

Ezra

- Portrays the Lord Jesus Christ as our Restorer.
- Ezra + Nehemiah were one book.
- The **return** of God's people after exile...
- Key verse: **Ezra 7:10**
- Ezra was a godly, Levite **priest** ("scribe") who aimed at **thoroughly teaching the Word of God.**
- He insisted on **complete separation** from ALL ungodly alliances...

- “Ezra” means **“help”**
- He **“prepared his heart to...”** (Ezra 7:10)
- Great **revival of Bible study...!**
- God responded to **prayer...!** (Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah...)
- **Priority of Bible reading!** (Neh 8)
- On return they first built the **altar**, then laid the **foundation** of the temple, then built the **temple** of the Lord, ...and only then built their own **homes...** (later: **walls** of city)...
- Note: **2 “exodus” movements** in the Old Testament history: (1) from Egypt, (2) from Babylon...

Outline

- **Rebuilding the Temple Walls**
(1-6) – under Zerubbabel (20y)
- **Restoring the Temple Worship**
(7-10) – under Ezra (1y; 80y later)

Rebuilding the Temple Walls

(1-6) – under Zerubbabel (x20y)

- 1. The Restoration (1)*
- 2. The Registration (2)*
- 3. The Reconstruction (3)*
- 4. The Resistance (4)*
- 5. The Revival (5)*

Restoring the Temple Worship

(7-10) – under Ezra (x1y; 80y later)

- 1. His Exercise (7)*
- 2. His Experiences (8)*
- 3. His Example (9)*
- 4. His Exhortation (10)*

Context

3 stages of deportations

- 605 BC – Nebuchadnezzar – Jehoiakim, leading nobles, Daniel
- 597 BC – 2nd Babylonian – Jehoiachin, people of importance, Ezekiel
- 586 BC – final destruction Jerusalem – Zedekiah broke oath – final deportation...

3 stages of return from captivity

- 538 BC – Cyrus – Zerubbabel – to rebuild the temple
- 458 BC – under Ezra
- 445 BC – under Nehemiah – rebuild walls of Jerusalem...