

Outline of  
Ezra



# Introduction

## Writer

Ezra

He is one character who has not received proper recognition. He was a descendant of Hilkiah (Ezra 7:1), the high priest who found a copy of the Law during the reign of Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:14). Ezra, as a Priest, was unable to serve during the captivity, but he gave his time to a study of the Word of God — he was “a ready scribe in the law of Moses” (Ezra 7:6). Ezra was a great revivalist and reformer. The revival began with the reading of the Word of God by Ezra (Nehemiah 8). Also, he probably was the writer of 1 and 2 Chronicles and of Psalm 119, which exalts the Word of God. He organized the synagogue, founded the order of scribes, helped settle the canon of Scripture and arranged the Psalms. Let us pay tribute to Ezra who was the first to begin a revival of Bible study. Is this not God’s program for revival?

The post-captivity books record the return and restoration at Jerusalem after the 70-year Babylonian captivity as predicted by Jeremiah. Six books belong to this series. They are divided into two groups:

**Historical** — Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther;

**Prophetical** — Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

Although Ezra is a continuation of the historical books begun with Joshua, the pre-captivity and captivity books could be profitably studied before beginning with Ezra. These books include all of the major and minor prophets, with the exception of the last three books of the Old Testament. However, we shall proceed according to the arrangement of the canon of Scripture.

**Source:** Dr. John Vernon McGee (1904 – 1988), THRU THE BIBLE RADIO NETWORK

## **EZRA**

### OUTLINE OF BOOK

- 1. RETURN I (1-2)**
  - a. CYRUS: decree to build temple (1)
  - b. ZERUBBABEL: and co. 'go up' (2)
- 2. REBUILD (3-6)**
  - a. JESHUA: altar & temple foundation (3)
  - b. ARTAXERXES: letter received (4)
  - c. DARIUS: letter received & sent (5-6)
- 3. RETURN II (7-8)**
  - a. EZRA: and co. 'go up' (7a)
  - b. ARTAXERXES: letter sent (7b)
  - c. LEVITES: 'go up' (8)
- 4. REFORM (9-10)**
  - a. Private intercession (9)
  - b. Public confession (10)

### **TWO EXILES**

1. 'ISRAEL' (10 TRIBES) → ASSYRIA 721
2. 'JUDAH' (2 TRIBES) → BABYLON 586  
(inc. BENJAMIN)  
"Jew"

### **THREE DEPORTATIONS**

1. COURT (DANIEL) 606
  2. CRAFTSMEN (EZEKIEL) 597
  3. REST 586
- NEBUCHADNEZZAR

### **THREE RETURNS**

1. ZERUBBABEL (50,000) 537  
JUDAH, BENJAMIN
  2. EZRA (1800) 458  
PRIESTS, FEW LEVITES
  3. NEHEMIAH 444
- PERSIA  
CYRUS  
DARIUS I  
(XERXES)  
ARTAXERXES I

(10 tribes drift back later)

