

Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi in context

Jeremiah was in Jerusalem when it fell, Ezekiel was a captive and Daniel was in Babylon in 586 B.C.



First Temple
960-586 B.C.

539 B.C. Babylon is defeated by **Cyrus the Great** (555-530 B.C.) He allows the Jews to return and gives permission for the Temple to be rebuilt. (Ezra 1, Daniel 5) About 50,000 return from Babylon.

Some Jews return, but the Temple rebuilding is stalled by the enemies of Jews for 18 years.

The Temple rebuilding was on hold as Persian rule was in flux. In 522 B.C. **Darius Hystaspes** (522-486 B.C.) came to power after the death of Cyrus son *Cambyses* (530-522 B.C.) in 522 B.C.

During this period, the LORD sent two prophets to encourage a discouraged nation. Haggai and Zechariah, proclaiming the future of the nation and the city Jerusalem.

Haggai was sent months before **Zechariah** in 520 B.C., both encouraged the Jews to begin construction of the LORD's Temple, proclaiming it will be completed.



Ezra and Nehemiah followed Haggai and Zechariah by almost 70 years.

In 444 B.C., Nehemiah was given charge by the king of Persia, **Artaxerxes Longimanus** (464-424 B.C.) of rebuilding Jerusalem, its walls and gates. The Temple was completed in 516 B.C., following the prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah.

The Second Temple 516 B.C.-A.D.70

600 590 580 570 560 550 540 530 520 510 500 490 480 470 460 450 440 430 420 410 400 390 380 370

586 B.C. The armies of Babylon destroy the city of Jerusalem and the Temple. Earlier, in 605 and 597 the Babylonians conquered the city, but after the rebellion in 589 B.C. against Babylonian authority, the **Nebuchadnezzar** (605-562 B.C.) destroyed the city and the Temple. Jeremiah wrote about the destruction which took place in the book called Lamentations.

The remaining Jews were taken captive, most killed and some escaped into Egypt.

Ester would later marry the son of Darius Hystaspes, **Xerxes** or Ahasuerus. Xerxes succeed his father in 486 B.C. (486-465 B.C.)

During his reign there was a conspiracy to destroy all the Jews in the Persian Empire.

Ezra (458 B.C.) precedes Nehemiah and leads a group of returnees to Jerusalem from Babylon.

Malachi was the last prophet of the Hebrew Bible, (Old Testament). His ministry is dated about 420 B.C.. He proclaimed the glory of the 2nd Temple, when the Messenger of the Covenant would one day come to the Temple. **Malachi 3:1**