "not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit" says the Lord of Hosts.

- 1 Corinthians 3:10

What does ZECHARIAH offer the builders under Ezra and Nehemiah?

MALACHI Sin's Dialogue

God's Love? 1:2 Priests Despise? 1:6,7 Covenant Profaned? 2:13-14	Weary God? 2:7 Way of Return? 3:7,8 Lord Accused? 4:1-4
- SIX QUESTIONS -	

"Your words have been arrogant." 3:13

There is a big difference between asking God and seeking answers and questioning His authority.

Why ask questions that have been asked - and answered?

What does MALACHI offer the builders under Ezra and Nehemiah?

— *400 Years of Silence* —

Decline of the Greek Empire.
The iron fist/civilization of Rome.
The story of the priests of Moden.
The thirst for a deliverer.
The choice of 30 Messiahs.
Why the Jews missed Yeshua.

— *The “fullness of times”* —

DAY TWENTY-NINE 29

With the transfer from the Greek to the Roman empire, the world entered a new phase of sophistication and domination. No one would be able to stand before Rome. Yet before the coming of the Messiah, [Judas Maccabeus and the priests of Moden](#) delivered Israel from the emerging iron fist of Rome. This political independence was highly valued by the Jews, and once Rome’s grip re-emerged and crushed any rebellion in the empire, it left them longing for a promised “Messiah” who would, in their minds, *bring national sovereignty* once again.

There are apparently accounts of about 30 “*messiahs*” in Jerusalem as the public ministry of Christ took place. The religious leaders investigated the authenticity of the claims of each, and in the *fullness of times* the Son of God was revealed. The [four hundred years of silence](#) (no prophets) was anything but silent. Culture, power, and universal language (Greek) all were shaped into the backdrop for the Good News to launch to “the nations.”

Remarkable times indeed!