

# RETURN TO JERUSALEM

## CBS COURSE FACT SHEET

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

God's mercy and faithfulness to His people is the thread that runs throughout this study of Israel's return from Babylonian exile. In spite of their sin, weakness, and doubt, God keeps true to His promises and helps His faltering people to rebuild and restore their broken lives. As you make your way through Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, you'll see the big picture of God's work in history and be inspired by the examples of some of His chosen servants who played significant roles in fulfilling His purposes in the world. In response to class member suggestions, this newly edited version of the course offers expanded sections on Esther and Malachi.

### COURSE OUTLINE

#### Volume 1

1. From Abraham to the Time of the Judges . . . . .Genesis—1 Samuel 10
2. From David to the Fall of Jerusalem . . . . . 1 Samuel 10—2 Chronicles 36
3. Warning and Judgment—Highlights of Jeremiah . . . . . Selections from Jeremiah
4. God's Watchman—Highlights of Ezekiel . . . . . Selections from Ezekiel
5. Statesman and Prophet—Highlights of Daniel . . . . . Selections from Daniel
6. God's Promise Fulfilled . . . . . Ezra 1–2
7. Temple Rebuilding and Opposition . . . . . Ezra 3–6
8. Haggai Motivates God's People to God's Work . . . . . Haggai 1
9. God's Encouragement . . . . . Haggai 2
10. Bringing God Into Focus . . . . . Zechariah 1–3
11. Supernatural Provision and Care . . . . . Zechariah 4–6
12. Fasting and True Religion . . . . . Zechariah 7–8
13. In the Persian Court . . . . . Esther 1–2
14. For Such a Time as This. . . . . Esther 3–4
15. Pride and Prejudice . . . . . Esther 5–7

#### Volume 2

16. A Happy Ending . . . . . Esther 8–10
17. Ezra's Return to Jerusalem . . . . . Ezra Ezra 6:13-8:36
18. Reformation in Judah . . . . . Ezra 9–10
19. Nehemiah, The Cupbearer. . . . . Nehemiah 1:1-2:8
20. The Challenge in Jerusalem . . . . . Nehemiah 2:9-3:32
21. Building the Jerusalem Wall . . . . . Nehemiah 4–6
22. Reading God's Word . . . . . Nehemiah 7–8
23. Confession and Renewal . . . . . Nehemiah 9–10
24. Dedication of the Jerusalem Wall . . . . . Nehemiah 11:1-12:43
25. Complacency and Reform . . . . . Nehemiah 12:44-13:31
26. Polluted and Profane . . . . . Malachi 1:1-2:9
27. The Messenger of the LORD . . . . . Malachi 2:10-3:12
28. The Coming Day of the LORD . . . . . Malachi 3:13-4:6
29. Messiah, the Shepherd King . . . . . Zechariah 9–11
30. The Lord Is King . . . . . Zechariah 12–14

### COURSE STATISTICS

Length: 30 weeks  
Year first written: 1985  
Year last edited: 2013

### RECOMMENDED CLASSES

Although not required, some previous Old Testament background would provide a helpful foundation for students undertaking this study.

### COMMENTATOR

**Dr. Sam Schultz** (deceased) earned his Doctor of Theology degree from Harvard Divinity School. He was professor of Bible at Wheaton College for 30 years and led its Biblical Studies department for 22 years. He wrote many books on the Old Testament, including *The Old Testament Speaks*. He served as a trustee of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Applications Authors

### QUESTIONS AND THINK ABOUTS

**Marguerite Hermanson** graduated from Wheaton College, with a B.A. in Biblical Studies. She served in youth ministry for many years. She then served CBS as a founding Teaching Director in the Damascus and Frederick, MD, classes.

### 2013 REVISION OF COMMENTARY, QUESTIONS, AND THINK ABOUTS

**Cynthia Bezek** is Editorial Director for CBS. She has an M.A. in journalism from Syracuse University. As a writer, editor, and teacher, Cynthia has worked in Christian publishing for more than 20 years, and has taught in church and retreat settings, at a Bible college, and in a community-based Bible class.

