The Journey From The Exodus To The Exile In The Old Testament

Genesis → Malachi

Ezra-Nehemiah

What happened after the Exile?

1. The first wave of exiles leave Babylon for Jerusalem (Ez. ch's 1-6; 538-516 BC)
2. The Ezra Memoir: Ezra leaves for Jerusalem (Ez. ch's 1-6; 458 BC)
3. **The Nehemiah Memoir: The rebuilding of the walls in Jerusalem** (Neh. ch's 1-7; 445 BC)
4. **Ezra and Nehemiah together in Jerusalem: The renewal of the Covenant** (Neh. ch's 8-13)

Exodus - Deuteronomy

40 years

The EXODUS

(40 years)

The Israelites journey from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land

800 years

WHY?

1. **Idolatry:** The Israelites repeatedly chased after false gods (e.g. the parable of the book of Hosea)
2. **Injustice:** The Israelites failure to care for 'The Quartet of the Vulnerable' (e.g. Zech. 7 v.9-10)

The Prophetic Books

200 years

The EXILE

(70 years)

The Israelites return to slavery:
Northern Kingdom: **Assyria** (722 BC)
Southern Kingdom: **Babylon** (586 BC)

The Plains of Moab (Deuteronomy)

The **Mosaic Covenant** - **'Love God with all your being and love your neighbour as yourself'** - is re-cut between God and the *now grown children*, who'd been either children when leaving Egypt or were born after leaving Egypt (Num. 14 v.20-23; cf: Num. 13 v.1-33 & 14 v.1-25).

"The central message of the Old Testament prophets (over two centuries) was to call the Israelites back to be with God and to be His people who live out the Mosaic Covenant, in the form that had been ended and extended in the book of Deuteronomy."
Peter Gentry in 'How To Read And Understand The Biblical Prophets'

"But as for you, return to your God,
hold fast to love and justice,
and wait continually for your God." (Hosea 12 v.6)

Source(s):
How To Read The Bible: Book By Book (G Fee & D Stuart, p.108-109)
Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther for Everyone, (J Goldingay, p.3-5)
https://bibleproject.com/articles/overlooked-ezra-nehemiah/

(Not to scale)