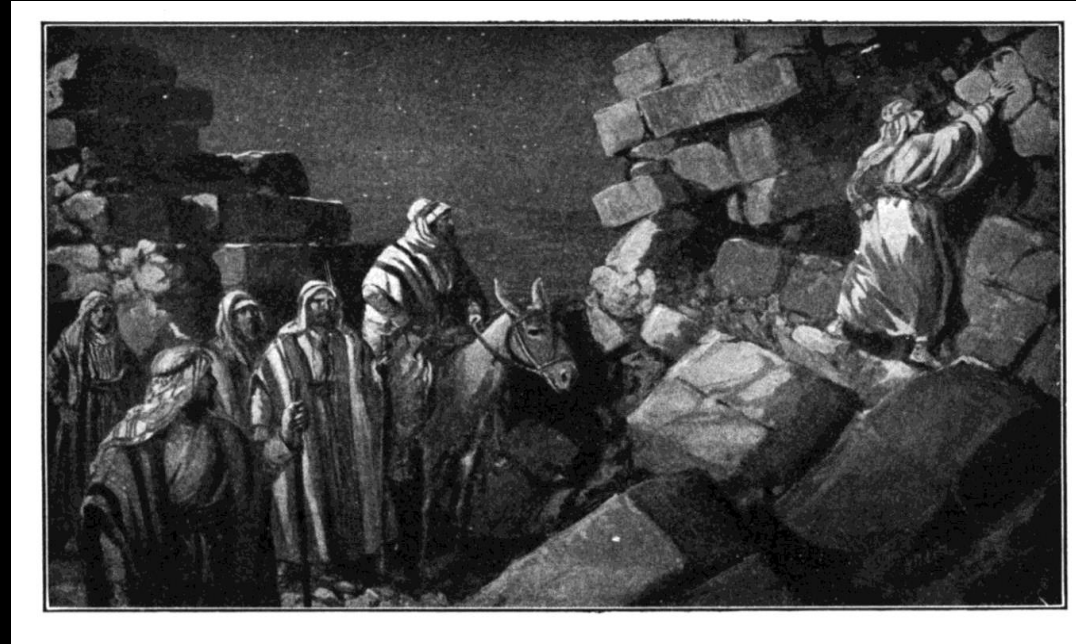


A Time to Build



A Study of the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

Survey of Ezra

Restoration of the Temple 1:1 – 6:22		58-year gap of time	Reformation of the People 7:1 – 10:44	
First Return to Jerusalem (1-2)	Construction of the Temple (3-6)		Second Return to Jerusalem (7-8)	Reformation of the People (9-10)
Zerubbabel			Ezra	
First Return (49,897)			Second Return (1,754)	
From Babylon to Jerusalem			From Babylon to Jerusalem	
22 years (538 - 516 B.C.)			1 year (458 - 457 B.C.)	

Ezra: A Time to Build

Ezra 1-6	Ezra 7-10
Physical building	Spiritual building
Rebuilding the temple	Reforming the people
Ezra 1:1-4	Ezra 7:10, 25-26
538 – 516 B.C.	458 – 457 B.C.

Ezra: A Time to Build

Chapter	Theme
Ezra 1-2	Return
Ezra 3-4	Rebuild
Ezra 5-6	Revive
Ezra 7-8	Replenish
Ezra 9-10	Reform

Applications for Today

1. It is good that the Lord's people can be united – as one man – to do the Lord's work (3:1; Eph. 4:1-16).
2. Always do things according to the law of God (3:2; Col. 3:17).
3. Bring your free-will offerings and sacrifices to the Lord (3:3-6; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Heb. 13:15-16).

Applications for Today

4. The foundation of the Lord's temple that is laid for the NT church is Jesus Christ himself (3:10; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20-21).
5. Instrumental music in worship to God is "after the order of David king of Israel", but it is not according to the law of the son of David [Jesus] king of kings (3:10; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

Applications for Today

6. We should praise and thank the Lord for his goodness and lovingkindness (3:11; Isa. 63:7).
7. Just because someone says they seek and serve God just like we do does not mean that is actually true (4:2; Jer. 10:10; Jn. 17:2; 1 Thess. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:20).

Applications for Today

8. There will always be adversaries and individuals who make false accusations against the Lord's people and seek to oppose the doing of the Lord's work (4:1-24; 1 Cor. 16:9-10; Phil. 1:28; 1 Thess. 2:18; 3:2; 2 Tim. 4:14-18; 1 Pet. 5:8).
9. People in the world will "twist the truth" and use it against God's people (4:12; Luke 23:2; Acts 16:20-21; 17:7).

Applications for Today

10. Don't allow yourself to be hindered in doing the Lord's work and never stop doing the Lord's work (4:24; 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10).

Ezra 4 and Three Types of Opposition

- **Cooperation** (4:1-3): leads to compromise
- **Intimidation** (4:4-5): leads to fear
- **Legislation** (4:6-23): leads to breaking man's law

Ezra 3-4: Rebuild

- These faithful Jews were concerned to rebuild what was right (authorized) after they had failed miserably with what was wrong (3:1-5; comp. with 2 Chron. 36:14)
- Do we have the courage, conviction, and commitment to return and rebuild what is authorized by God's word (2 Tim. 1:13; Jude 3)? Will we do this in the face of opposition?