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Trembling At the Word of God



Ezra 7-10



Key Dates in the Period of the Return and Restoration*

- 538/37 B.C.** first return of the Jews under Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-2)
- 537/36 B.C.** the altar built and the foundation laid (Ezra 3)
- 536-520 B.C.** the work on the temple ceases (Ezra 4)
- 520 B.C.** the preaching of Haggai (1-2) and Zechariah (1-6)
- 520 B.C.** the temple construction resumes (Ezra 5)
- 518 B.C.** the preaching of Zechariah (Zechariah 7-14)
- 516/15 B.C.** the temple is completed (Ezra 6)
- 486 B.C.** the Jews opposed in the beginning of Xerxes (Ezra 4:6)
- 483 B.C.** Xerxes holds a feast (Esther 1)
- 479 B.C.** Esther is made queen (Esther 2)
- 474/73 B.C.** Haman plans to kill the Jews (Esther 3-10)
- 464-423 B.C.** the Jews opposed in Artaxerxes' reign (Ezra 7:7ff)
- 458/57 B.C.** the second return of the Jews under Ezra (Ezra 7-10)
- 445-433 B.C.** Nehemiah returns & rebuilds the walls (Neh. 1-12)
- 433-432 B.C.** Nehemiah's recall and return (Nehemiah 13)
- 432-425 B.C.** the preaching of Malachi (1-4)

* all dates are approximate

➤ Ezra 7: the reason for Ezra's Return

- The person of Ezra the teacher
(7:1-10)
- The permission of Ezra the teacher
(7:11-26)
- The protection of Ezra the teacher
(7:27-28)

➤ Ezra 8: the record of Ezra's Return

- The people among those who returned (8:1-20)
- The protection for those who returned (8:21-23)
- The provisions from those who returned (8:24-36)

➤ Ezra 9-10: the result of Ezra's Return

- The problem of mixed marriages presented (9:1-4)
- The prayer for mixed marriages offered (9:5-15)
- The promise to remove mixed marriages carried out (10:1-44)

▶ The Attitude of People Today Toward God's Word

- A lack of respect for the word of God
- The Bible in schools and universities
- The Bible in many pulpits and churches
- The Bible in homes

▶ Trembling At the Word of God

- Heb. chared = trembling with fear and shaking, shudder (Josh. 7:3; 1 Sam. 4:13)
- Trembling at the word of God (Ezra 9:4; 10:3; Isa. 66:2, 5)

▶ Trembling At the Word of God

- Trembling speaks of an attitude of respect, reverence, awe, and honor toward God's word when one understands the true nature of God's word (Psa. 119:120)
- Mere trembling is not enough (Acts 24:25; Jas. 2:18-19; Phil. 2:12)

▶ Trembling At the Word of God

- Trembling is not found among the proud, the profane, the indifferent, the critical, the unbeliever, etc.
(2 Pet. 2:10)
- Trembling is found among those who truly recognize the majesty and power of God (Jer. 5:22; Psa. 99:1-3; 114:7)

▶ Trembling At the Word of God

- Trembling at the word of God, not persons, places, or things
- Trembling at the reading, hearing, preaching, and teaching of God's word

▶ Trembling At the Word of God in Ezra

- Admission of guilt (9:1-2; 10:1-2)
- Remorse and prayer (9:3-15)
- Made a covenant to change (10:1-8)
- Carried out the plan to change (10:9-44)



Rejoice with trembling (Psa. 2:11)