

Ezra - “God’s Continuing Covenant of Grace to Israel”

From Whom: The book of Ezra is a Narrative History and Genealogies. It is widely believed that Ezra wrote this book between 457–444 B.C. He was a descendant of Hilkiah (**Ezra 7:1**), the high priest who found a copy of the Law during the reign of Josiah (**2 Chronicles 34:14**).

Ezra, a priest, was unable to serve God during the captivity, so he spent his time studying the Word of God: “he was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses...the hand of the LORD his God was upon him.” (**Ezra 7:6**).

To Whom: Ezra accurately records for Israel, the events of the return from the Babylonian exile, and the events that surround the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem.

What/ Theme: As stated earlier, God’s hand was clearly upon Ezra. Ezra had access to the decrees, proclamations, letters, lists, genealogies, and memoranda, many of them written by the Persian administration, attesting to the sovereign hand of God in Israel’s restoration.

Where/ Notable People: Key personalities include Cyrus, Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah, Darius, Artaxerxes, and Zerubbabel. Esther became Queen between chapter 6 and 7 of Ezra, which places her in a position of favorable influence for both Ezra and Nehemiah.

Key Take Away: God is faithful in fulfilling His promises, even when only a small remnant of His people seems to be interested. God’s administration overrides that of any of the kings of this world, and thus the book of Ezra is a message of God’s faithful covenant and grace to Israel.

Outline:

1. Return from Babylon Under Zerubbabel (1:1–6:22)

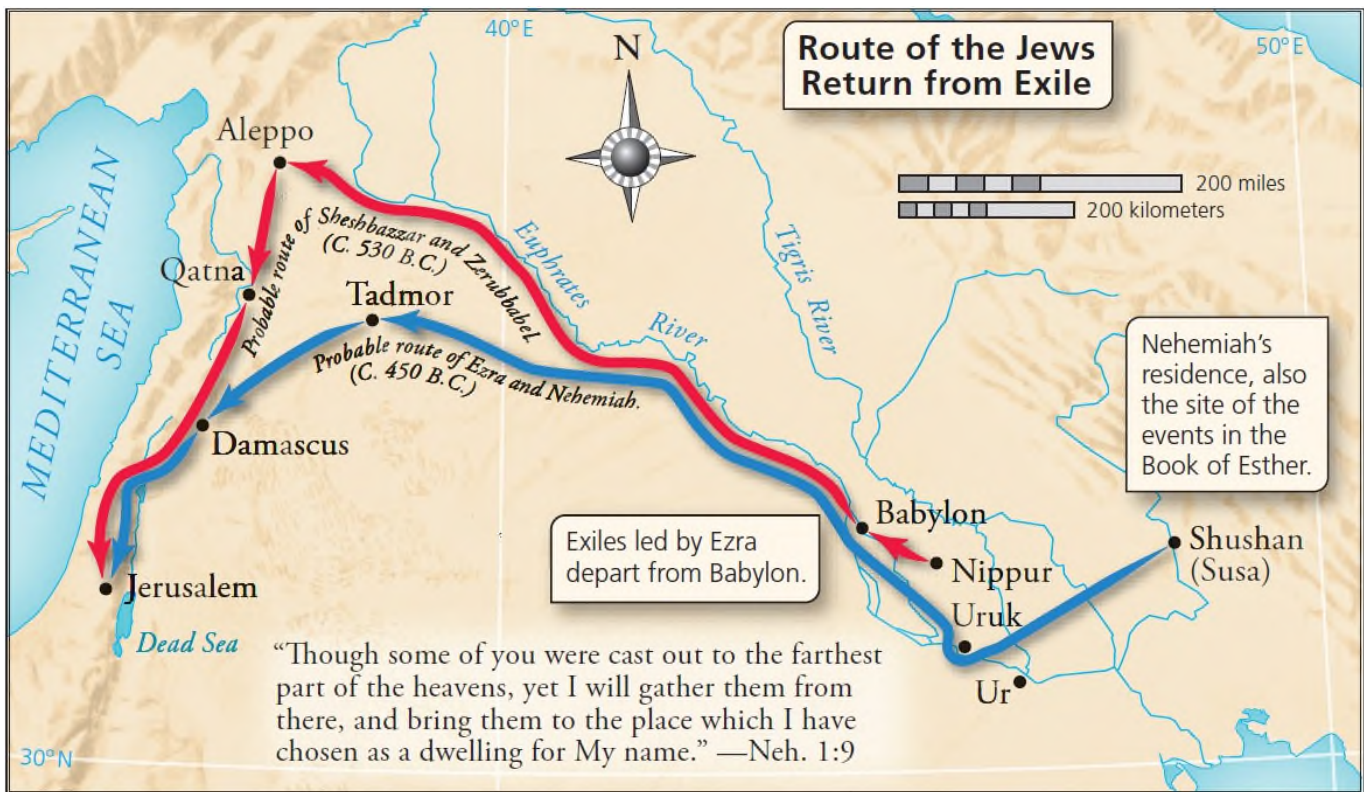
- a. Return from Babylon (**1:1–2:70**)
- b. Construction of the Second Temple (**3:1–6:22**)

