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RESTORE

REBUILD

REJOICE

EZRA-NEHEMIAH

God's Providence, Our Response

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. God's Providence (1:1-4)**
- 3. Israel's Response (1:5-2:70)**
- 4. Timeless Truths**
- 5. Our Response**



Oct. 1772¹
Catechismus

Oder
Christlicher Unterricht/
wie der in Kirchen und Schu-
len der Churfürstlichen
Pfalz getrieben
wirdt.



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Heidelberg Catechism - Q&A 27

**Q. What do you understand
by the providence of God?**

Heidelberg Catechism - Q&A 27

**A. The almighty and ever present power of God
 by which God upholds, as with His hand,
 heaven and earth and all creatures,
and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought,
 fruitful and lean years, food and drink,
 health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—
 all things, in fact, come to us not by chance
 but by His fatherly hand.**

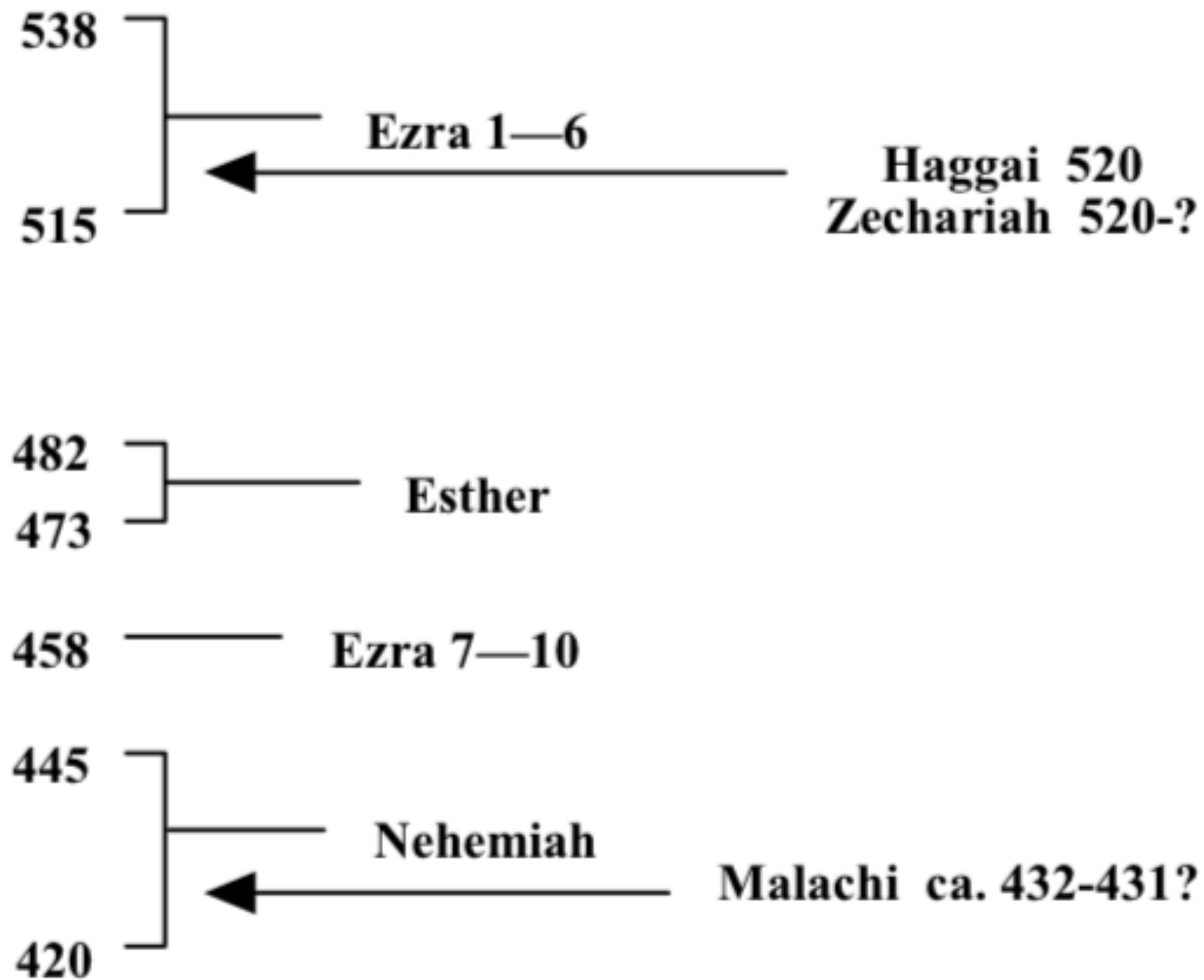
Heidelberg Catechism - Q&A 28

**Q. How does the knowledge
of God's creation and
providence help us?**

Heidelberg Catechism - Q&A 28

**A. We can be patient when things go against us,
thankful when things go well,
and for the future we can have good confidence in our
faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will
separate us from His love.
For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that
without His will they can neither move nor be moved.**

Chronology of the Restoration Period



A. Zerubbabel's return and list of returnees (Ezra 1-2)

B. Building of the temple and opposition (Ezra 3-6)

C. Return of Ezra (Ezra 7-8)

***D. Purification of the People* (Ezra 9-10)**

(C) Return of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1-2)

(B) Building of the walls and opposition (Nehemiah (3:1-7:3)

(A) Zerubbabel's return and list of returnees/final reforms (Nehemiah 7:4-13:31)

God's Providence, Our Response

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Timeless Truths

Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:23-24

Timeless Truths

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.

Hebrews 1:3a

Timeless Truths

Do you not fear me? declares the Lord. Do you not tremble before me? I placed the sand as the boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail; though they roar, they cannot pass over it.

But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and gone away. They do not say in their hearts, “Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest.”

Jeremiah 5:22-24

Timeless Truths

**The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the Lord.**

Proverbs 16:33

Timeless Truths

**The king's heart is a stream of water in the
hand of the Lord;
He turns it wherever He will.**

Proverbs 21:1

Timeless Truths

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:29-31

Timeless Truths

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, for “In Him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed His offspring.”

Acts 17:24-28

Timeless Truths

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Our Response

What about God's providence comforts and encourages you?

Our Response

What about God's providence disturbs you?

Our Response

Why?

Our Response

Think about your responses to the previous questions, and spend some time praying about them. For the things that comfort and encourage you, thank God. For the things that disturb you, ask God to show you why that is the case and to lead you to a point of trust in Him.

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