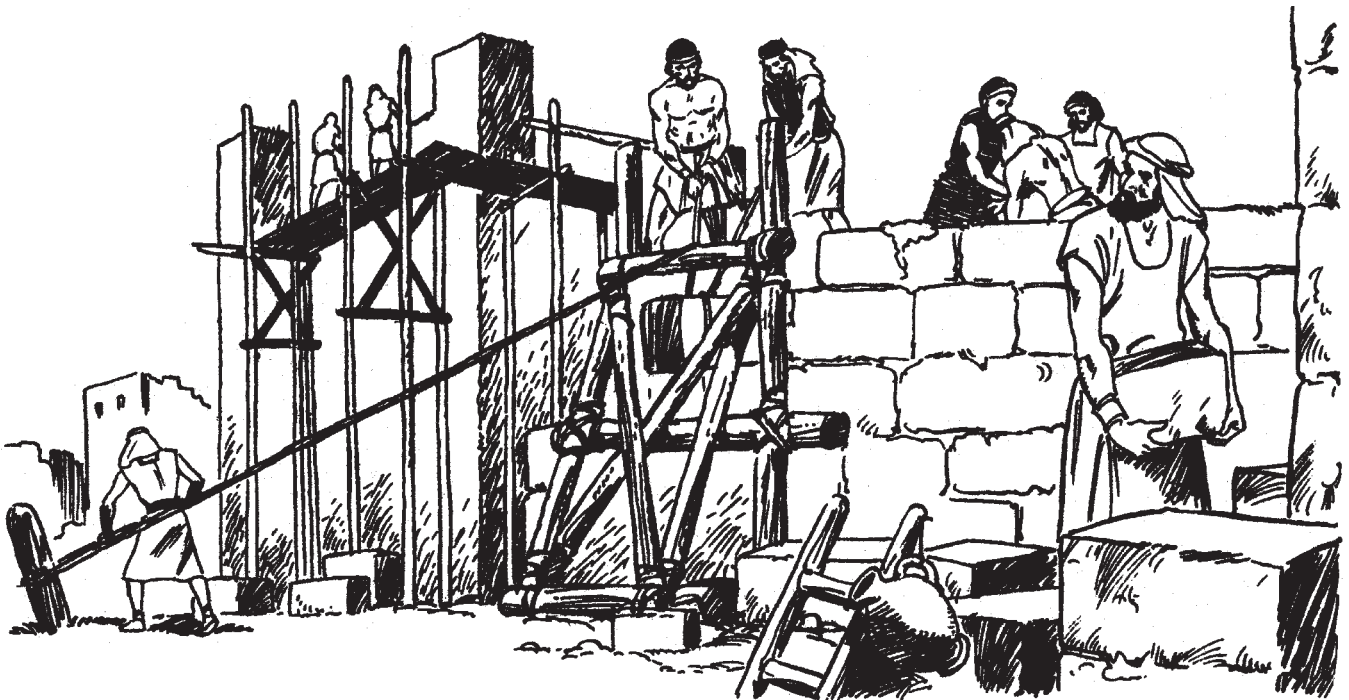


Ezra

Restoration And Reformation



“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.” (Ezra 1:2-4)

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Outline Of Ezra

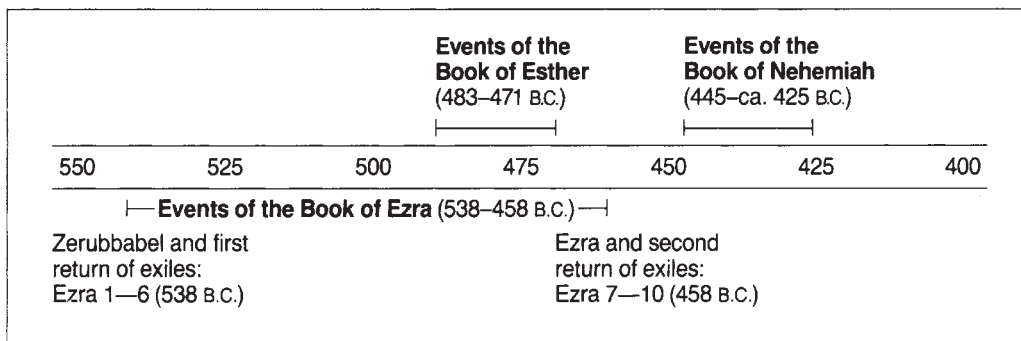
Part One: The Restoration of the Temple of God (1:1—6:22)

