

Series "Route 66"
"Ezra"
Book-15

The Author – Believed to be Ezra though it never names him as the author. Ezra 7-9 is written in the first person. The book is written from a priestly point of view. Ezra wrote - I, 2 Chron, Ezra, Nehemiah, Psalm 119

Ezra - means "help." Ezra was a Priest, Scribe, and a Leader.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah were one book in the Hebrew

Books of: Esther, Ezra & Nehemiah compose the post captivity & Historical books

Post-captivity prophetic books are Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

Ezra leads the second immigration to Jerusalem – Ezra 7:14-26

When Written –

Ezra 1-6 538-516 Covers 22 years

Ezra 7-10 458-457 Covers 1 year

A brief chronology of the period would look like this:

606-605 Babylon begins invading and deporting people

587 Jerusalem falls to the enemy

539 Babylon falls to Cyrus and the Media-Persian empire begins

538 Cyrus permits the Jews to return; about 50,000 return

535 The Jews begin to rebuild the temple, but the work stops

520 After fifteen years, the work begins again

515 The temple is completed and dedicated

476 Esther becomes Queen of Persia

458 Ezra travels to Jerusalem (Ezra 7-10)

Where it was Written –

Purpose – God’s promise to Israel to return to the land is fulfilled thru Ezra, 70 years later. Only a remnant choose to leave Babylon. Ezra leads the Second Immigration to Jerusalem.

- Jer 29:14

1-6 The 1st return of the exiles led by Zerubbabel – People start to rebuild the Temple.

7-10 The second group returns to the Lord - led by Ezra. Between these two accounts is a period of 60 years in which Esther rules as queen of Persia.

Theme – “National and Spiritual Restoration” (Ezra - Rebuilding the Temple, Nehemiah – Rebuilding the Walls)

Key Words – Temple 29X

Key Chapter – Ezra 6

Key Passage – • Ezra 1:3

- Ezra 7:10

Outline –

1. National Restoration under Zerubbabel - Ezra 1-6

Returning to the land - Ezra 1-2

Rebuilding the temple - Ezra 3

Resisting the enemy – Ezra 4-6

2. Spiritual Reformation under Ezra - Ezra 7-10

Ezra comes to Jerusalem - Ezra 7-8

Ezra confesses the sins of the people - Ezra 9

Ezra cleanses the nation – Ezra 10

1. National Restoration under Zerubbabel – Ezra 1-6

Returning to the land – Ezra 1-2

Cyrus King of Persia asked for volunteers to go back and build the house of God: • 2 Chron 36:22-23

Ezra 1:1-3 Cyrus' Proclamation Return and Rebuild:

- Ezra 1:1

Nebuchadnezzar had taken Judah into captivity for 70 years. Babylon overthrown by Persia

God said 70 years - • Jeremiah 25:11-12

- Ezra 1:2-3

Ezra 2:1-35 The Numbers of Returning People: • Ezra 2:1

Ezra 2:36-39 The Returning Priests

Ezra 2:40-60 The Returning Levites

Ezra 2:61-63 Priests Removed: • Ezra 2:61-63

Ezra 3:1-7 The Alter and Sacrifice: • Ezra 3:1-3

- Ezra 3:6

Rebuilding the Temple: Ezra 3:10-13

Resisting the enemy – • Ezra 4-6

Ezra 4:1-3 Compromise Of The Enemy: • Ezra 4:1-3

These people were the Samaritans, a half-breed nation of mixed Jews and Gentiles. 2 Kings 17 for a description of the Samaritans and their false religion. In John 4:20-24, Jesus clearly rejectd Samaritan religion.

Ezra 4:4-5 Interference of The Enemy:

- Ezra 4:24

Note: 4:6-23 is a parenthesis describing opposition at a later date: • Ezra 4:6-7

Ezra 5 Resuming The Work: • Ezra 5:1-2

- Ezra 5:5

Ezra 6:**1-12 Memorandum Let God's People Build:** • Ezra 6:11-12

Ezra **6:13-18 Temple Completed and Dedicated:** • Ezra 6:15-18

Ezra 6:19-22 The Passover Observed

2. Spiritual Reformation under Ezra - Ezra 7-10

Ezra comes to Jerusalem – Ezra 7-8

- Ezra 7:6, 8-10

For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD, (**Heart**)

and to practice it, (**Actions**)

and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel. (**Outflow-Ministry**)

Ezra 7:11-26 The Kings Decree For Ezra: • Ezra 7:11

Ezra's Doxology (Giving Thanks): • Ezra 7:27-28

Ezra 8:1-14 People That Went With Ezra

Ezra 8:15-20 Ezra Drafts The Levites

Ezra's Fast And Trust In God: • Ezra 8:21-23

Ezra 9 Ezra confesses the sins of the people: • Ezra 9:1-4

- Neh 13:25

Ezra 9:5-15 Ezra's Prayer of Confession: **Daniel 9, Nehemiah 9 and now Ezra 9 Are the great prayers of confession.**

Ezra 10 Ezra Cleanses the Nation: • Ezra 10:1

Ezra 10:18-44 Ezra states that seventeen priests, ten Levites, and eighty-seven other men were found guilty of marrying heathen wives.

How long did this reformation last? About twenty-five years later, Nehemiah faced the same problem (• Neh. 13:23).

Application:

1. God had promised captivity to the sinning nation, and He fulfilled His promise.
2. God also promised that a remnant would return. (• Jer. 25:12-14 and 29:10-14). It was Jeremiah's prophecy that Daniel read in Babylon that encouraged him to pray for the return of the people (• Dan. 9:1).
3. God kept a "lamp lit" at Jerusalem in order that His Son might be born through the Hebrew nation and come to save the world.
4. The captivity cured the Jews of idolatry and gave them a desire to know and obey the Word. Alas, they forgot their lessons quickly!