

# EZRA

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**1. TITLES:**

- A. Ezra = help, helper
- B. The Book of the Remnant
- C. The Book of Restoration

**2. AUTHOR:**

Written by Ezra. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah were one book until the 3rd Century B.C., indicating that Ezra and Nehemiah possibly wrote in collaboration.

**3. DATE:**

- A. Covers a period of about 80 years, from the decree of Cyrus to a time shortly after Ezra's arrival in Jerusalem.
- B. Probably written between 440 and 400 B.C.

**4. KEY WORDS:**

- A. Jerusalem - 48
- B. Law (8), Commandment (2), Word (1) – 11

**Key Phrase:**

- A. "go up"; "went up: - 11

**5. KEY VERSES: 2:1; 6:14**

**6. PURPOSE:**

- A. To show the return of the remnants under Zerubbabel and Ezra from the Babylonian Captivity, the rebuilding of the Temple and the restoration of Jerusalem.

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- B. To show the fulfillment of the Word of the Lord through Jeremiah and Isaiah concerning the fall of Babylon and the restoration of Judah to Jerusalem (Jeremiah 25:8-14; Isaiah 44:26-45:1).

## 7. MESSAGE:

- A. God stirs up heathen nations for His sovereign purposes (Divine Sovereignty).
- B. God's purposes can be fulfilled through human vessels (Human Responsibility).

## 8. OUTLINE:

- I. Return of the First Remnant under Zerubbabel - Ch. 1-6  
(Lapse of about 63 years between Ch. 6 &7).
- II. Return of the Second Remnant under Ezra - Ch. 7-10

## 9. SUMMARY:

In the book of Ezra, we see Zerubbabel bringing back a remnant of about 50,000 Jews with certain of the sacred vessels for the temple, and the beginning of the rebuilding of the temple. Then we see Ezra, the priestly scribe, bringing back a second remnant of about 2,000 Jews with further of the sacred vessels for the temple, and the religious, social, and civil reformation that followed.

NOTE: The restoration of Judah to the land and the rebuilding of the temple was not only a fulfillment of the prophetic word, but was designed to hold the Jews in the land until the birth of Messiah according to Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27).

## 10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as our Governor (Zerubbabel) and our Priest, Scribe and Restorer (Ezra) of Religious, Social and Civil Order.