↑  
70  
YEARS  
↓

Part I

**EZRA**

**1-2 RETURN I**  
ab

**3-6 REBUILD**  
abc

**7-8 RETURN II**  
abc

**9-10 REFORM**  
ab

**NEHEMIAH**

**1-2 RETURN III**  
ab

**3-7 REBUILD**  
abc

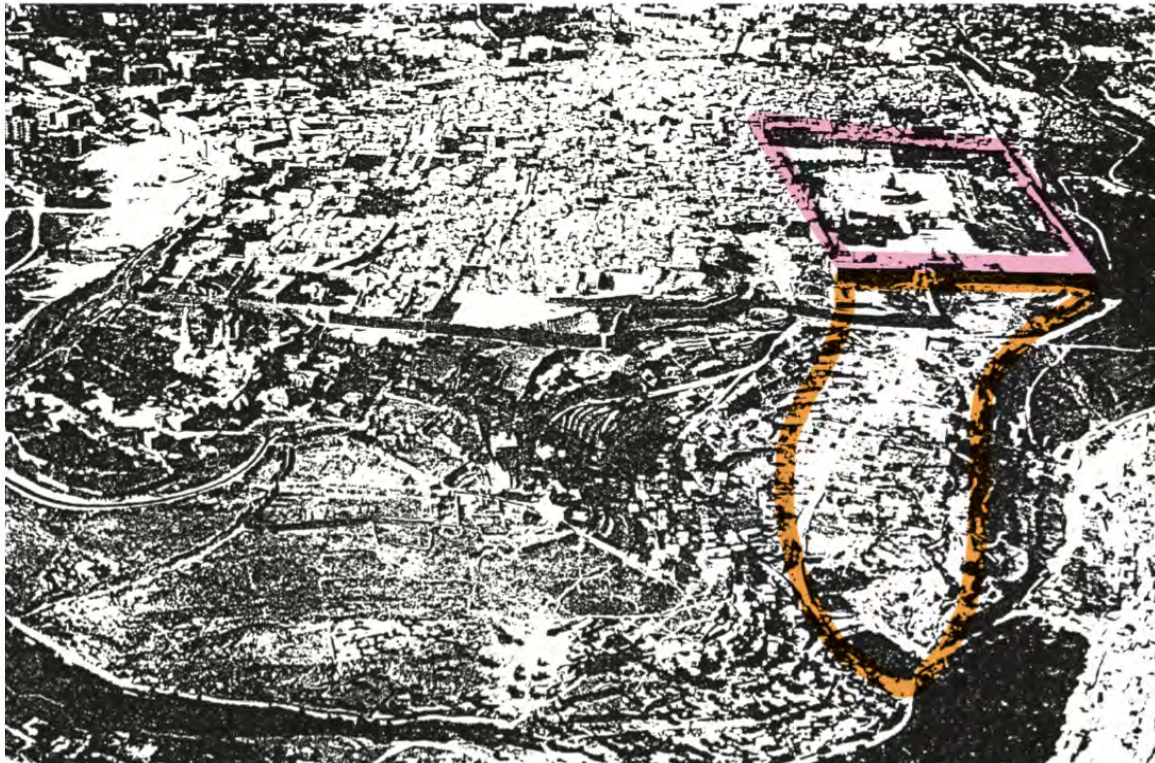
