

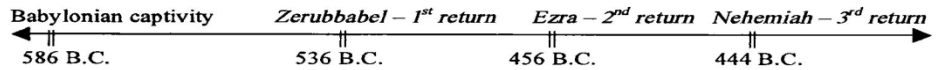
## The Book of Ezra

### Author:

- **Ezra** — “the Lord **helps**”
- Ezra was primarily a religious leader, not a political or military leader
- Ezra is called a “ready scribe”—(an **interpreter** and **teacher** of OT Scriptures)-(See Ezra 7: 1-6)

### Date:

- After 456 B.C.
- There were three “returns” of Jews from Babylonian captivity:



### Theme: “THE RETURNING REMNANT”

- The book of Ezra covers the first two returns of the remnant from captivity in Babylon:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Return —about 50,000 Jews returned
    - Leader: Zerubbabel** — he was a political leader, a governor, yet he was obviously a spiritual man; he led in the rebuilding of the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem
  - 2nd Return —about 2,000 Jews returned
    - Leader: Ezra** — he was primarily a religious leader; he re-established temple worship
- The remnant, though they had been raised in Babylon, were compelled to return to the place of blessing and the to place of worship. God used a heathen king, Cyrus (1 : 1-4), to make a way for these Jews to return.

### Outline:

#### I. The Return under **Zerubbabel** (ch. 1-6)

Main Accomplishment - the **Temple** was rebuilt

#### II. The Return Under **Ezra** (ch. 7-10)

Main Accomplishment — **People** re-separated

**Key Words:** “Build”            “Hand of the Lord”

**Key Verse: Ezra 7: 10** - “For **Ezra** had **prepared** his **heart** to **seek** the **law** of the LORD, and to **do** it, and to **teach** in Israel **statutes** and **judgments**. ”

### Special Features:

1. This remnant returned in direct fulfillment of prophecy. God kept His Word! [Isaiah 44:24-45:3 Jeremiah 25:8-11, 29:14]
2. God used the prophets **Haggai** and **Zechariah** to stir the people to rebuild the Temple during Zerubbabel’s day.
3. The book of **Esther** fits between Ezra Ch. 6 and Ch. 7 — (a 60 year gap)

### Christ In The Book:

**Cyrus** — called God’s anointed, pictures Christ (Isa. 45:1)

- He was the conqueror of Israel’s enemy
- He was the restorer of the Holy City
- He glorified the name of God

<b>The Book of Nehemiah</b>
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**Author:**

**Nehemiah** — “**comforted** of God”

- The King’s **cupbearer** in Shushan the palace; this was a prestigious position
- His heart was stirred as he **prayed** for his people (Ch. 1)

**Date:**

- Written about 432 B.C.
- This book covers a period of 12-15 years.

**Theme: “OPPORTUNITY & OPPOSITION”**

- In **444** B.C., Nehemiah led the 3<sup>rd</sup> “return” of the remnant (just a handful of people)
- He accomplished two things:
  1. He re-built the **walls** of the city of **Jerusalem** (in 52 days — 6:15)
  2. He **re-consecrated** the people to the Lord and **re-instructed** them in the law of God. (8:1-9; 9:1-3)

**Outline:****I. The Reconstruction of the Wall (Ch. 1-6)****II. The Reinstrucing of the People (Ch. 7-13)****Key Words:** “Work”

**Key Verse: Nehemiah 6:3** - “And I sent **messengers** unto them, saying, I am doing a great **work**, so that I **cannot** come down: why should the **work** cease, whilst I **leave** it, and come **down**.”

**Special Features:**

1. The prophet **Malachi** ministered during Nehemiah’s day.
2. Nehemiah provides an example of godly leadership.
  - He was a man of **prayer**.
  - He was a man of **faith**.
  - He was a man of **courage**.
  - He was a man of **hard work**.

**Christ In The Book:**

Nehemiah is a picture of Christ

1. He have up a high position to identify with his people
2. He came with a mission of restoration
3. .He was a man of compassion
4. His work was **finished** — **he didn’t come down**

<b>The Book of Esther</b>
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**Author:**

- The author is unknown, but it was likely a Jew living in Persia (perhaps **Mordecai**).

**Date:**

Written about 450 B.C

- -Covers 12-20 years when **Ahaseurus** was King of **Persia**

**Theme: "GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK"**

- The book of Esther is the **Romans 8:28** of the O.T
- This book reveals two great truths:
  1. God cared for the remaining Jews just as much as he cared for the returning Jews.
  2. God is always present, even when His name is not! (God's name is not mentioned in this book, yet He is certainly working!)

