

Ezra

Restoration And Reformation



King Darius I on his throne with crown prince Xerxes behind him

“Thus the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem ceased, and it was discontinued until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.” (Ezra 4:24)

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Outline Of Ezra

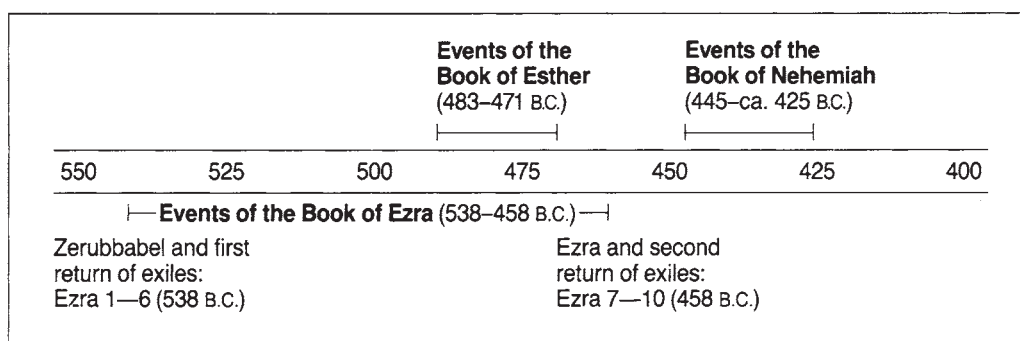
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(The above outline is from *Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts*, p. 157)



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 Inter-marries (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?

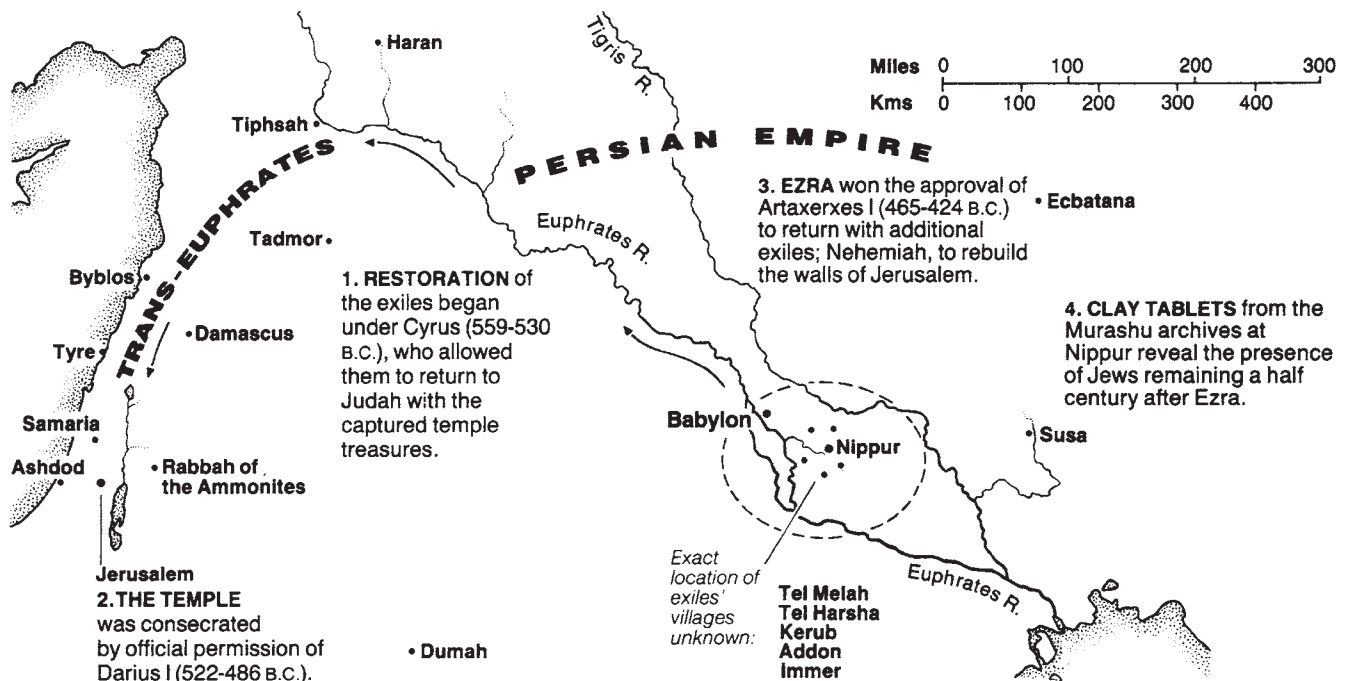
4. What did Ezra make “the leaders of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel swear”?

