



Book
— **By** —
Book
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WELCOME

OUR GOAL

To encourage you to read at least one book of the Bible each month, so that you may better understand who God is and where you fit into His story.

BIBLE STUDY METHOD

- **OBSERVATION:**
What does the text say?
- **INTERPRETATION:**
What does it mean?
- **APPLICATION:**
What did I learn that should affect my life?

BASIC BIBLE NAVIGATION

Old Testament (39 books)

New Testament (27 books)



YOU ARE HERE – OLD TESTAMENT

Five major sections:

- Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy)
- ▶ History (Joshua – Esther)
- Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon)
- Major Prophets (Isaiah – Daniel)
- Minor Prophets (Hosea – Malachi)

ZOOMING OUT

Pentateuch	From Adam to arrival at Canaan	2,600 years
Joshua-Ruth	Conquest of Canaan/Judges	350 years
1&2 Samuel	[United Kingdom Divided Kingdom Captivity	120 years
1&2 Kings		350 years
1&2 Chronicles		70 years
Ezra-Esther	Return to Land of Israel	100 years

THE KINGDOM YEARS

1051 BC United Kingdom (Saul, David, Solomon)

931 BC Divided Kingdom

- Northern Kingdom (209 years) captivity in 722 BC
- Southern Kingdom (345 years) captivity 606, 597, 586 BC

70 years of Captivity

516 BC Second Temple Completed



REVIEW



2 KINGS

2 CHRONICLES

From Division to Captivity

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE KINGS

- The northern kingdom (Israel) had 20 kings – all were evil
- The southern kingdom had 19 kings & 1 queen – 8 were good

2 KINGS

- Begins with during King Ahaziah's reign in Israel.
(about 852 BC)
- We learn much about the ministry of Elisha the prophet
- Much here about the northern kingdom

2 CHRONICLES

- Begins with King Solomon (about 871 BC)
- Covers all the kings of Judah after David



PROPHETS, PRIESTS & KINGS



REFORMER KINGS

ASA (1 KINGS 15, 2 CHRONICLES 14–16)

- His father (Abijah) and grandfather (Rehoboam) were both evil
- Asa removed male prostitutes, cut down Asherah poles, deposed his wicked grandmother (Maacah)
- He commanded his people to follow the Lord
- His heart was fully committed to the Lord

ASA (1 KINGS 15, 2 CHRONICLES 14–16)

- Judah was at peace for 10 years during his reign
- The people sought God eagerly
- Judah enjoyed a time of prosperity
- When the Cushites marched on them, Asa cried out to God and God gave them a huge victory.

ASA (1 KINGS 15, 2 CHRONICLES 14–16)

- In his 35th year, King Baasha of Israel was threatening, so Asa made a treaty with Ben-Hadad of Aram (instead of seeking God's help)
- The prophet Hanani, reminded him that it is God's help he needs, not a treaty with Ben -Hadad.

ASA (1 KINGS 15, 2 CHRONICLES 14–16)

“The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war.”

2 Chronicles 16:9

ASA (1 KINGS 15, 2 CHRONICLES 14–16)

- In response Asa became angry and put Hanani in prison.
- He began to oppress his people and was at war for the rest of his reign.
- In his 39th year, he got a severe foot disease, but refused to seek God and died in the 41st year of his reign.

JEHOSHAPHAT (2 KINGS 1-3, 2 CHRONICLES 17-20)

- Sought God and followed His commandments
- So, the Lord established the kingdom, and he had great riches and honor.

JEHOSHAPHAT (2 KINGS 1-3, 2 CHRONICLES 17-20)

- He sent officials out to teach the people the scripture.

⁷ In the third year of his reign Jehoshaphat sent his officials to teach in all the towns of Judah. ⁹ They took copies of the Book of the Law of the LORD and traveled around through all the towns of Judah, teaching the people.

2 Chronicles 17:7,9

JEHOSHAPHAT (2 KINGS 1-3, 2 CHRONICLES 17-20)

- He set up judges throughout the land with stern admonition

⁵ He appointed judges throughout the nation in all the fortified towns, ⁶ and he said to them, “Always think carefully before pronouncing judgment. Remember that you do not judge to please people but to please the LORD. He will be with you when you render the verdict in each case. ⁷ Fear the LORD and judge with integrity, for the LORD our God does not tolerate perverted justice, partiality, or the taking of bribes.”