**Outline:** "God In The Shadows Watches His Own"

**I. Crisis Anticipated (Ch. 1-5)****II. Crisis Overruled (Ch. 6-10)**

**Key Words:** "Deliverance"

**Key Verse: Esther 4:14** - "*For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there **enlargement** and **deliverance** arise to the **Jews** from **another** place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth **whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?***"

**Special Features:**

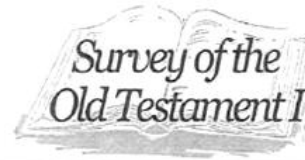
- This story fits between **Ezra** Ch. 6 and Ch. 7
- Main characters in this story:
  - **King Ahaseurus**
  - **Vashti**
  - **Esther**
  - **Mordecai**
  - **Haman**
- In this book, we learn about the **Providence** of God
  - God places
  - God provides
  - God protects
  - God prevents
  - God preserves

**Christ In The Book:**

1. **Mordecai** pictures Christ — he was despised, but finally received a place of **honor**
2. **Esther** pictures Christ — she put herself in the place of **death** for her people; she was an **advocate**

# SCHOOL of the BIBLE

## EZRA BOOK OF RETURN AND RESTORATION



### Author:

- Ezra – “the Lord helps”
- Ezra was primarily a religious leader, not a political or military leader
- Ezra is called a “ready scribe” – (an interpreter and teacher of OT Scriptures)
- See Ezra 7:1-6

### Date:

- After 456 B.C.
- There were three “returns” of Jews from Babylonian captivity:



### Theme:

#### “THE RETURNING REMNANT”

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  - 1<sup>st</sup> Return – about 50,000 Jews returned  
*Leader:* Zerubbabel – he was a political leader, a governor, yet he was obviously a spiritual man; he led in the rebuilding of the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem
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*Leader:* Ezra – he was primarily a religious leader; he re-established temple worship
- The remnant, though they had been raised in Babylon, were compelled to return to the place of blessing and the to place of worship. God used a heathen king, Cyrus (1:1-4), to make a way for these Jews to return.

### OUTLINE

- I. The Return under Zerubbabel (ch. 1-6)
  - \*Main accomplishment - the temple was rebuilt
- II. The Return Under Ezra (ch. 7-10)
  - \*Main accomplishment - the people were re-consecrated

### KEY VERSE

*“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”*                      Ezra 7:10

### Special Features

1. This remnant returned in direct fulfillment of prophecy. God kept His Word! [Isaiah 44:24-45:3    Jeremiah 25:8-11, 29:14]
2. God used the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to stir the people to rebuild the Temple during Zerubbabel’s day.
3. The book of Esther fits between Ezra Ch. 6 and Ch. 7 – (a 60 year gap)

### Christ in the Book

- Cyrus – called God’s anointed, pictures Christ (see Is. 45:1)
- o He was the conqueror of Israel’s enemy
  - o He was the restorer of the Holy City
  - o He glorified the name of God

# SCHOOL of the BIBLE

# NEHEMIAH

BOOK OF REBUILDING



### Author:

Nehemiah – “comforted of God”

- The King’s cupbearer in Shushan the palace; this was a prestigious position
- His heart was stirred as he prayed for his people (Ch. 1)

### Date:

- Written about 432 B.C.
- This book covers a period of 12-15 years.

### Theme:

#### “OPPORTUNITY & OPPOSITION”

- In 444 B.C., Nehemiah led the 3<sup>rd</sup> “return” of the remnant (just a handful of people)
- He accomplished two things:
  1. He re-built the walls of the city of Jerusalem (in 52 days – 6:15)
  2. He re-consecrated the people to the Lord and re-instructed them in the law of God. (8:1-9; 9:1-3)

### OUTLINE

- I. The Reconstruction of the Wall (Ch. 1-6)
- II. The Reconstructing of the People (Ch. 7-13)

### KEY VERSE

*“And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?”*

Nehemiah 6:3

### Special Features

4. The prophet Malachi ministered during Nehemiah’s day.
5. Nehemiah provides an example of godly leadership.
  - He was a man of prayer.
  - He was a man of faith.
  - He was a man of courage.
  - He was a man of hard work.

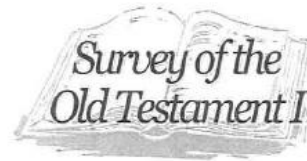
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- Nehemiah is a picture of Christ
  1. He have up a high position to identify with his people
  2. He came with a mission of restoration
  3. He was a man of compassion
  4. His work was finished – he didn’t come down

# SCHOOL of the BIBLE

# ESTHER

BOOK OF  
PROVIDENTIAL CARE

**Author:**

- The author is unknown, but it was likely a Jew living in Persia (perhaps Mordecai).

**Date:**

- Written about 450 B.C
- Covers 12-20 years when Ahasuerus was King of Persia

**Theme:**

*"GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK"*

- The book of Esther is the Romans 8:28 of the O.T
- This book reveals two great truths:
  1. God cared for the remaining Jews just as much as he cared for the returning Jews.
  2. God is always present, even when His name is not! (God's name is not mentioned in this book, yet He is certainly working!)

**OUTLINE**

- I. The Crisis Anticipated (Ch. 1-5)
- II. The Crisis Overruled (Ch. 6-10)

**KEY VERSE**

*"For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"* Esther 4:14

**Special Features**

- This story fits between Ezra Ch. 6 and Ch. 7
- Main characters in this story:
  - King Ahasuerus
  - Vashti
  - Esther
  - Mordecai
  - Haman
- In this book, we learn about the providence of God
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**Christ in the Book**

1. Mordecai pictures Christ – he was despised, but finally received a place of honor
2. Esther pictures Christ – she put herself in the place of death for her people; she was an advocate