CHRONOLOGY OF EZRA–NEHEMIAH

Medo-Persian Monarch	Biblical Order	Parallel Books:	Historical Notes:
	Daniel	Ezekiel	Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah (605 BC), deports Jews to Babylon (605,597,586 BC), destroys Jerusalem and Temple (586 BC).
Cyrus (the Great)			Cyrus the Persian conquers Babylon (Oct. 12, 539 BC).
Darius (the Great)	**Ezra 1-6**	Haggai, Zechariah	First return of Jews under Zerubbabel, Joshua. Temple rebuilt.
Ahasuerus *aka* Xerxes I (m. Esther)	Esther		War between Persia and Greece. Ahasuerus takes Esther as a wife, who providentially thwarts an attempt to exterminate Jews.
	Ezra 7-10		Second return of Jews under Ezra.
Artaxerxes I *aka* Longimanus (son of Ahasuerus & Esther)	**Nehemiah 1-12**		Third return of Jews under Nehemiah (445 BC). Jerusalem walls rebuilt.
	Malachi		Israel backslides after Nehemiah returns to Persian capital.
	Nehemiah 13		Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem to find conditions of Malachi (c. 425 BC).