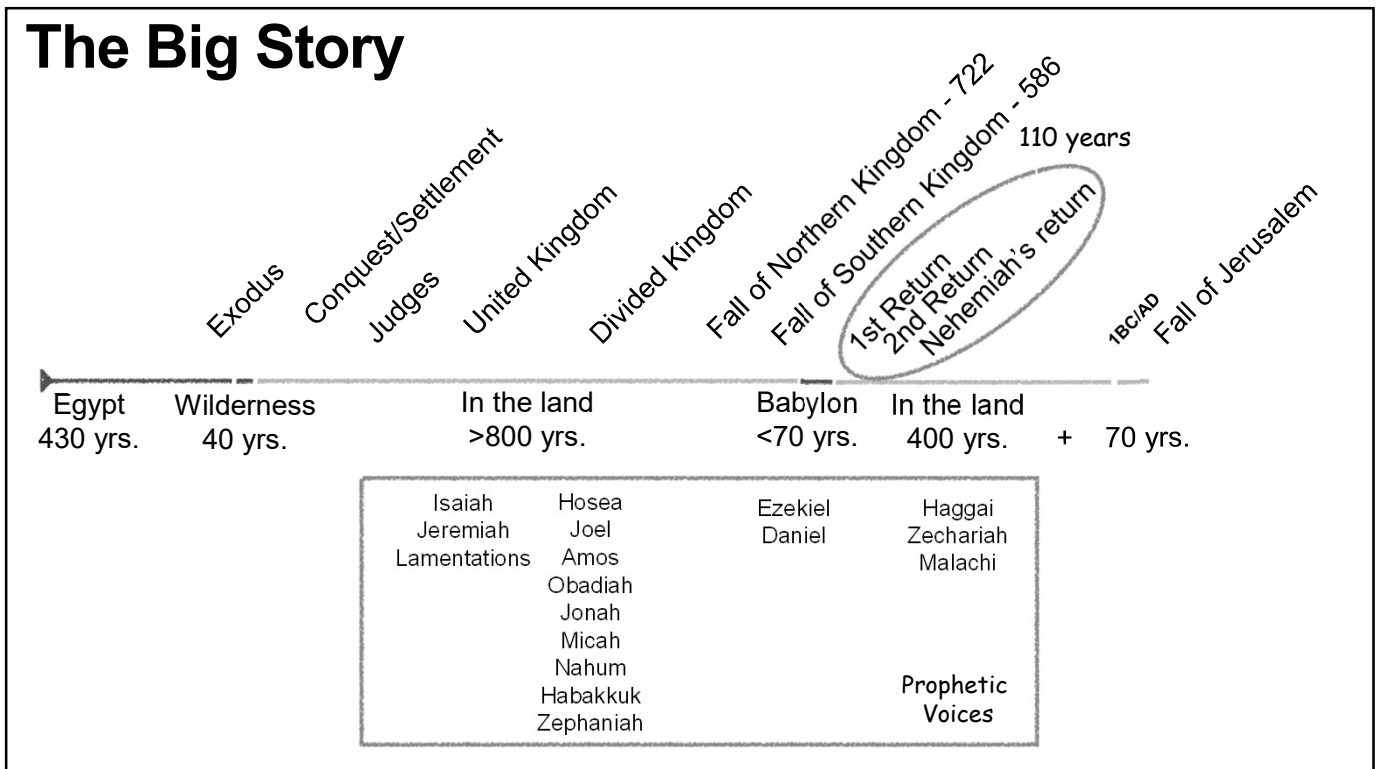


1



2

Ezra-Nehemiah: Overarching Framework

- Prologue: Setting the Stage
- Zerubbabel and the Temple (Ezra 1-6)
- Ezra and the Law (Ezra 7-10)
- Nehemiah and the Wall (Nehemiah 1-13)
- Postlude: Now What?

3

Ezra 1-6: Zerubbabel and the Temple

- The Proclamation of Cyrus (1:1-4)
 - The Faithful Response (1:5-11)
 - Exiles Return (2:1-70)
- Building the Altar and Temple (3:1-13)
- Building Stalls (4:1-5) [future opposition (6-23)]
 - Building Restarts (5:1-2)
 - Progress Threatened (5:3-6:22)

4

Reflections

- These are the stories the Jewish people will look to for 100's of years to try to figure out "what went wrong?"
 - These are the stories they still look to to find a solution for their dispersion and preparation for the coming Messiah
- God's work among His people often unfolds in decades and centuries, not weeks, months, or even years (patience)
- God's work among His people is often met with opposition and discouragement (faith and faithfulness)
- The subtle surprise - What about Zerubbabel, the leader and Davidic heir to the throne? (Haggai 2:20ff and Zechariah 4:6ff)