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



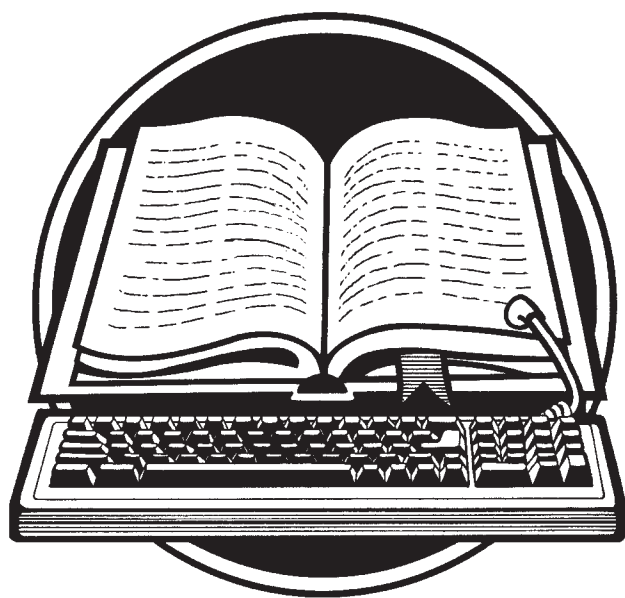
Chronology: Ezra-Nehemiah

Dates below are given according to a Nisan-to-Nisan Jewish calendar (see chart on "Hebrew Calendar," p. 21).

Roman numerals represent months; Arabic numerals represent days.

540 B.C.

	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	EVENT	REFERENCE	
530	539 B.C.	Oct.	12	Capture of Babylon	Da 5:30	
	538	Mar.	24	Cyrus's first year	Ezr 1:1-4	
520	537	to Mar.	11			
	537(?)			Return under Sheshbazzar	Ezr 1:11	
	537	VII		Building of altar	Ezr 3:1	
510	536	II		Work on temple begun	Ezr 3:8	
	536-530			Opposition during Cyrus's reign	Ezr 4:1-5	
	530-520			Work on temple ceased	Ezr 4:24	
	520	VI =Sept.	24 21	Work on temple renewed under Darius	Ezr 5:2; Hag 1:14	
500	516	XII =Mar.	3 12	Temple completed	Ezr 6:15	
490						
480	458	I	1	Ezra departs from Babylon	Ezr 7:6-9	
		=Apr.	8			
		V	1	Ezra arrives in Jerusalem	Ezr 7:8-9	
		=Aug.	4			
470	457	IX	20	People assemble	Ezr 10:9	
		=Dec.	19			
		X	1	Committee begins investigation	Ezr 10:16	
460	457	=Dec.	29			
		I	1	Committee ends investigation	Ezr 10:17	
460	445	=Mar.	27			
		Apr.	13	20th year of Artaxerxes I	Ne 1:1	
450	444	to Apr.	2			
		445	I		Nehemiah approaches king	Ne 2:1
		=Mar.-Apr.				
		Aug.(?)			Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem	Ne 2:11
440	445	VI	25	Completion of wall	Ne 6:15	
		=Oct.	2			
440	445	VII	8	Public assembly	Ne 7:73-8:1	
		=Oct.	5			
		VII	15-22	Feast of Tabernacles	Ne 8:14	
440	445	=Oct.	22-28			
		VII	24	Fast	Ne 9:1	
430 B.C.	432	=Oct.	30			
		Apr.	1	32nd year of Artaxerxes;	Ne 5:14; 13:6	
430 B.C.	432	to Apr.	19	Nehemiah's recall and return		



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