

Ezra

Author & Date:

The actual _____ of the book of Ezra is never stated in the book. However, arguments favor Ezra the scribe/Priest. One of the most convincing reasons for this position is the fact that the writer changes from writing in the _____ person (Ch 1-6) to writing in the _____ person (Ch 7-10). Ezra was a descendant of Aaron (Ch 7:1-5). One interesting nugget is that the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, might have originally been _____ book.

Setting:

The setting of the book of Ezra is a return to their land after being taken captive by their enemies. Because of the rebellion, sin and idolatry of Gods people both Israel & Judah, He allowed them to be overtaken by their adversaries as a form of _____. In 722 B.C. the Assyrians deported the northern 10 tribes, later the Babylonians would invade Jerusalem, leading to 70 yrs. of captivity. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah report the return to the land from those years of captivity. An interesting twist in these historical events is that _____, the Persian actually invaded and overthrew Babylon while Gods people were being held captive there. He serves as an agent to have Gods people released and sent back to their land.

It is important to understand that the deportation from Israel to Babylon took place in 3 waves, as did the return from Babylon to Jerusalem. This took place over a span of 9 decades.

1st wave out of captivity – led by Zerubbabel

2nd wave out of captivity – led by Ezra

3rd wave out of captivity – led by Nehemiah

Notice that the book of _____ begins basically where _____ ends.
2 Chron 36:22-23
Ezra 1:1-3

Chapter 1

Ezr 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, **the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia**, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying,

Ezr 1:2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, **The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.**

*****We learn something very interesting here about how the lord worked in the OT. When his children needed chastening, He would invoke an invasion by a _____ nation. In the case of the current events of the era of Ezra, it was Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. He invaded the land and took Gods people away into captivity.**

When God was finished chastening his children, He would then raise up another gentile nation to _____ those he had used to chasten his children.

In this case, it was Cyrus king Of Persia. At this time, his empire was the greatest in military prowess in the world. He had overthrown Babylon and in doing so found the Jewish captives.

God had stirred his heart to have the _____ rebuilt in Jerusalem. This would orchestrate the return of Gods people to their land as He seeks among them, those He can appoint to the project.

Ezra 1:3-5

Men rose up from among Gods captive people and said “_____”.

*****When Nebuchadnezzar ran-sacked Jerusalem he stole the _____ of the house of God and put them in the house of his false gods. Cyrus was going to make sure they were _____!**

Ezra 1:9-11

Chapter 2

Ezr 2:1 Now these *are* the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city;

It's saying: here's the list of those who first came back to Jerusalem. This would be the first wave and here's who lead it.

Ezr 2:2 Which came with Zerubbabel: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

*****This Zerubbabel came from the _____ line. He would be mentioned by both Haggai & Zechariah.**

Haggai 1:1-5

Haggai is a two chapter book about the _____ of rebuilding the temple!

Zechariah 4:6-9

In Zechariah, his message was to encourage the people in the tough task of rebuilding the temple. Zerubbabel had lead the charge to lay the foundation for the 2nd temple but the people had grown _____ Of heart.

(V3-62) Genealogy

Ezr 2:59 And these *were* they which went up from Telmelah, Telharsa, Cherub, Addan, *and* Immer: **but they could not shew their father's house, and their seed, whether they *were* of Israel:**

Ezr 2:60 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two.

Ezr 2:61 And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name:

Ezr 2:62 These sought their register *among* those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.

Why is there so much genealogy in the bible? Because, if you couldn't trace your lineage and prove the legitimacy of your ancestry, it could cause you to have to _____ privileges and rights!!!

Ezr 2:63 And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.

Ezr 2:64 **The whole congregation together *was* forty and two thousand three hundred *and* threescore,**

...The Number That Zerubbabel Lead Back Was _____ (Plus)

Ezra 2:65-70

Chapter 3

The _____ & _____ are rebuilt and the people resume the observance of sacrifice, feasts, etc.

Chapter 4

_____ come against the rebuilding of the temple.

Ezr 4:5 And hired counsellors against them, **to frustrate their purpose**, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Here's a cool nugget, from Cyrus to Darius was the season of this "frustration" in the building on the temple. It lasted about _____ and was the background for the ministry of the prophet Haggai, in which the people _____ in spiritual matters and attended to personal ones.

Haggai 1:1-8

(v7-24) A letter is written to King Artaxerxes to try and get him to _____ the building of the temple in Jerusalem and it works.

Chapter 5

Rebuilding _____

Chapter 6

(v1-12) King Darius makes a decree

(v13-18) The temple is finished and _____

(v19-22) Passover celebrated

Chapter 7

Ezra is sent to _____ the people

Chapter 8

(v1-14) The Genealogy of those who _____ with Ezra

(v15-20) Ezra sends for the _____

(v21-23) A _____ is called for protection

(v24-36) Duties of the _____ established

Chapter 9

Ezra prays about _____

Chapter 10

(v1-17) The people _____ their sin

(v18-44) Those who were _____ of intermarrying.