**8-10 RENEW**  
abc

**11-13 REFORM**  
ab

Ch. 9. Prayer of confession

Part II

ORIGINAL JERUSALEM

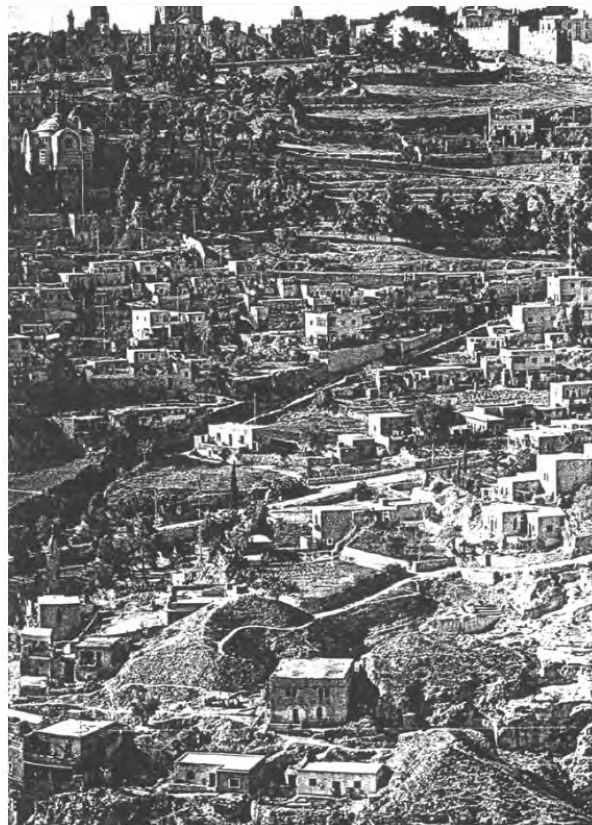




**RIDGE OF JERUSALEM**

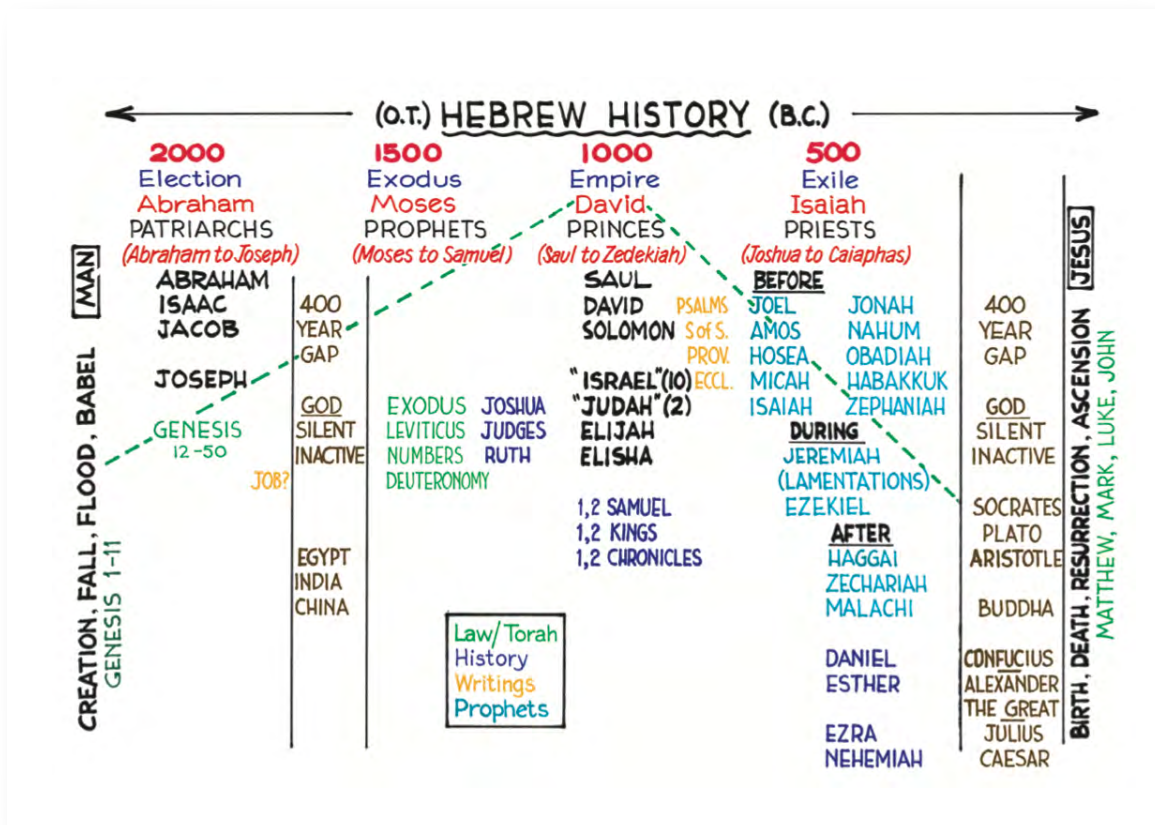
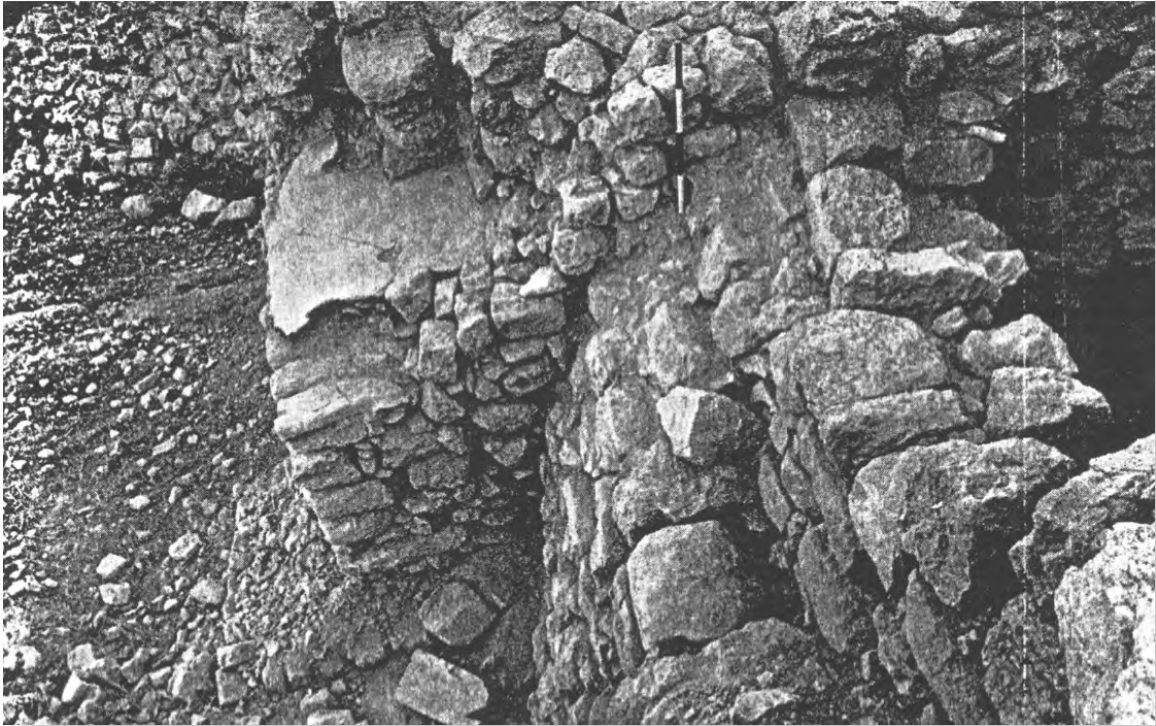


