

**Bereans Bible Institute**  
**Module V. The Redemption of Creation**  
**Lesson 18 – The Return & Restoration**

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I. The First Exile was to last 70 years

A. The total time that the Temple and Jerusalem lay in ruins, desolate, with no one left to farm the land – 2 Chron. 36:15-21

1. Virtually all chronologists (including Ussher) allow for only about 50 years, trying to align the biblical chronology with secular chronology.
2. This mistake makes it impossible to correctly calculate the second exile from Lev. 26.

II. The End of the Exile.

A. Isaiah “anointed” Cyrus to be king over Israel 200 years before (**Isa. 44:24 – 45:13**).

B. Cyrus defeated the Babylonians (**Dan. 5**)

C. Daniel’s prayer of repentance in the 70<sup>th</sup> year, “70 weeks” (**Dan. 9 / Ezra 1:1**)

III. The rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple

A. Worship begins again on Rosh Hashanah (**Ezra 3**) – “7 weeks” begins

B. Resistance from Israel’s enemies, **Ezra 4:4-5** “*Then the people of the land tried to discourage the people of Judah. They troubled them in building, and hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.*”

C. Work resumes in 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Darius (Artaxerxes) under the direction of the prophets Haggai & Zechariah.

D. Temple completed in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of Darius (Artaxerxes) (Ezra 6:15) 24 years

E. Ezra arrives in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of Darius (Artaxerxes) (Ezra 7:1) 25<sup>th</sup> year

F. Nehemiah returns in 20<sup>th</sup> year to finish the walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 2:1-10)

G. Nehemiah institutes reforms from 20<sup>th</sup> to 32<sup>nd</sup> year of Artaxerxes (Neh. 5:14)

H. In the 32<sup>nd</sup> year (Neh. 13:6), Nehemiah purifies Temple, Sabbath Reforms.

I. From the decree of Cyrus until Nehemiah’s final reforms - 50 years (7 weeks).

1. Cyrus 9 years

2. Cambyses (Ahasuarus of Ezra 4:6) 8 years

3. Pseudo-Smerdis (Artaxerxes of Ezra 4:7) 1 year

4. Darius (Artaxerxes) 32 years (Temple finished 6<sup>th</sup>, Walls finished 20<sup>th</sup>, Nehemiah’s purification & reforms completed 32<sup>nd</sup>. (9+8+1+32=50)

IV. Add 442 years (62 weeks) until the cutting off of Messiah the Prince (Dan. 9).

A. Book of Malachi written – predicts destruction of the Temple & 2<sup>nd</sup> exile.