



Welcome to Network Church

歡迎來到網絡教會

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Photo credit: Ricky Yuen

From pollution to penitence

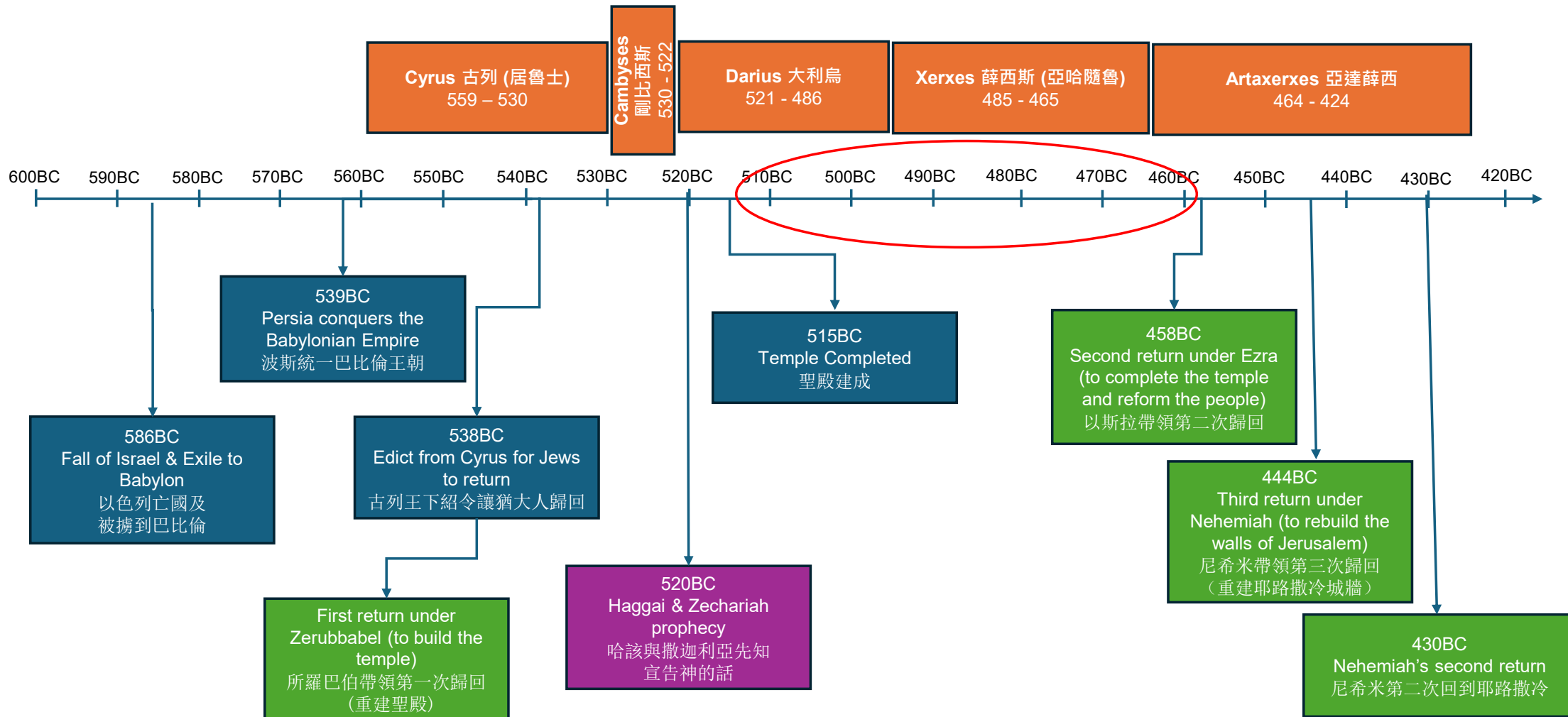
由敗壞到懺悔

Ezra 9&10

以斯拉記 九至十章

Timeline of the return from Babylon

從巴比倫被擄後歸回時間線



Ezra's Story: a quick overview

以斯拉記的故事：概括重溫



Upon finding out...

當發現...

