# OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

### **EZRA and NEHEMIAH**

Lesson 30

Biblical-Literacy.com

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## TIME PLACEMENT

- Babylonian exile 587/586 B.C.
- Persia conquest Babylon 539 B.C.

Alexander the Great 331 B.C.

#### TIME PLACEMENT

- Babylonian exile 587 B.C.
- Persia conquest Babylon 539 B.C.

Ezra and Nehemiah 531-450 B.C.

Alexander the Great 331 B.C.

# Who were they?

- Ezra a priest, a leader, a teacher
- Nehemiah a cupbearer, a governor

## Where did we get titles?

Early Bibles combined Ezra and Nehemiah

- Hebrew up to 1400's
- Septuagint ("LXX")
- Josephus only Ezra
- DSS
- Origen 200's distinguishes 1st & 2d Ezra
- Jerome (Vulgate) liber secundus Esdrae
- Wycliffe (1382) 1<sup>st</sup> & 2d Ezra

#### **Title**

Coverdale (1535)
 The First Boke of Esdras
 The Second Boke of Esdras, otherwyse called the Boke of Nehemiah

Luther - Nehemiah

#### Who wrote the books?

- Different books (Ez 2 & Neh 7:6-70)
- Ezra first person (7:27-8:34; 9:1-15)
- Nehemiah first person (1:1-7:73; 12:27-43; 13:4-31)
- Both have third person text

## Theological Term Du Jour

"COMPILER"

A person who took various texts and combined them to make the text we have today

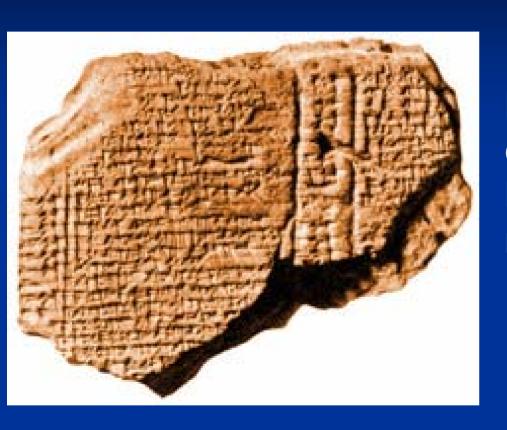
#### When Written?

- Many opinions range as late as 200 B.C.
- Most see as contemporaneous or close
  - > 440 B.C. Ezra
  - > 430 B.C. Nehemiah
- Hebrew and Aramaic (Ez4:8-6:18; 7:12-26)

## **History**

- 722 B.C. Northern gone
- 587/586 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar destroys
   Jerusalem
- Most intellectual and spiritual leaders gone
- King Jehoiakin gone

#### **Jehoiakin**



10 sila of oil to la'...kin, king of lahudu. 2 ½ sila of oil to the sons of the king of lahudu. 4 sila to 8 men from lahudu.

Pritchard, ANET, p.205

## **History**

- 722 B.C. Northern gone
- 587/586 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar destroys
   Jerusalem
- Most intellectual and spiritual leaders gone
- King Jehoiakin gone
- Many adjust and flourish (Jer 29:4-5)

#### **EZRA**

- Picks up from Chronicles
- Cyrus sends back families and temple goods
- Genealogies important
- Law of Moses with return
- Rebuilding of temple

# Rebuilding of Temple

- Foundation celebration with Psalms
- Enemies get TRO
- Temple completion
  - Worship celebration
  - > No ark
  - Older ones cry
  - > Passover celebrated
  - > 516 B.C.

## **Enter Ezra**

- 60 years later (550 ish)
- Established teacher from Babylon
  - > Ezra 7: 6 and 7:10
- Sent to oversee administration of governors and magistrates
- Travel issues
- Pagan marriage trubs

#### NEHAMIAH

- Switch from temple to walls
- Cupbearer to Artaxerxes
- Hears of Jerusalem's disgrace
- Prays and gets answer
- Sent as governor
- Difficulties rebuilding
- Prayer and action

## Wall Completion

- Day to celebrate and worship
- Ezra and Law of Moses daybreak until noon
- Weeping to choice food (8:10)
- Feast of Tabernacles 8 days
- A day of Penance
  - > 6 hours law
  - > 6 hours worship and confession
  - > Neh. 9 prayer
  - > Signed and sealed commitment
- Walls dedicated
- Other reforms

## **End of Historical OT**

#### **Points for Home**

- God is faithful even when I'm not
- God can be trusted
- God's plan will not be thwarted
- Gods word powerfully changes lives
- Prayer and action
- Confession and singing are important aspects of worship