

Ezra

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This book begins where 2nd Chronicles ended (the decree of Cyrus which released the captives to return to their native land and rebuild the temple, Ezra 1:1-3 and 2 Chronicles 36:22,23). EZRA introduces us to a new era of Israel's history – the period of RESTORATION.

There were three returns from Babylon:

1. Under Zerubbabel (536 B.C.)
2. Under Ezra (453 B.C.)
3. Under Nehemiah (445 B.C.)

EZRA records the work of Zerubbabel and Ezra. The time from the first return to the completion of the temple was about twenty-one years. Between the sixth and seventh chapters of Ezra there is a gap of fifty-seven years, from the sixth year of Darius to the seventh year of Artaxerxes (6:15; 7:3). It was in this interval that the events of the book of Esther took place.

What Is In The Book A survey of each book of the Bible – Part One by Hoyt Houchen (pg.67)

Ezra relates the first two returns from Babylon, the first led by Zerubbabel and the second led decades later by Ezra. The two divisions are the restoration of the temple (chs.1-6) and the reformation of the people (chs.7-10).

Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts (pg. 152)

Ezra Outline

- I. The return of the first group of exiles and the rebuilding 1:1–6:22
 - A. The return of the first group of exiles 1:1–2:70
 1. The decree of Cyrus 1:1–11
 2. The census of the returnees 2:1–70
 - B. The rebuilding of the temple 3:1–6:22
 1. The commencement of the rebuilding 3:1–13
 2. The cessation of the rebuilding 4:1–24
 3. The resumption of the rebuilding 5:1–17
 4. The completion of the rebuilding 6:1–22
- II. The return of the second group of exiles and Ezra's reforms 7:1–10:44
 - A. The return of the second group of exiles 7:1–8:36
 1. The decree of Artaxerxes 7:1–28
 2. The return of Ezra 8:1–36
 - B. The dissolution of the Israelites' mixed marriages 9:1–10:44
 1. The confession of Ezra 9:1–15 2. Ezra's confrontation of the people 10:1–44

Nelson's N.K.J. Study Bible

Questions from the book of Ezra

1. What was the proclamation made by Cyrus? (**chap. 1**)
2. Did the Jews who returned to Jerusalem, return empty handed? (**chap.1**)
3. Describe what was done in the 7th month at Jerusalem. (**chap. 3**)
4. Explain why there was there both joy and sorrow after the foundation of the temple was laid? (**chap. 3**)
5. Who tried to discourage the people of Judah from building the temple? (**chap. 4**)
6. Describe the message that was sent to the king from Rehum the commander. (**chap. 4**)
7. How did the king respond to the letter from Rehum and what affect did this have on the building of the temple? (**chap. 4**)
8. List the names of the two prophets who prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem. (**chap. 5**)

Questions from the book of Ezra

9. Briefly describe the purpose of the letter sent by Tattenai to Darius. (**chap. 5**)

10. What was the response of Darius concerning the letter he received from Tattenai and how did Tattenai react to the instructions of Darius? (**chap. 6**)

11. When was the temple finished and what did the children of Israel do after the temple was finished? (**chap. 6**)

12. How is Ezra described in **Ezra 7:6-10**?

a. What lessons can we learn from Ezra?

13. What do we learn from the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra? (**chap. 7**)

14. How did Ezra react to the letter that he received from the King? (**chap. 7**)

Questions from the book of Ezra

15. What command was given to Iddo and was this command fulfilled? (**chap. 8**)

16. Describe Ezra's focus as he proclaimed a fast at the river of Ahava. (**chap. 8**)

17. Who delivered Ezra and those that were with him from the hand of the enemy? (**chap. 8**)

18. Who is speaking as we read, *“So when I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked out some of the hair of my head and beard, and sat down astonished.”* (**chap. 9**)

a. What caused this action?

19. List some lessons we learn from the prayer of Ezra as recorded in **9:5-15**?

20. What does Shechaniah say to Ezra? (**chap. 10**)

21. How did Ezra respond to the message of Shechaniah? (**chap.10**)