**RIDGE OF  
JERUSALEM**





NEHEMIAH'S WALL



# I. Return from Babylon led by Zerubbabel

Chapters 1 – 6

(About 50,000 returned)

- A. Restoration of temple by decree of Cyrus, Chapter 1
- B. Return under Zerubbabel, Chapter 2
- C. Rebuilding of temple, Chapter 3
- D. Retardation of rebuilding of temple by opposition, Chapter 4  
(Decree of Artaxerxes)
- E. Renewal of rebuilding of temple, Chapters 5, 6  
(Decree of Darius)





# I. Return from Babylon led by Ezra

Chapters 7 – 10

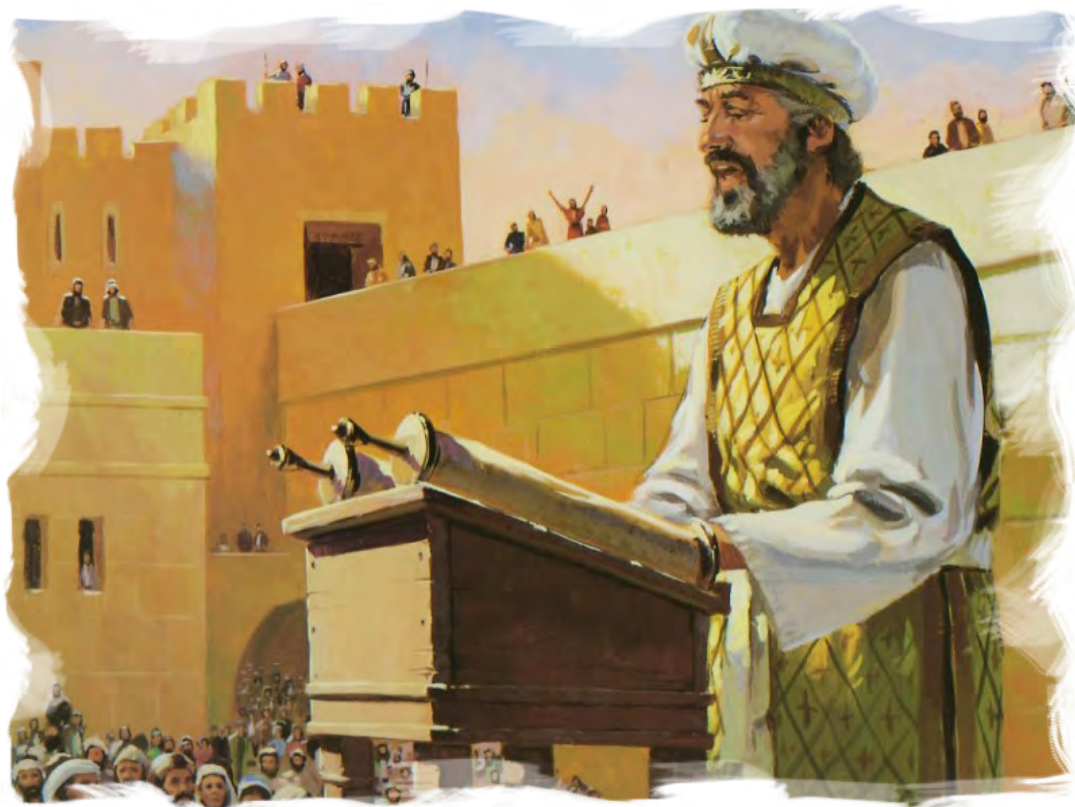
(About 2,000 returned)

A. Return under Ezra, Chapters 7, 8

B. Reformation under Ezra, Chapters 9, 10

1. Prayer of Ezra, Chapter 9

2. Separation from heathen is demanded and maintained, Chapter 10





# Quiz on Ezra

1. Who initiated the rebuilding of the second temple?

2. Cyrus was king of which country?

3. What did God stir King Cyrus to do?

4. In Ezra Chapter 1, how many articles of Gold and Silver did Nebuchadnezzar carry away from the temple in Jerusalem?

5. In Ezra Chapter 3, how did some of the older priests, Levites and family heads (who had seen the former temple) react when they saw the foundation of the second temple.

6. What was the youngest age of people working on building the temple according to Ezra Chapter 3.

7. In Ezra Chapter 4, who wrote a letter to Artaxerxes in order to stop the rebuilding of the second temple in Jerusalem?

8. What was King Artaxerxes' response to the letter written against the rebuilding of the temple?

9. In Ezra Chapter 5, who wrote a letter to King Darius against the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem?

10. What was King Darius' response to the letter written against the rebuilding of the temple?

GENEVA  
BIBLE SCHOOL

