

ISRAEL'S RETURN TO THE PROMISED LAND

AFTER EXILE

605-535 BC

70 year exile after Babylon conquers Jerusalem.

539 BC

Babylon falls to Persia

538 BC

Decree by Cyrus of Persia allows Jews to return to Jerusalem, rebuild temple.

538-537 BC

First wave of exiles return

536 BC

Altar of temple finished, sacrifices begin
Foundation of temple is laid

536-520 BC

Samaritan, Persian resistance ended
rebuilding for 16 years

520 BC

Haggai & Zechariah prophesy to the people about rebuilding the temple.

516 BC

Temple finished & dedicated

483-473 BC

Book of Esther written

457-458 BC

Second Wave of exiles return

444 BC

Third wave of exiles return

432-425 BC

Possible date for prophecies of Malachi, last OT writing. (Other possible date: 480-470 BC). No prophets from Malachi to John the Baptist

331 BC

Close of OT
Alexander the Great defeats Persia
Israel under Hellenistic, Hasmonean &
then Roman rule
Rome in power as NT begins