

Harvesters, Perimeter Church

“Nehemiah: Faithfulness amid the Fragments”

February 11, 2024

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President

Where are we going?

- February 4, 2024 - Introduction Nehemiah 1:1-13 “Nehemiah: Faithfulness amid the Fragments”
- February 11, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness to one’s call” (Nehemiah 1:1-2:8)
- February 18, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness in one’s calling” (Nehemiah 2:1-3:32)
- February 25, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness in the face of opposition, part 1” (Nehemiah 4:1-7:73)
- March 3, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness in the face of opposition, part 2” (Nehemiah 4:1-7:72)
- March 10, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness rooted in the Word” (Nehemiah 7:73-10:39)
- March 17, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness leading to urban renewal” (Nehemiah 11:1-12:47)
- March 24, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness for the long haul” (Nehemiah 13) Wrap-up

Review

539 BC – First Return

1. Led by Zerubbabel
2. Goal - rebuild the temple

458 BC – Second Return

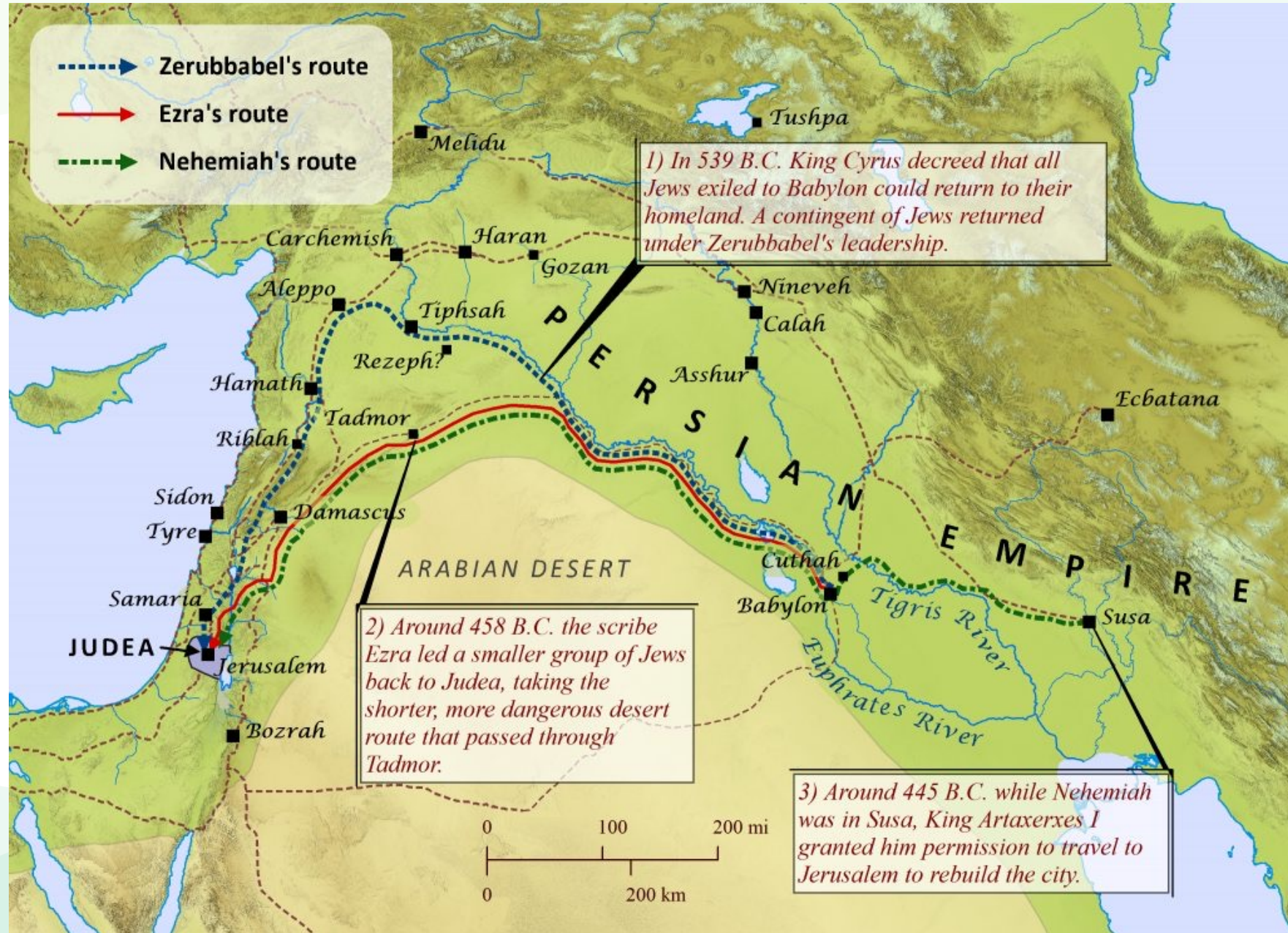
1. Led by Ezra
2. Goal – retrain God’s people

445 BC – Third Return

1. Led by Nehemiah
2. Goal - rebuild the walls

Context – Time and Place

Place



Nehemiah 1:1-4

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hialeah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

⁴ As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 1:5-7

⁵ And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

Nehemiah 1:8-11

8 Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, **9** but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ **10** They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. **11** O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”
Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Lessons in Prayer

1. Personal – “my God”
2. Persistent - months
3. Penitent
4. Petitionary

“Nehemiah’s public life was the outflow, and thus the revelation, of his personal life, and his personal life...was steeped in, and shaped by habitual petitionary prayer, in which devotion to God, dependence on God, and desire for the glory of God found equal expression.”

- J.I. Packer

Lessons in Prayer, cont.

“The self-sufficient do not pray; they merely talk to themselves. The self-satisfied will not pray; they have no knowledge of their need. The self-righteous cannot pray; they have no basis on which to approach God.”
- Cyril Barber

Nehemiah 2:1-4

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ² And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid. ³ I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴ Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Reflections for the week

1. What one principle from Nehemiah's prayer do you want to incorporate into your own prayer life in the coming weeks of Lent?
2. What things has God called you to do in service to him?
3. Is there anything that God is currently calling you to pray for AND plan for?