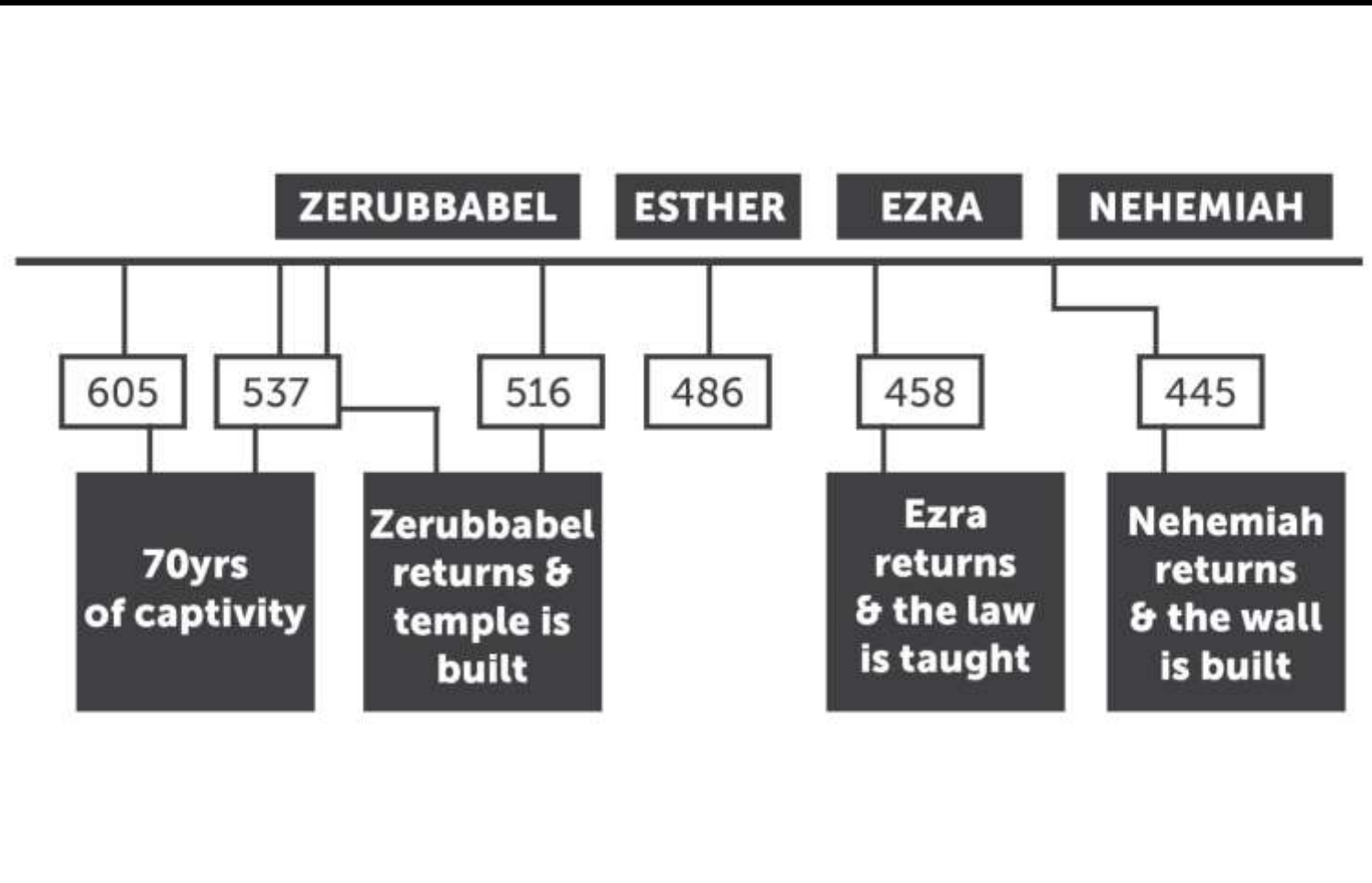


Historical Time Setting



God's Hand on His People to Give Them a New Start

Ezra Chapter 8

People

- Listed by families (v. 1-14)
 - 1,496 men
- Additional Levites and temple workers (v. 15-20)
 - Levites 38
 - Temple workers 220
- Total men, women, children: 5,000 to 10,000

Protection

- Ezra's quandary
 - Boasted to king about God
 - Asking for armed guard would reflect poorly on God
- Ezra's solution
 - Fast and pray
 - Rely on God

Propriety

- Transport of silver and gold (v. 24-24)
- Accountability
- Solution
 - Levites assigned transport duties
 - Weighed out items

Possible Routes of Return



Praise

- Sacrifices at temple (v. 35)
- Praise to God through sacrifices
- Ezra's "alabaster box" of adoration