

EZRA OUTLINE

Ezra Chapter 1

The Introduction to the Book of Ezra

Timeline

Ezra 1-6

Then Esther

Then Ezra 7-10

Then the Book of Nehemiah

So chronologically we are dealing with the books that record the last events of Old Testament history. They cover about how many years? 100

They rebuilt that temple – that is the story of Ezra 1-6

Ezra 7-10 – the recovery of the Law – God's Word

In Nehemiah we have the rebuilding of the wall

These first six chapters record four great stories:

Ezra 1-2 – (preparations) – they don't arrive back into the land until the end of Chapter 2

Ezra 3 – they set up an altar and put down the foundation of the Temple
(foundations)

Ezra 4-vs. 1 – adversaries – Chapter 4 talks about – (oppositions)

Ezra 5:2 – completion of the work in Chapters 5 and 6 – we will call it
(completions)

Now look at **Ezra 1**

First section – vs. 1-4 – proclamation of a heathen king named Cyrus

Second section – vs. 5-6 – the remnant rising up – preparing to return

Third section – vs. 7-11 – the restoration of the Temple vessels

Ezra 2

“The Recordings of God”

Ezra 3

Ezra 3 – records the important things that took place immediately after the Jews
returned to Israel

This chapter records the events roughly over a two-year period after they came back to
Jerusalem:

#1 – vs. 1-6 – rebuilding of the altar

#2 – vs. 7-13 – the laying of the foundation of the Temple

Ezra 4

Chapter 4 – is a record of opposition – for the entire period of time in Ezra, Esther, Nehemiah

Explanation of opposition

Forms of opposition

Methods of opposition

The purpose of the opposition – vs. 5 – to frustrate the work of God

Ezra 5

Four men that God used:

Civil leader - Zerubbabel

Religious head – Jeshua

Two prophets – Haggai and Zechariah

The building of the Temple was stopped for 16 years

How did the construction start again? Two prophets preaching

Ezra 6

Chapter 3 The building commenced

Chapter 4 The building ceased

Chapter 5 The building continued

Chapter 6 The building completed

Vs. 13-22 has three sections to it:

#1 Finishing of the House of the Lord – vs. 13-15

#2 Dedicating of the House of the Lord – vs. 16-18

#3 Services in the House of the Lord – vs. 19-22

Ezra 7

So far, in Ezra we have seen all kinds of people

Yet no Ezra – we haven't seen Ezra, for whom the book is titled

Now we finally see Ezra!

“Ezra's World”

The historical context of this time; we have leaped forward 60 years.

Lineage of Ezra vs. 1-5

Chapters 7-8 – records Ezra’s return

Most of Chapter 7 beginning with verse 11 on through vs. 26 was a letter of recommendation given to Ezra by Artaxerxes.

Chapter 8 gives the names of the chief men going back and the journey that they took. So by the end of Chapter 8, Ezra and his group have arrived in Israel – vs. 32. Chapters 9 and 10 record Ezra’s ministry of renewal among his people.

Ezra 8

Ezra targets key men!

Godly leader’s response to sin

Ezra 9

Ezra responds three ways to the sin of the people:

First – emotionally

Secondly – prayerfully

And then in Chapter 10 – practically, procedurally

Ezra 10

Ezra 9:1 opens with a mess on Ezra's hands

There was sin in the camp – intermarriage

In Chapter 10, he begins to deal with the problem