

Ezra

10 chapters, 280 verses

First return of the exiles from captivity

Second return of the exiles from captivity

Ezra went to Jerusalem 13 years before Nehemiah. The temple had been finished for almost 60 years. Zerubbabel, Joshua, Haggai and Zechariah were all dead.



Ezra, the priest and scribe

Restoration						Reform														
	The decree of Cyrus	The return to Jerusalem	The list of those who returned w/ Zerubbabel	Rebuilding the altar of worship	Begin to rebuild the temple	Enemies stop the work	Historical parenthesis	Restart temple construction	Enemies write the king	The decree of Darius	Finish & dedicate temple	Ezra travels to Jerusalem	The decree of Artaxerxes	Ezra thanks God	Those who came with Ezra	Details of the trip	The sin of the people	Ezra's prayer of confession	The people repent	List of the offenders
Chapter	1	2	3	4	5	6						7	8	9	10					
Action	The Trip			The Work						The Trip			The Work							
Jewish leader	Zerubbabel						Ezra													
Persian King	CYRUS			DARIUS						ARTAXERXES										
Progress	Provision		Begin temple	Opposition from the outside			Finish temple		Provision			Opposition from the inside	Correc-tion							
	Permission	Payment	People						Permission	Payment	People									
Dates	538 BC		536 BC			520 BC		516 BC		458 BC			457 BC							
Time	23 years						57 yrs.					2 years								
Process	Temple commission			Temple construction						Priests & Pilgrims			Polluting & Purging							
Focus	The <u>rebuilding</u> of worship						The <u>rescue</u> from holocaust					The <u>renewal</u> of consecration								

13 years later Nehemiah arrives

Key words/terms

Jerusalem (48x)
Decree, order, command
House (of the Lord)
Law (of Moses, of Jehovah, etc.)
The God of heaven (9x)

- C** Correspondence/decrees
- L** Lists

Ezra

1. Name means "helper"
2. He was a scribe. 2/3 of the book consists of lists and copied documents. (184 out of the 280 verses of the book.)
3. Possibly the author/editor of Chronicles, Esther and Nehemiah.
4. Jews consider him like a second Moses in importance

In the post-exilic literature we learn relatively little about Zerubbabel and Ezra and a great deal about Nehemiah and Esther.

Key verse: Ezra 7:9-10 For ... on the first of the fifth month he (Ezra) came to Jerusalem, because the good hand of his God was upon him. For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.

They not only restored the temple worship but also worked on aligning the people with God's standards. What is public worship w/o private consecration? Solemn assembly w/o sincere holiness? Sacrifices w/o sanctification? An abomination!