- I. **The First Return to Jerusalem Under Zerubbabel**..... 1:1—2:70
 - A. Decree of Cyrus 1:1–4
 - B. Gifts from Israel and Cyrus 1:5–11
 - C. Census of the Returning People 2:1–63
 - D. The Return Completed..... 2:64–70
- II. **The Construction of the Temple** 3:1—6:22
 - A. Construction of the Temple Foundation 3:1–13
 - B. Interruption of the Temple Construction 4:1–24
 - C. Completion of the Temple 5:1—6:18
 - D. Celebration of the Passover 6:19–22

Part Two: The Reformation of the People of God (7:1—10:44)

- I. **The Second Return to Jerusalem Under Ezra**..... 7:1—8:36
 - A. The Decree of Artaxerxes 7:1–28
 - B. Census of the Returning Israelites..... 8:1–14
 - C. Spiritual Preparation for the Return 8:15–23
 - D. The Return Is Completed..... 8:24–36
- II. **The Restoration of the People** 9:1—10:44
 - A. Israel Intermarries..... 9:1, 2
 - B. Ezra Intercedes with God 9:3–15
 - C. Reformation of Israel..... 10:1–44

(The above outline is from *Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts*, p. 157)



Part One: The Restoration of the Temple of God (1:1—6:22)

I. THE FIRST RETURN TO JERUSALEM UNDER ZERUBBABEL (1:1—2:70)

A. Decree of Cyrus (1:1–4)

1. What prophecy of Jeremiah did Cyrus king of Persia fulfill?
2. What command did God give to Cyrus?
3. What was to be given to the people returning to Jerusalem?

B. Gifts from Israel and Cyrus (1:5–11)

1. What did Cyrus give to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah?
2. Who went with Sheshbazzar to Jerusalem?

C. Census of the Returning People (2:1–63)

1. Why is the census preserved for us?
2. Why were some men excluded from the priesthood as defiled?

D. The Return Completed (2:64–70)

1. What was the number of “the whole assembly”?
2. What was offered at the house of the Lord? Why?

II. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE (3:1—6:22)

A. Construction of the Temple Foundation (3:1–13)

1. What did “Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brethren” build?
2. What Feast did they keep?
3. What work did Zerubbabel find to do?
4. What did the people sing to the Lord?

B. Interruption of the Temple Construction (4:1–24)

1. What did “adversaries of Judah and Benjamin” offer to Zerubbabel?
2. How did Zerubbabel and Jeshua respond?

3. What did Ahasuerus hear about Judah and Jerusalem?
4. What did Rehum the commander and Shimshai tell King Artaxerxes?
5. How did the King Artaxerxes answer Rehum and Shimshai?
6. How long did work on the house of God cease?

C. Completion of the Temple (5:1—6:18)

1. Name the two prophets of God who “prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them.”
2. What did the “eye of God” do for the elders of the Jews?
3. What did Tattenai tell Darius in a letter?
4. Why were the Jews given into the hand of “Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon”?
5. What did King Darius say in his decree?

6. What was to be done at the king's expense?

7. Who was present at the dedication of the Temple?

D. Celebration of the Passover (6:19–22)

1. Who kept the Passover?

2. How were the priests and Levites made clean?

3. How was “the heart of the king of Assyria” turned toward the Jews?

Part Two: The Reformation of the People of God (7:1—10:44)

I. THE SECOND RETURN TO JERUSALEM UNDER EZRA (7:1—8:36)

A. The Decree of Artaxerxes (7:1–28)

1. Who “came up from Babylon” with Ezra?

2. What plan did Ezra have for his nation?

3. What did King Artaxerxes give to Ezra? Why?

4. What did King Artaxerxes order to be given to Ezra?

B. Census of the Returning Israelites (8:1–14)

C. Spiritual Preparation for the Return (8:15–23)

1. What did Ezra fail to find “among the people and the priests”?

2. Who were the Nethinim? Who had appointed them for service to God?

3. Why did Ezra proclaim a fast at the river of Ahava?

4. What was Ezra ashamed to ask?

D. The Return Is Completed (8:24–36)

1. What was given to “Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them”?

2. What did “the children of those who had been carried away captive, who had come from the captivity,” offer to God?

II. THE RESTORATION OF THE PEOPLE (9:1—10:44)

A. Israel Intermarries (9:1, 2)

1. What did the leaders of the people tell Ezra?
2. Who had “been foremost in this trespass”?

B. Ezra Intercedes with God (9:3–15)

1. How did Ezra react to the news from the leaders of the people?
2. Why was Ezra “astonished until the evening sacrifice”?
3. Why was Ezra so ashamed of his people?
4. Did God give His people more or less than they deserved?

