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Throughout human history God has been working to fulfill His promise to Adam and Eve:  
**And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed;  
 He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."**  
*(Gen 3:15 NAU)*

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**A Review of God's Plan from the Beginning**  
 Creation & Fall  
 Flood & Babel  
 Abraham & the Promise  
 Joseph in Egypt  
 Moses & the Exodus  
 Joshua & Canaan  
 Judges & Chaos  
 Samuel & the Kings: Saul, David, Solomon, Division  
 Conquest & Exile:  
 Northern Tribes by Assyrians 722BC  
 Southern Tribes by Babylon 586BC

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**POST EXILIC BOOKS**  
 An Overview of God's Plan of Recovery

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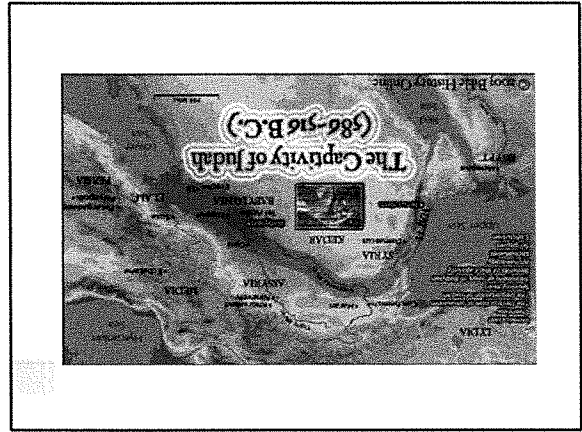
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**Esther**  
*Saves the Jewish people while in captivity*

**Ezra**  
*Rebuilds the Temple in Jerusalem*

**Nehemiah**  
*Rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem*

**POST EXILIC BOOKS**

**HISTORICAL | PROPHETIC**

- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

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**KEY POINTS IN NEHEMIAH**

**Nehemiah 2:1-4—Prayer Paves the Way**  
*Nehemiah is a man of prayer who calls upon God at every turn. Through prayer the heart of Artaxerxes was prepared to grant his need for leave & provisions to rebuild the wall*

**Nehemiah 2:11-12—Mark of a Wise Leader**  
*Nehemiah spends three days doing "nothing" Most likely praying! And then surveys the situation in secret. (cf.: Proverbs 24:6)*

**KEY POINTS IN EZRA**

**A Pagan King is God's Instrument**  
*King Cyrus of Persia was named by Isaiah as God's choice instrument to restore His people. (Isaiah 44:28-45:1)*

**Ezra 8:22—Trust in the Lord Your God**  
*Ezra has made a bold boast about his God, he refuses the King's protection for the return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.*

**KEY POINTS IN ESTHER**

**Esther 4:16—If I perish, I perish**  
*We do not live for ourselves; obeying God may require great personal risk and sacrifice*

**Esther 7—God guides the hearts of kings**  
*The king's heart is like channels of water in the Lord's hand; He guides it wherever He wishes. Proverbs 21:1*

The Post-Exilic books give us profound insight into the rescue of the Jewish people and the restoration of Jerusalem...the Temple and the city walls. Within these major themes are numerous lessons of faith as we follow the examples of the heroine Esther and the heroes Ezra and Nehemiah.

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