

Talk 2: Are we going the right way? (Ezra 4–6)

Have a read of Ezra 4–6.

What would be running through your head if the accusation in 4:15 / 4:19 was made against you?

How would you feel if you were in the group in 6:16?

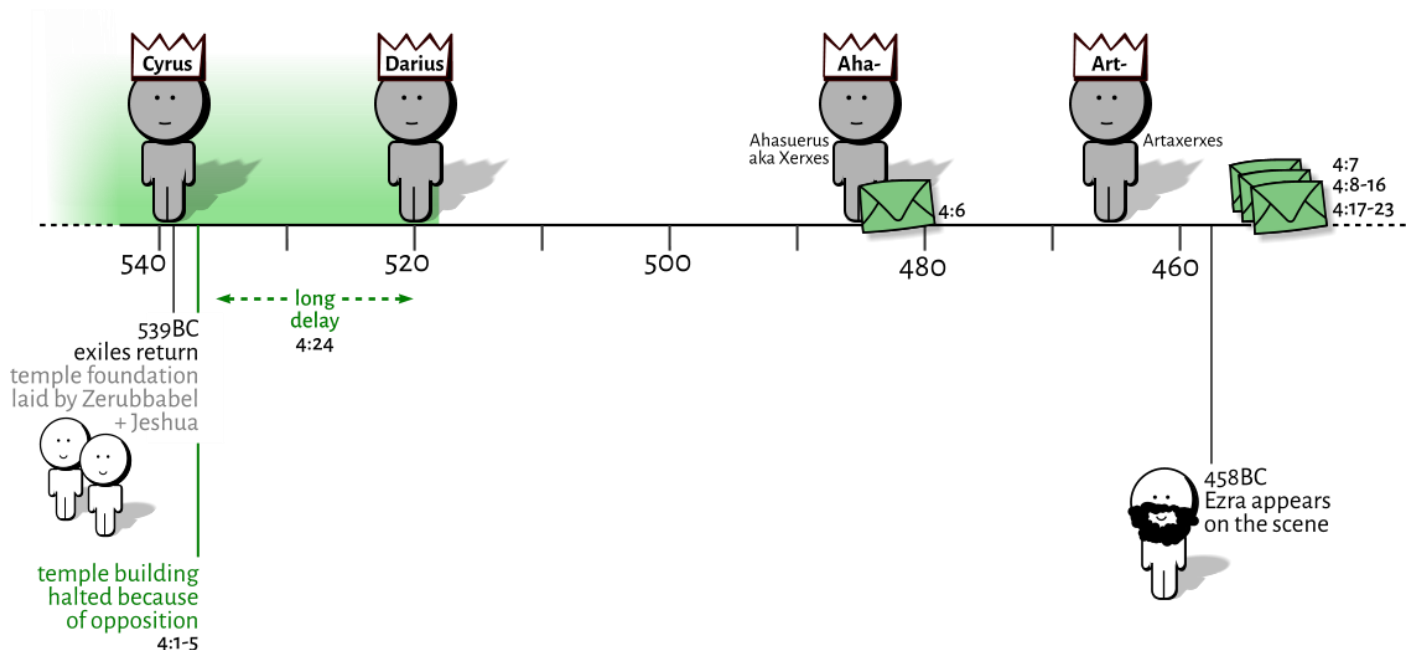
When the road gets rough

Bumps in the road (4:1–24)

The faithfulness that upsets – 4:1–5

(The accusation that sticks – 4:6–23)

