

# **P.T. BIBLE SURVEY**

## **The Book of Ezra**

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

- ◎ Hebrew/Greek meaning of book name:
  - Hebrew - Yahweh helps
  - Greek - Help

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

- ⦿ Hebrew/Greek meaning of book name:
  - Hebrew - Yahweh helps
  - Greek - Help
- ⦿ Who wrote it?
  - Unknown, but possibly Ezra.
  - Ezra and Nehemiah were considered one work in the original Hebrew.

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

- ◎ **Date of writing:**
  - **Around 450 B.C.**
  - **Written after the exiles returned from Babylon.**

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

## ◎ Date of writing:

- Around 450 B.C.
- Written after the exiles returned from Babylon.

## ◎ Timing of Events:

- From 538 to 444 B.C.
- Covers 23 years.

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

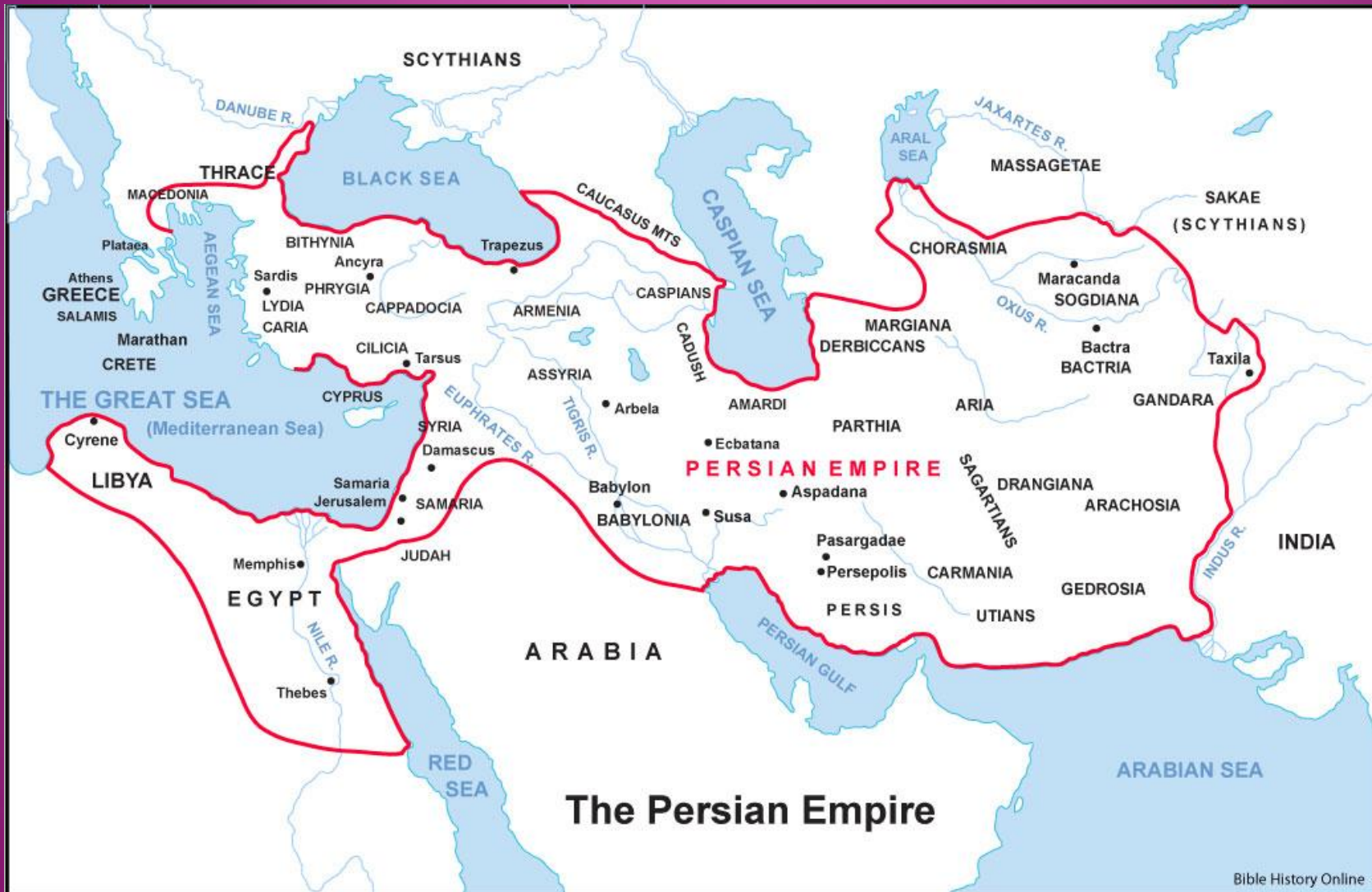
## ◎ Key Term: Restoration

- The book describes two restorations from Babylonian captivity. First, more than 40,000 Israelites returned under Sheshbazzar. Second, a smaller group of about 2,000 accompanied Ezra, whose goal was to teach the people the law of Moses.

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- ◎ **Location of Events:**
  - Persia to Jerusalem

# THE BOOK OF EZRA





# THE BOOK OF EZRA

## ◎ General Outline:

- **Part 1 - The Restoration of the Temple (Chaps. 1-6)**
  - The First Return to Jerusalem (Chap. 1-2)
  - Construction of the Temple (Chap. 3-6)

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## ◎ General Outline:

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  - Construction of the Temple (Chaps. 3-6)
- **Part 2 - The Reformation of God's People (Chaps. 7-10)**
  - The Second Return to Jerusalem under Ezra (Chaps. 7-8)
  - Restoration of the People (Chaps. 9-10)

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

- ◎ Summary in one sentence:
  - The first group of returning exiles restored worship of the Lord, culminating in a rebuilt temple; but Ezra, who led the second group, reestablished Israelite community under Mosaic law, culminating in putting away mixed marriages.

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- ◎ Summary in 10 words or less:
  - Spiritual renewal begins after the Jews return from exile.

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

## ◎ Cast of Characters:

- **God:** invoked by Ezra as he warns Israel about their sinful ways
- **Cyrus:** king of Persia who instigates the exile's return and their rebuilding of the Temple
- **Zerubbabel:** along with Jeshua, begins to rebuild the Temple
- **Artaxerxes:** later king of Persia; ends rebuilding of Jerusalem; sends Ezra
- **Darius:** later king of Persia; gives financial and material support to the Temple builders
- **Ezra:** priest; descendant of Aaron

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

- ◎ Where is the work of Christ?
  - Ezra the priest is a foreshadowing of Christ, because he led God's people out of captivity. In Luke 4:18 Jesus announced His agenda on earth, part of which was "to proclaim freedom to the captives".

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

## Verse to Remember

- ⦿ Then the Israelites, including the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the exiles, celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy. (Ezra 6:16)

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

## ◉ Interesting Facts:

- The return from Babylon to Judea has been called Israel's "Second Exodus", which was a distance of about 900 miles.
- The 40,000 plus exiles who returned from Babylon only represented a remnant of the 2 million plus who were in captivity.
- Those who returned from exile were from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi.



# THE BOOK OF EZRA

- ◎ What is my take away?
  - God always gives His children the opportunity to make a fresh start.

# THE BOOK OF EZRA

## ◎ Home Study

- Read a chapter daily in Ezra this week.
- Study the One Sentence Summary.
- Recite your memory verses daily.