INTRODUCTION TO THE POST-EXILE LITERATURE
(Ezra 1:1)

I.   Historical Setting

    A.   _____ had fallen to Nebuchadnezzar in _____ BC

    B.   _____ fell to Cyrus the Great in _____ BC

        1.   He permitted people to _____ to their _____
            (cf. Ezra 1:1-3)

        2.   He encouraged them to _____ their places of

            _____

        3.   He authorized _____ to subsidize the _____ (Ezra 1:4)

    C.   Cyrus's son Cambyses II conquered _____ in _____ BC

    D.   The Persian Empire reached the pinnacle of _____ and
        _____ during the reign of Darius I (522 – 486 BC)

        1.   He exercised _____ over the provinces

        2.   He implemented a multi-layer system of _____

    E.   In _____ BC, God commissioned the prophets _____ and
        _____ to exhort the people to _____ the
        _____

    F.   The Temple was _____ in _____ BC (Ezra 6:16-18)

G.   Darius was _____ at the Battle of _____

in _____ BC

H.   Ahasuerus/Xerxes invaded mainland _____ in _____ BC

I.   Artaxerxes I became king in _____ BC

          1.   In the _____ year of his reign, he sent _____ to

                            _____ (457 BC)

          2.   In the _____ year of his reign, he sent

                            _____ to _____ (445 BC)

II.   Chronology of the Post-Exile Literature

A.   Ezra 1 – 4: the days of _____ the Great and Cambyses II (539 – 522 BC)

B.   The prophecies of _____ and _____ (520 –

518 BC)

C.   Ezra 5 – 6: the support of _____ for rebuilding the _____

(ca. 520 BC)

D.   The life of _____ during the reign of Ahasuerus (486 – 465 BC)

E.   Ezra 7 – 10: the ministry of _____ (ca. 457 BC)

F.   Nehemiah 1 – 13: the work of _____ (ca. 445 BC)

G.   The prophecy of _____, during _____

work in Jerusalem (445 – 433 BC)