

Thursday Evening Bible Study  
**Series: The Book of Isaiah**

Teaching Summary for Week 72

**Isaiah Chapter 44:24-45:13**

We begin with a brief overview:

In chapter 43, the LORD promised that He would redeem His people Israel from their bondage in Babylon. Let's refresh our memories by reading **Isaiah 43:1-7**.

Now in Isaiah 44:24 – 45:13, He reveals that He has chosen a human agent to deliver His people. But it will not be a deliverer like Moses.

No, the LORD is going to do something new. He is going to call a pagan king to rescue His people from Babylon!

The LORD is their Redeemer. He formed the nation in the womb. He is the Creator of all things, things in the heavens and things on earth. He can do as He wishes.

Let's read **Isaiah 44:24-28**.

In verse 28, the LORD, through His servant Isaiah, announces the name of His chosen agent: **Cyrus**.

Isaiah's prophetic ministry ended around 690 BC. Cyrus, King of Persia, will conquer Babylon in 539 BC. A year later, he will issue the edict to permit the people of Judah to return to Jerusalem.

In other words, the LORD predicted an event that would not occur for another 150 years. The LORD is the only One who can predict the future. In so doing, He makes fools out of the pagan soothsayers.

Time for another history lesson.

In Isaiah 44:28, the LORD proclaims three things that He will bring about in the future:

1. He will call **Cyrus** to be His shepherd who will perform all His desire in **rescuing His people**.
2. He will cause **the city of Jerusalem** to be built.
3. He will cause **the foundation of the temple** to be laid.

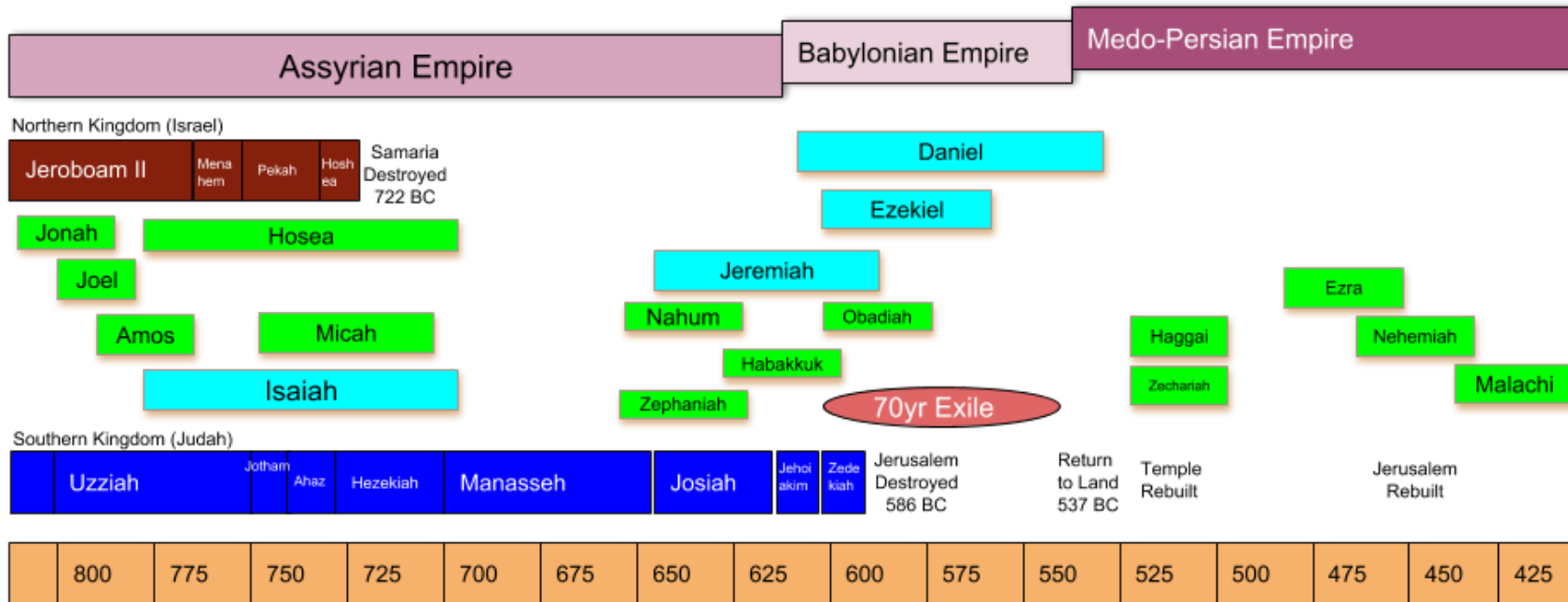
We will now turn to three of the historical books of the Old Testament to learn how, after 70 years of captivity in Babylon, the LORD fulfilled His promise to restore Israel, the city of Jerusalem, and the temple.

The LORD would use three Persian kings to accomplish His tremendous plan.

<b>The LORD declared</b>	<b>Persian King(s)</b>	<b>The scriptural record</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>His shepherd would release His people from Babylon</b>	Cyrus	2 Chronicles 36:17-23 Ezra 1:1-3; 2:1-2	
<b>The foundation of the Temple will be laid</b>	Cyrus and Darius	Ezra 3:8-13; 5:16; 6:1-15	During the reign of Cyrus, the work of rebuilding the Temple did not progress beyond laying the foundations.
<b>Jerusalem will be rebuilt</b>	Artaxerxes	Nehemiah 2:1-8; 6:15-16	

The walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt by Nehemiah in 445 BC: 245 years after Isaiah predicted it!

# Timeline of the Prophets



## RETURN FROM BABYLON

Chronology of the return	World events during the return
605-536 B.C. General period of captivity	ca. 563-ca.483 Buddha (in India)
605, 597, Leading Judean citizens deported,	551-478 B.C. Confucius (in China)
586 B.C. including Daniel and Ezekiel	549 B.C. Cyrus united Persia and Media
538 B.C. Edict of Cyrus permitting the return	546 B.C. Cyrus conquered Lydia
536 B.C. Return of 49,897 from Babylon to Jerusalem	539 B.C. Cyrus conquered Babylon
536 B.C. Altar rebuilt, sacrifice offered in seventh month	530 B.C. Cyrus died
535 B.C. Temple rebuilding begun, but stopped	539-331 B.C. Persian Empire
535-520 B.C. Economic and political struggle	530-522 B.C. Cambyses
520 B.C. Ministry of Haggai	522-486 B.C. Darius I
520-515 B.C. Ministry of Zechariah	490 B.C. Darius defeated at Marathon
515 B.C. Temple completed	486-465 B.C. Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)
458 B.C. Return of Ezra	485-425 B.C. Herodotus
445 B.C. Nehemiah rebuilt the walls	480 B.C. Persians defeated at Thermopylae and Salamis
	470-399 B.C. Socrates
	460-429 B.C. Golden age of Pericles
	428-322 B.C. Plato and Aristotle