

Old Testament Survey

Ezra and Nehemiah

Review

Significance of the Hebrew Bible Order of Books

- Torah – Creation to the Edge of the Land
- Former Prophets – History of Israel in the Land
- Latter Prophets – God’s Warnings in the Land
 - After 2 Kings Israel is under Gentile Rule
 - Prior to this Israel was living under God’s Rule and God’s ordained Jewish Rulers
- The Writings – Life under Gentile Rulers
 - Wisdom – Psalms, Job, Proverbs
 - Jewish Festival Readings
 - Ruth – Feast of Weeks
 - Song of Solomon – Passover
 - Ecclesiastes – Feast of Tabernacles/Booths
 - Lamentations – Destruction of the Temple
 - Esther – Purim
 - Examples of Living under Gentile Rulers – Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1-2 Chronicles
 - Daniel 1-7
 - 1 First Deportation to Babylon (Babylonians, Chaldeans)
 - 2 Vision of other Kingdoms until God’s Kingdom on Earth
 - A time of God-ordained Gentile rule over Israel
 - 5 Babylonians Defeated by Persians (Persians, Medes)
 - 6 Daniel’s Faithfulness and Influence
 - Ezra and Nehemiah
 - Begins under Cyrus King of Persia
 - Ends under Artaxerxes King of Persia
 - 1-2 Chronicles
 - Creation to God’s Kings to Babylonian Rule to Persian Rule

SUMMARY

- From Babylonian Exile to God’s Kingdom on Earth
 - A time of God-ordained Gentile rule over Israel.
 - Decrees of Gentile Kings will determine Israel’s fate.
 - During this time Israel’s history will be subsumed under the greater history of what God is doing among the Gentiles
 - Israel can faithfully follow the godly examples of Daniel, the good Kings of Judah, Ezra and Nehemiah knowing that God is still sovereignly keeping His Covenant Promises.

Luke 24:44; Mark 6:10; 15:43; John 12:13; 1:49; Acts 1:6

Name

- "Ezra"
- "Nehemiah"
- Ezra and Nehemiah flow together and can be _____ together
- The men, Ezra and Nehemiah, are _____

Date

- Date Written
457-444 BC
- Time Period Covered
Ezra
From the decree of _____ (538 BC)
(Between chapters 6-7 – 57 year gap – Book of _____ takes place)
Through _____ return from Babylon (458 BC)

Nehemiah
From the twentieth year of _____ (444 BC)
Through the Second Governorship of _____ (425 BC)

Purpose

The LORD sovereignly works through _____ rulers to fulfill His promises to His people.

The LORD continues to show covenant _____, while Israel continues to struggle with covenant _____.

Themes

- God – Sovereign Control, Faithfulness, God of Heaven
- Prayer
- The Temple, House of God
- Levites
- The Law
- Sin
- Confession
- Kings of _____
Cyrus (539-530)
Cambyses (530-522)
Darius I (521-486)
Ahasuerus (Xerxes) (486-464)
Artaxerxes I (464-423)

Divisions

Ezra

1. Return and _____ under _____ 1-6

1-2 Return of the _____

1 Decree of Cyrus

“ _____ has appointed me to build Him a _____ in Jerusalem”

2 Almost _____ Jews return

3-6 Reconstruction of the _____

3:2-4 Seventh Month – _____ Setup
Sacrifices Offered, Feast of Booths Celebrated

3:8 Second Year – Temple Reconstruction _____

3:10 Temple _____ Completed

“For He is good, for His lovingkindness is upon Israel forever.”

4 _____ by Enemies through Kings Cyrus, Darius, Ahasuerus, and Artaxerxes

4:24 Work on Temple _____

5 Haggai and Zechariah Prophecy – Work restarts

6 Darius Decrees support from _____

6:15 Temple _____ in Sixth year of Darius (21 years)

Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread Celebrated

6:22 The LORD turned the heart of the _____ king to encourage them.

2. Return and _____ under _____ 7-10

7-8 Return under Ezra

7:1-8 King _____ decrees Ezra’s Return

7:10 Ezra’s Commitment to God’s _____

7:25-26 Artaxerxes command to setup a _____ under God’s Law

The Lord put this in the king’s heart.

9-10 Reform under Ezra

9 Ezra’s _____ and call to Repentance

10 _____ for Marrying Foreign Women

Nehemiah

1. Rebuilding the _____ under _____ 1-7

1-2 Return to Jerusalem

1 Nehemiah's _____

2 King _____ Supports Nehemiah's Return

3-6 Reconstruction of the Wall

3 Reconstruction _____

4 _____ from Enemies

5 _____ Condemned among Jews

6:15 Wall _____ (52 days)

7 Registration of the People

2. Revival of the _____ under _____ 8-12

8:1-8 Israel Assembles to hear God's Word _____

8:9-18 Feast of Booths Celebrated with Great Rejoicing

9 Confession of _____ and Praise for God's History of _____

11-12 Duties and Support Assigned

12:27 _____ of the Wall

3. Reinforcement of the _____ under _____ 11-13

13 Nehemiah Returns

Addresses Israel's ongoing Disobedience

13:4 Ammonites living in the _____

13:10 Levites not _____

13:15 Doing Business on the _____

13:23 Marrying _____ Women