

I have found it helpful and informative reading through the assignments. There is overlap, but also different aspects are brought up. I thought I'd share this with you all.

I find a bit of a connection between Haggai's message, and that given to the Laodiceans – who were lukewarm in efforts at building the spiritual temple.

From the assignments on Haggai and Nehemiah I put together the following timeline – and found connections with the persecutions that God allowed – all associated with re-building the temple and re-establishing His people in the Land – for His purpose to be achieved. Satan resists where he can, but is always thwarted – and without knowing it, furthers God's greater spiritual purpose (dates taken from assignments, and "Bible timeline")

I find it helpful to see the timeline sequence.

Events affecting Judah

586 BC – fall of Jerusalem

582 Neb's dream and Daniel's interpretation

539 Daniel interprets writing on the wall, saved from lions, and prophecies the deliverance of Israel

537 the proclamation of Cyrus, and exiles return

535 Temple work begins

534 Adversaries hinder the work -Artaxerxes orders work to stop

(Darius ruled 521 – 486)

520 Tattenai's letter to Darius (Ezra 5) and the Word of the Lord by Haggai (1-2) and Zechariah (1-14). Temple work resumes by Darius' decree.

515 completion and dedication of the temple Ezra 6:16

483 Queen Vashti deposed (Esther 1)

478 Esther becomes queen and Mordecai thwarts a conspiracy

474 Haman seeks revenge on the Jews (Esther 3)

473 Mordecai informs Esther of Haman's plot, Esther prepares a banquet, Mordecai is honoured and Haman is hanged. Xerxes edict on behalf of Esther and the Jews.

472 Purim is instituted

(Artaxerxes ruled from 464 -424)

458 Ezra (son of Seraiah – Ezra 2:2) the scribe journeys to Jerusalem (Ezra 7) – commissioned by Artaxerxes.

457 families return with Ezra, and his reforms

445 Nehemiah prays for exiles (Nehemiah 1)

444 Artaxerxes send Nehemiah to Jerusalem – Sanballat's plot, **wall built**, people settle in Jerusalem

432 Nehemiah restores laws (Nehemiah 13)