2. Ezra's Return from Babylon (7:1–10:44)

- a. Ezra's Return (**7:1–8:36**)
- b. Ezra's Revival (**9:1–10:44**)

EZRA AT A GLANCE				
Focus	Restoration Of the Temple		Reformation Of the People	
Reference	1:1 ————— 3:1		7:1 ————— 9:1 ————— 10:44	
Division	First Return To Jerusalem	Construction Of The Temple	Second Return To Jerusalem	Restoration Of The People
Topic	Zerubbabel		Ezra	
	First Return Of 49,897		Second Return Of 1,754	
Location	Persia To Jerusalem		Persia To Jerusalem	
Time	22 Years (538–516 B.C.)		1 Year (458–457 B.C.)	

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THE TEMPLES OF THE BIBLE			
The Temple	Date	Description	Reference
The Tabernacle (Mobile Temple)	about 1444 B.C.	Detailed plan received by Moses from the Lord Constructed by divinely appointed artisans Desecrated by Nadab and Abihu	Ex. 25–30; Ex. 35:30–40:38; Lev. 10:1–7
Solomon's Temple	966–586 B.C.	Planned by David Constructed by Solomon Destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar	2 Sam. 7:1–29; 1 Kin. 8:1–66; Jer. 32:28–44
Zerubbabel's Temple	516–169 B.C.	Envisioned by Zerubbabel Constructed by Zerubbabel and the elders of the Jews Desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes	Ezra 6:1–22; Ezra 3:1–8; 4:1–14; Matt. 24:15
Herod's Temple	19 B.C.–A.D. 70.	Zerubbabel's temple restored by Herod the Great Destroyed by the Romans	Mark 13:2, 14–23; Luke 1:11–20; 2:22–38; 2:42–51; 4:21–24; Acts 21:27–33
The Present Temple	Present Age.	Found in the heart of the believer The body of the believer is the Lord's only temple until the Messiah returns	1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 2 Cor. 6:16–18
The Temple of Revelation 11	Tribulation Period.	To be constructed during the Tribulation by the Antichrist To be desecrated and destroyed	Dan. 9:2; Matt. 24:15; Thess. 2:4; Rev. 17:18
Ezekiel's (Millennial) Temple	Millennium.	Envisioned by the prophet Ezekiel To be built by the Messiah during His millennial reign	Ezek. 40:1—42:20; Zech. 6:12, 13
The Eternal Temple of His Presence	The Eternal Kingdom.	The greatest temple of all ("The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple") A spiritual temple	Rev. 21:22; Rev. 22:1–21
The temple (Gk. <i>hieron</i>) is a place of worship, a sacred or holy space built primarily for the national worship of God.			