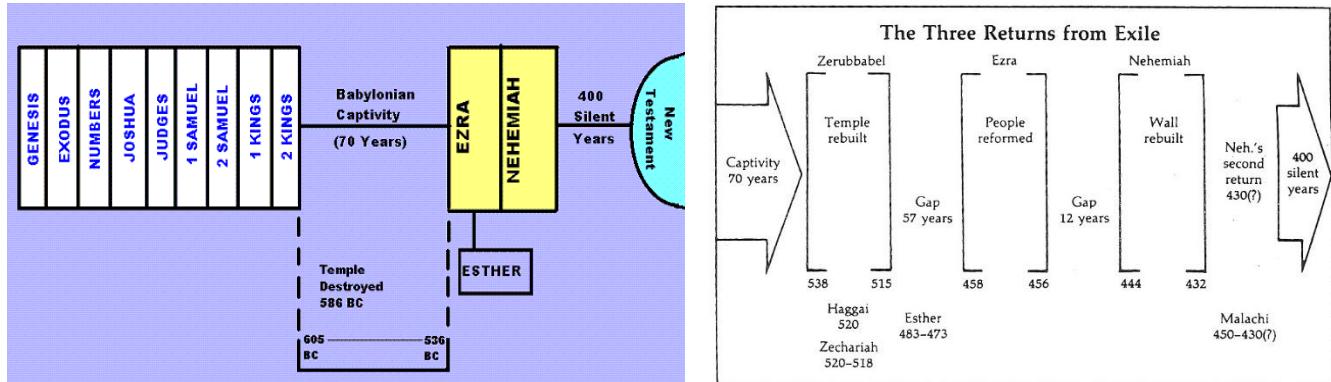


Sermon Notes:

INTRODUCTION

- Last week: Sin of Pride / King Uzziah – reigned from 790-739BC
- Where are we now? (slides)



BACKGROUND OF PASSAGE

- Isaiah had warned the people of Judah—they would be taken captive by Babylon and punished for their sins
- Timeline:
 - 605—Nebuchadnezzar deported the royal family / took the temple vessels to Babylon
 - 597—he sent into exile 7,000 “men of might” and a thousand craftsmen
 - 586—he destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and exiled the rest of the Jews in Babylon, except for “the poor of the land”
 - 538—Cyrus, king of Persia, issued a decree that permitted the exiled Jews to return to their land and rebuild their temple
- Task: rebuild the house of the Lord
- Physical building so they will have a place to worship. Also building the Kingdom of God – placing God in the center of their lives
- They began well. Then they lost sight of what they were doing.

FOR US TODAY

- If they had all worked together and had followed God’s plan—if they had followed God’s plan first—they would have had time to help each other and help themselves.
- Mark 12:28-31... ³⁰*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.* ³¹*The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*
- As we go through this week:
 - Where in our lives are we stopping to ask God if He approves of our behavior, our attitudes, our thoughts? Where can we take more things to prayer before doing them?
 - Do we have the right view of ourselves? Do we see ourselves the way God sees us?
 - Are we loving our neighbor out of that overflow of God’s love, or do we reach out to others expecting something in return?

Opening Hymn #758 *“Baptized in Water”*

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
born of one Father, we are his children, joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Closing Hymn #98 *“Majesty, Worship His Majesty”*

Majesty, worship his majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority flow from his throne unto his own, his anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus; magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship his majesty; Jesus, who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

Benediction #840 v.1 *“God Be with You”*

God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.