The work that suffers – 4:24



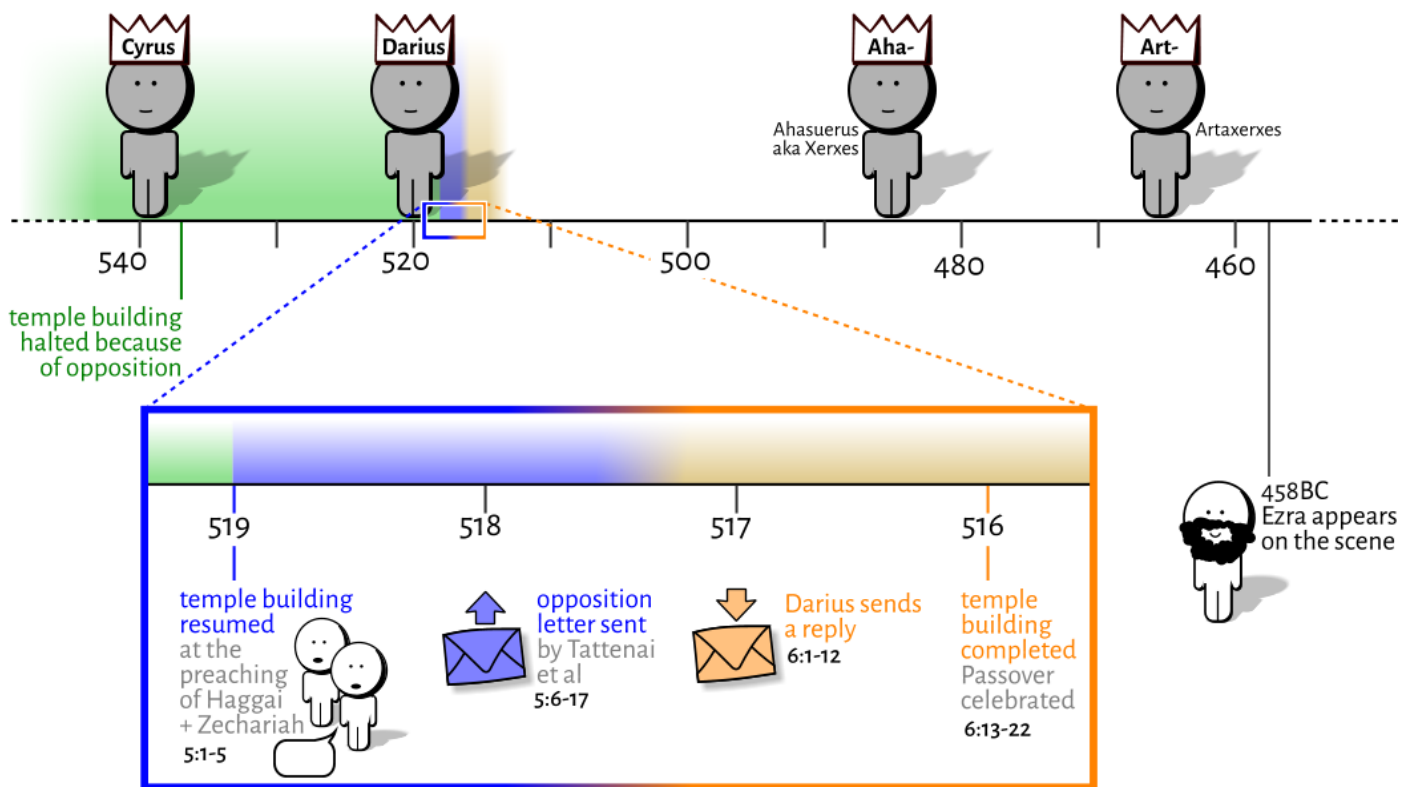
A boost and a barrier (5:1–17)

“Who gave you a decree...?” (v3, v9)

The breakthrough decree (6:1–22)



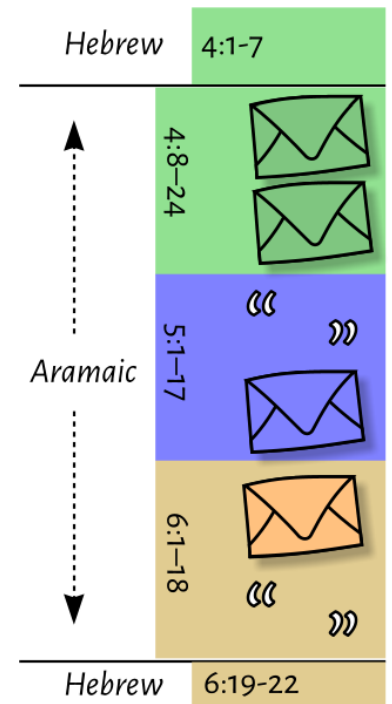
Key lesson #3:



A lesson...

...for the world

... for the people of God



Is this it?

Questions for discussion and reflection

- What are the implications of saying that “our God is the God of heaven” to someone who isn’t a Christian? What are the different reasons that people might have for disliking that?
- Has anyone ever said to you, “You’re not one of **those** Christians, are you?” What did they mean?
- How would you feel if the accusation in 4:15 / 4:19 were made against you, or a Christian group that you were involved in?
- What do these chapters have to say to people who aren’t Christians?
- How do these chapters help us to see the goodness of belonging to God’s people?
- How do these chapters persuade us to stay faithful to God and what he says in the Bible?