C. Reformation of Israel (10:1–44)

1. What happened “while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God”?
2. What did Shechaniah tell Ezra?

3. What covenant did Shechaniah want to make? With whom?

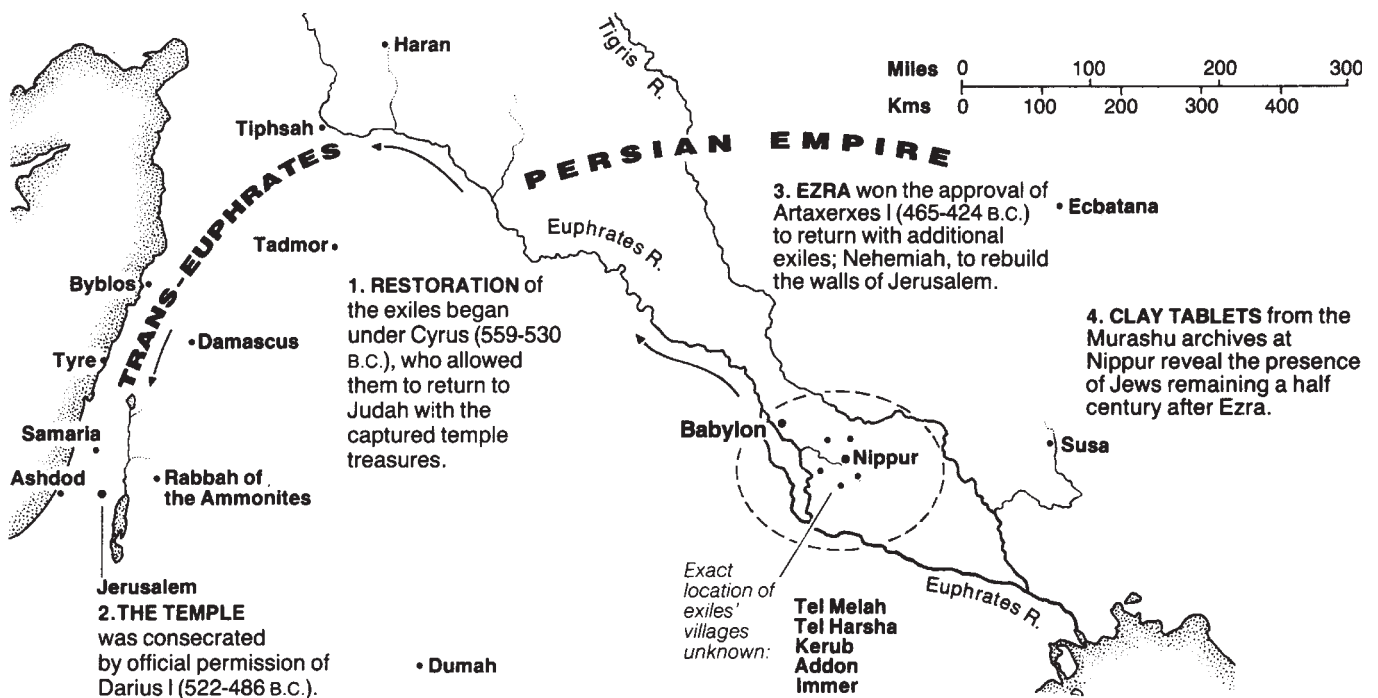
4. What did Ezra make “the leaders of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel swear”?

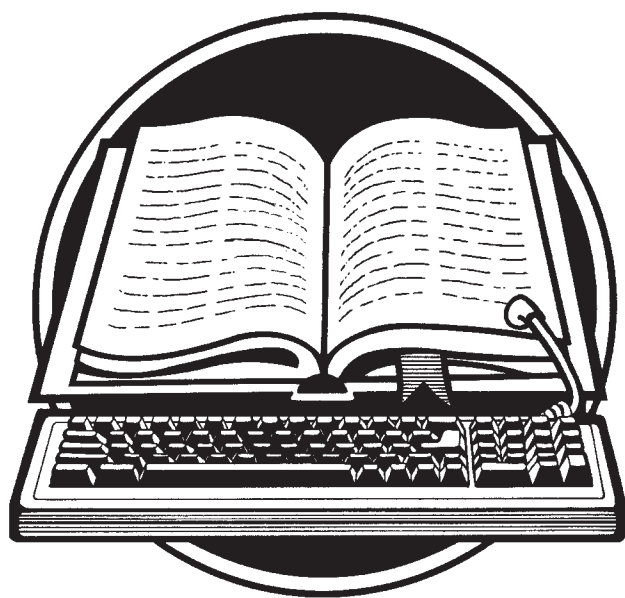
5. Why was Ezra mourning? What did he do while in mourning?

6. What were the Jews to do with their pagan wives?

7. How did the priests atone for their sins?

Return from Exile





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