

EZRA- NEHEMIAH

**The God Who Restores a
Remnant to His Land**

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“Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”—
Ezra 7:10

EZRA-NEHEMIAH at a Glance

I. Rebuilding a Broken Temple in Hope	Ezra 1–10
II. Rebuilding a Broken City in Hope	Neh 1–13

Initial Restoration Under Persia

	Prophets	Key Events in Judah	Key Events in Babylon & Persia
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550			Daniel as court official in Babylon & Persia
–		538–1 st return of exiles (Jeshua & Zerubbabel)	539–Babylon fell to Persia; 538–Cyrus decreed exiles to return
–	Haggai/Zechariah	516–New temple completed	
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500			486–463– Esther story
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–		458–2 nd return of exiles (Ezra)	
450		444–3 rd return of exiles (Nehemiah)	
–			
–	Malachi		

Three Returns

	Return 1	Return 2	Return 3
Bible reference	Ezra 1–6	Ezra 7–10	Neh 1–13
Date	538 BC	458 BC	444 BC
Persian king	Cyrus II	Artaxerxes I	Artaxerxes I
Jewish leaders	Zerubbabel (gov) and Jeshua (priest)	Ezra (priest)	Nehemiah (gov)
Prophets	Haggai & Zechariah	Malachi?	Malachi?
Decree	Temple rebuilt	Worship at temple, restore	Rebuild temple, city wall, & gates
Numbers	49,697	1,754	?
Events	Temple begun, sacrifices instituted, Samaritans cause trouble, temple completed	Interfaith marriage, communal confession	Temple & city wall completed, interfaith marriage, communal confession, further reforms

Rebuilding a Broken Temple in Hope (Ezra 1–10)

◆ Restoring the Physical Temple in Hope (Ezra 1:1–6:22)

❖ 1:2–3

❖ 2:64–65

❖ 3:2–3

❖ 3:10–11

❖ 6:14–15

◆ Restoring the Temple's Faithless People in Hope: Ezra's Memoirs (Ezra 7:1–10:44)

❖ 7:9–10

❖ 8:21–22

❖ 9:13–15

Rebuilding a Broken City in Hope (Neh 1–13)

◆ Restoring Jerusalem's Physical Walls in Hope (Neh 1:1–7:73a)

❖ 1:3, 8–9

❖ 6:15

◆ Rebuilding Jerusalem's Faithless People in Hope (Neh 7:73b–13:31)

❖ 8:8–10

❖ 9:32–33

❖ 10:28–32

❖ 13:10–14, 15–22, 23–31

❖ 13:31

Full Kingdom Restoration Is Still to Come

High Points	Low Points
1. Cyrus' decree to return (Ezra 1:1–4)	2. Low number of returnees (2:64)
3. Laid foundation of temple (3:10–11)	4. Mixture of weeping and joy (3:12–13)
	5. Stopping of temple building (4:24)
6. Finished temple (6:14–15)	
7. Decree for Ezra to return (7:27)	
8. Fasting and prayer for safety (8:21–23)	9. Inter-faith marriage (9:1–5)
	10. The need for mass divorce and cleansing (10:2–3, 10–11)
11. Nehemiah's prayer and plea for rebuilding and reviving (Neh 1:1–2:8)	12. Exhortation to rebuild (2:17)

High Points	Low Points
	13. Confronting opposition from outside: enemies to rebuilding (4:13–14)
	14. Confronting opposition from within: oppression of poor (5:5, 9)
15. The completion and protection of the wall (Neh 6:15–7:4)	16. Priests can't find proof of genealogy (7:64)
17. Celebration of Sabbatical year worship and covenant renewal (7:73–10:39)	
18. Dedication of the wall (12:27–30, 43)	19. More confronting communal sin (ch. 13): presence of foreigners, a priest housing in the temple, failure to provide for the priests, profaning the Sabbath, inter-faith marriage, desecration of the priesthood.



“In your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.”
—Neh 9:31

Summary

Despite God returning his people to the land and enabling them to successfully rebuild Jerusalem's temple and surrounding walls, Israel remains in exilic slavery and fails to faithfully obey the terms of the covenant, thus showing their need for the transforming work of the Messiah after the exile is over.