

Outline of Ezra

- 1-6 First Return Under Zerubbabel
- 7-10 Second Return Under Ezra

Author

Some scholars believe Ezra and Nehemiah were originally a single book. Internal evidence seems to indicate that Ezra is the author of the book that bears his name. When Ezra appears on the scene the author switches from writing in third person to the first person.

Chapters 1-6 Summary

God moves the heart of the Gentile King Cyrus to commission Sheshbazzar, "the prince of Judah", to rebuild the altar and lay the foundations of the Temple. Nearly 50,000 exiles return to Jerusalem led by Zerubbabel with Joshua the high priest. The Samaritans cause the work to be suspended. But in the reign of Darius the decree was rediscovered, the Temple completed, and the people celebrate the Feast of Passover.

Chapters 7-10 Summary

God moves the heart of the Gentile king Artaxerxes to commission Ezra the scribe and priest to return to Jerusalem and teach the laws of God. Ezra leads many more exiles back to Jerusalem. He discovered that Jewish men were marrying non-Jewish women. Ezra braves opposition of his countrymen to purify the community by dissolving the sinful marriages.

EZRA

Ezra shows how God's covenant people were restored from the Babylonian exile to the Covenant land as a theocratic community even under Gentile rule.

Political independence was not attained. As a remnant, there were representatives from all the tribes of Israel. The Temple was rebuilt and its services (daily sacrifices) revived according to the Law of Moses.

The holy city of Jerusalem was rebuilt and inhabited. The Covenant was renewed. Just

returns to Jerusalem.

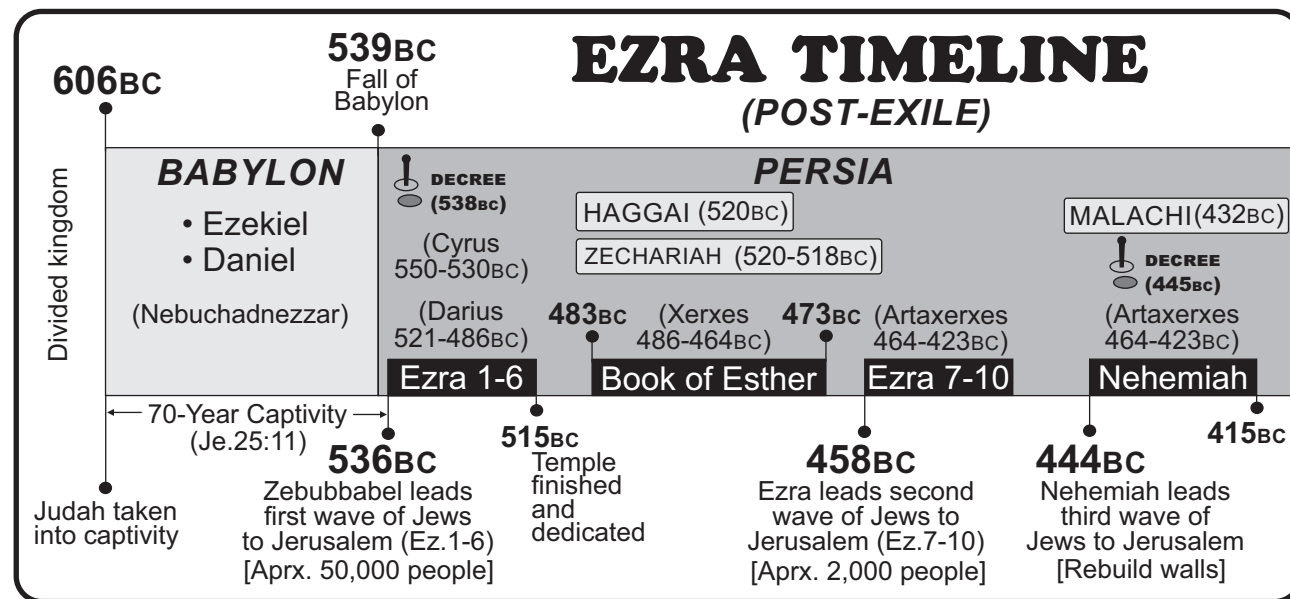
The first was led by Zerubbabel to rebuild the Temple (538BC). The second was led by Ezra 81 years later (457BC) to rebuild the people spiritually.

BOOK
15

Ez.

EZRA

10
CHAPTERS



as God used world powers to judge His people, He also used them to restore them back to the land. Israel still awaits the "new covenant" as spoken by Jeremiah (Je.31), and the renewal by God's Spirit as announced by Joel (Jl.1) and Ezekiel (Ek.36).

The book is divided into two sections (chapters 1-6 and 7-10). These describe two



CHRIST IN EZRA

- Rebuilding the Temple foreshadows the future Millennial Temple where Christ will rule (Ek.40-48).
- The Remnants kept the feasts picturing the future Millennial Feast of Tabernacles (Zc.14:16). All the feasts picture Christ.