- Ezra returns to find jews intermarried
以斯拉回來後, 發現猶太人通婚
- Ezra reacts very strongly...
以斯拉的反應非常強烈...
 - 9:3 “I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled my hair and beard and sat down appalled”
九:3 「我一聽見這事，就撕裂衣服和外袍，拔了頭髮和鬍鬚，驚懼憂悶而坐。」
 - Continues 10:1 “weeping and throwing himself down”
繼而 十:1 「哭泣，俯伏(在神殿前)」
 - And again... 10:6 “he ate no food and drank no water because he continued to mourn over the unfaithfulness of the exiles”
而後, 十:6 「不吃飯，也不喝水；因為被擄歸回之人所犯的罪，心裏悲傷。」
- Ezra share in their guilt
以斯拉分擔了他們的罪責
 - 9:6-7 “Our sins” (我們的罪孽) x 2 “our guilt” (我們的罪責) x 2

Ezra's view on divorce

以斯拉對 離婚的看法

- Context: Ezra 6:21 suggests gentiles had declined the opportunity to become Jewish and were still worshipping idols
背景：以斯拉記六:21 顯示外邦人拒絕了成為猶太人的機會，並且仍然拜偶像
- As the people return they need to establish an identity but immediately intermingle; what does it mean to be Jewish?
當人們歸回時，他們需要建立一個身份，但又立即混合在一起；成為猶太人意味著什麼？
- 113 guilty (有罪者): 86 laity (平信徒), 27 clergy (神職人員)
- Ezra 10:2 - Shekariah tries to encourage Ezra that “there is still hope for Israel”
以斯拉記十:2 - 示迦尼試圖鼓勵以斯拉「以色列仍有希望」
- Ezra clearly endorses divorce as appropriate
以斯拉明確支持離婚是適當的

Comparison to Malachi

與瑪拉基書 的比較

- Malachi chapter 2: “The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the Lord, God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,” says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be un-faithful
瑪拉基書二：以色列的神耶和華說：「恨惡妻子而休妻的人，」全知全能的神又說：「就是對他要保護的人施暴，」所以要提高警惕，不要不忠。
- Divorce would break the covenant
離婚會破壞契約
- Good can come from a bad situation
好的事情可能來自不好的狀況

New Testament 新約

1 Corinthians 7:12-15 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise, your children would be unclean, but as it is they are holy.

哥林多前書 七:12-15 其餘的人我這樣說（是我，不是主）：「倘若某弟兄有不信的妻子，妻子也情願和他同住，他就不要離棄妻子。妻子有不信的丈夫，丈夫也情願和她同住，她就不要離棄丈夫。因為不信的丈夫就因着妻子成了聖潔，並且不信的妻子就因着丈夫成了聖潔。不然，你們的兒女就不潔淨，但如今他們是聖潔的了。」

- Echoes, and builds on, what was said in Malachi
呼應並建立在瑪拉基書的基礎上
- Can see God never intends for divorce to happen - in case of Ezra though it was perhaps necessary to re-establish their distinct identity as a people
可以看出上帝從未打算讓離婚發生 — 就以斯拉的例子，或許為了重新建立他們作為一個民族的獨特身份是有需要的

As a church how do we deal
with these difficult questions?

作為教會，我們如何處理
這些難題？

Take-away

To never give up hope. The passage (Ezra 9-10) acts as an encouragement that there is still hope – just as there is still hope for Jerusalem despite the fact that they have strayed from God's purposes.

永遠不要放棄希望。經文（以斯拉記 9-10）鼓勵人們要抱有希望—就像對耶路撒冷仍抱有希望，儘管當時他們已經偏離了神的旨意。

Cell group questions

1. How might you respond if someone approached you with a difficult question like the one which challenged Ezra?

如果有人向你提出一個難題，就好比挑戰以斯拉的問題一樣，你會如何回應？

2. Do you find it easier to take an old testament view or a new testament view?

舊約觀點和新約觀點中，你覺得哪個比較容易採取呢？

3. Do you focus on the hope offered in this passage or do you focus on the messiness of the situation?

你關注的是這段經文所提供的希望，還是局勢的混亂呢？

A landscape photograph showing a grassy field with several bare trees. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and casting long shadows. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. A dark, semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "Welcome to Network Church" in white, bold, sans-serif font, and "歡迎來到網絡教會" in white, traditional Chinese characters below it.

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