

EZRA

AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #15



AUTHOR: THE SCRIBE AND
SCHOLAR EZRA



WRITTEN: 450 BC

Covering the time period of 550-510 BC

15

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS:

Contains the account of hundreds of men sending away their foreign wives, whom they had married against God's plan. The book covers the period following the Great Exile and the rebuilding of the temple.

KEY STORIES:

- King Cyrus decrees the work of the Temple may begin.
- Spiritual Revival under Ezra

KEY VERSES:

Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. **Ezra 1:5**

Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever. **Ezra 9:12**

Important Points about the Book:

- Details the rebuilding of Solomon's Temple after the Great Exile.
- Shows the unity among the returning tribes as they came home from the Babylonian Exile.
- Ezra arrived with another 2,000 people and God used him to spark a spiritual revival among His people.
- One problem before the exile was that men had married foreign (strange) wives who drove them away from God and into idolatry.
- By the end of Ezra, Israel had repented and were obedient.

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Ezra is the first of the post-captivity books (along with Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi). It records the return of a Jewish remnant to Palestine, the building of the temple, and the establishment of the Israelites under tribute to Media-Persia. The original land grant of the Abrahamic Covenant rightfully belongs to the Jewish remnant.

The opposition of the Arabs against the Jews pictures the works of the flesh against the spirit (**Galatians 4:29**). The vital ingredient in building a work for God is the preparation of one's heart as demonstrated by Ezra. Ezra and Nehemiah reveal the opposition one faces when building a work. Haggai and Zechariah demonstrate the proper steps of obeying God rather than Man (**Acts 5:29**).



NUMBER OF
CHAPTERS:
10



TYPE:
HISTORY



DATE WRITTEN:
450 BC



PERIOD COVERED:
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AUTHOR:
EZRA THE SCRIBE

BREAKDOWNS

Ezra 1	King Cyrus of Persia Helps Israel
Ezra 2	Record of Those Returning From the Exile
Ezra 3	Rebuilding the Temple
Ezra 4-6	Builders Face Opposition
Ezra 7	Ezra Comes to Jerusalem
Ezra 8	List of Families Returning and The Return
Ezra 9	Ezra Prays For Sanctity In Marriage
Ezra 10	People Put Away the Strange Wives

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT II CHRONICLES:

- Chapters: 10
- Verses: 280
- Words: 7,440
- Ezra shows how God fulfills His promise to return His people to the land of promise some 70 years after the exile.

■ The return from Babylon to Judea has been called Israel's "Second Exodus".

■ Ezra was a godly man characterized by:

- ◇ A strong trust in God
- ◇ Moral integrity
- ◇ Grief over sin.

■ During the period covered by the Book of Ezra:

- ◇ Gautama Buddha lived in India (560-480B.C.)
- ◇ Confucius lived in China (551-479B.C.)
- ◇ Socrates lived in Greece (470-399B.C.)

■ King Darius found the decree of Cyrus and carried it out.

■ Those who returned from the Exile are from the tribes of:

- ◇ Judah
- ◇ Benjamin
- ◇ Levi

→Chronology of the rebuilding of the Temple:

- Completed 21 years after the foundations were laid
- Opposition stopped the work for 14 years (534-520B.C.)
- Work resumed in 520B.C.)
- The Temple was completed 5 years later in 515B.C.
- Actual work on the Temple took 7 years.