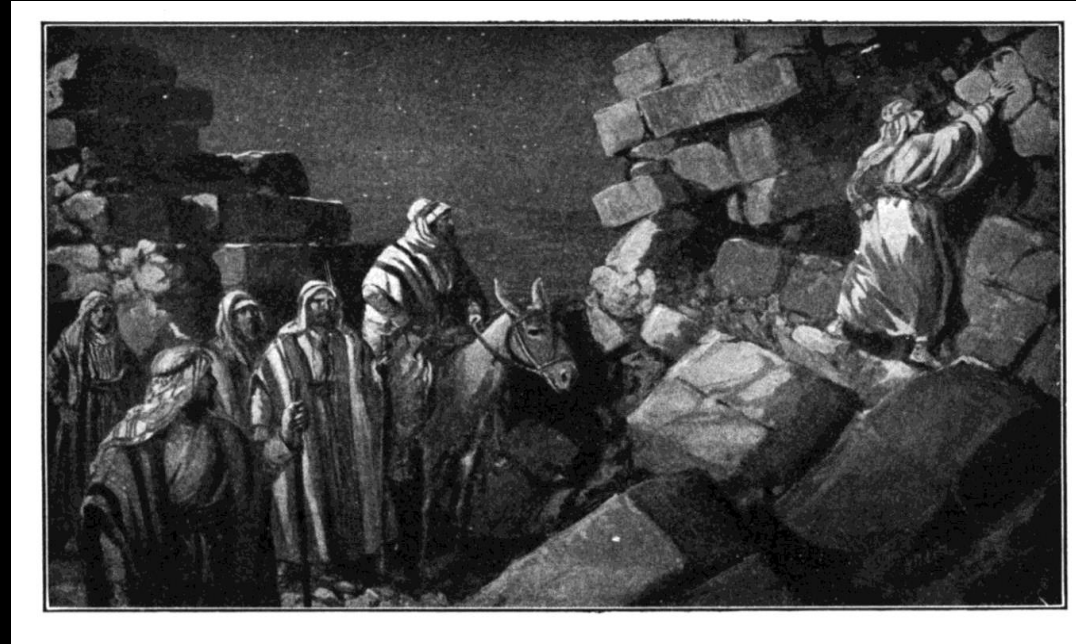


A Time to Build



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. God's people are to live holy lives that are separate from sin and worldliness (9:1-2; 10:11; 2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1).
2. It is good to mourn over sin and be appalled by it (9:3-5; 10:1, 6, 10; Jas. 4:8-10).
3. Do you tremble at the word of God being in awe (reverence) of it (9:4; 10:3; Isa. 66:2, 5)?

Ezra's Prayer and God's Character (Ezra 9)

- God's greatness (v. 6)
- God's punishment (v. 7)
- God's grace (v. 8-9)
- God's commandments (v. 10-12)
- God's justice and mercy (v. 13)
- God's anger (v. 14)
- God's righteousness (v. 15)

A National Confession of Sin

Daniel <u>9</u>	Ezra <u>9</u>	Nehemiah <u>9</u>
Time: 539 B.C.	Time: 458 B.C.	Time: 444 B.C.
Representative	Representative	Representative
Mourning	Mourning	Mourning
Israel's sin confessed	Israel's sin confessed	Israel's sin confessed
God's goodness reviewed	God's goodness reviewed	God's goodness reviewed
Goal: Confession leading to return from captivity	Goal: Confession leading to putting away wives	Goal: Confession leading to covenant renewal

Applications for Today

4. It is good to confess your sins to God and pray for forgiveness (9:5-15; 10:11; 1 Jn. 1:7-9)?
5. God shows his people grace so they can have a revival (9:8-9; Psa. 85:6; 138:7; Isa. 57:15).
6. Sin and its removal should be taken seriously (10:1-17; Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20).

Applications for Today

7. There is hope for God's people when they sin (10:2; Lam. 3:26).
8. Sin must be removed according to God's law (10:3; Jas. 5:19-20).
9. It takes courage to get God's people out of their sin (10:4; Mt. 18:15-17; 1 Tim. 5:20).

Applications for Today

10. Anyone who does not follow the law of God to separate from sin should be separated from the assembly of God's people (10:8; 1 Cor. 5:1ff; 2 Thess. 3:6-15).
11. God's wrath is upon those who sin (10:14; Josh. 22:20; Rom. 1:18; 1 Thess. 2:16).
12. Sometimes God's own people do not want to do what is right in order to remove sin (10:15; Rev. 2:20).

Applications for Today

13. It should not take long to remove sin from among God's people (10:16-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:5-11; 7:8-12).
14. Beware of moral and spiritual apathy. Even leaders among God's people who are supposed to be holy can have sin in their life and they must be confronted (9:1-2; 10:18-44; Gal. 2:11; 1 Tim. 5:20).

Applications for Today

15. Children may have to suffer the consequences of their parents' sins (10:3, 44; Ex. 20:5; 34:7).

Ezra 9-10: Reform

- Some of the Jews who returned did not separate themselves (6:21); they inter-married against God's will (9:1-2; see Ex. 34:12-17; Deut. 7:1-5); they needed reformation...
 - Sorrow for sin (9:3-4, astonished)
 - Praying for forgiveness (9:5-15, ashamed, alarmed)
 - Repentance (10:1-17)
 - Remove guilt (10:18-44)

Ezra 9-10: Reform

- Do we need a “godly sorrow” reformation in our nation, in our local church, in our home, or in our life (2 Cor. 7:8-11)?