2 Chronicles 19:5-7

JEHOSHAPHAT (2 KINGS 1-3, 2 CHRONICLES 17-20)

- He kept trying to make alliance with Israel, even though the kings were decidedly wicked.
- After his reign, the people reverted to their paganism.

JOASH/JEHOASH (2 KINGS 11-13, 2 CHRONICLES 22-24)

- As an infant, he was rescued from his grandmother, Athaliah, who tried to have him killed.
- After being protected by Jehoida, the priest for 6 years, Joash became king at 7 years of age.
- His main accomplishment was repairing the temple.

JOASH/JEHOASH (2 KINGS 11-13, 2 CHRONICLES 22-24)

- When Jehoiada, the priest died, Joash listened to wicked advisers and they abandoned God and served idols.
- God sent Zechariah (son of Jehoiada) to the people to tell them to repent, and Joash commanded that Zechariah be stoned to death.
- Joash was assassinated by his own officials.

AMAZIAH (2 KINGS 14, 2 CHRONICLES 25)

- Amaziah led the people to worship God, but also allowed idol worship.

“Amaziah did what was pleasing in the LORD’s sight, but not wholeheartedly.” 2 Chronicles 25:2
- He conquered the Edomites, and became arrogant, challenging Israel to fight, disregarding God’s prophet.

AMAZIAH (2 KINGS 14, 2 CHRONICLES 25)

- The battle against Israel took place and Judah was defeated and Amaziah was captured.
- Some time later, he fled to Lachish.
- His enemies in Jerusalem sent assassins and he was killed there.

UZZIAH/AZARIAH (2 KINGS 14-15, 2 CHRONICLES 26)

- He sought the Lord and did what was right in the eyes of the Lord
- He made Judah strong militarily
- He was used by God to defeat Judah's enemies
- He built up the land and "loved the soil"
- His fame spread all of the ancient world

UZZIAH/AZARIAH (2 KINGS 14-15, 2 CHRONICLES 26)

- His fame and strength led him to become proud
- He entered the temple to burn incense on the altar
- As a result, God struck him with leprosy and he died a leper

JOTHAM (2 KINGS 15, 2 CHRONICLES 27)

- He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord
- He oversaw the kingdom during the years of his father's leprosy
- He built cities in the hill country of Judah
- He prevailed over his enemies
- He became powerful because he was careful to live in obedience to the LORD his God.

HEZEKIAH (2 KINGS 28-32, 2 CHRONICLES 18-20)

“Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before or after his time.”

2 Kings 18:5

HEZEKIAH (2 KINGS 28-32, 2 CHRONICLES 18-20)

- He destroyed pagan idols, altars and temples
- He cleaned out and reopened the temple in Jerusalem
- He reinstituted the Passover
- Because the Lord was with him, he was successful in everything he undertook

HEZEKIAH (2 KINGS 18-20, 2 CHRONICLES 29-32)

- When the Assyrians threatened, he looked to God for help.
- When he became sick, he prayed for healing and God extended his life 15 years.
- He showed the Babylonians all the treasures in Israel.

JOSIAH (2 KINGS 21-23, 2 CHRONICLES 34-36)

- He began his reign when only 8 years old, after his father was assassinated.

“And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.”

2 Kings 22:2

JOSIAH (2 KINGS 21-23, 2 CHRONICLES 34-36)

- He raised money to repair the temple.
- When the scripture was found, he called the people to repentance.
- He restored the observance of the Passover
- He cleansed the land from pagan worship and removed mediums and witches

JOSIAH (2 KINGS 21-23, 2 CHRONICLES 34-36)

- Throughout his lifetime the people did not turn from following God
- He unwisely went to war against the king of Egypt, and was killed



PRIESTS

JEHOIDA (2 KINGS 11)

- He protected Joash from Athaliah until he was old enough to rule.
- He organized and executed a plan to remove Athaliah and install Joash as king.
- He guided Joash with wisdom as long as he lived.

HILKIAH (2 KINGS 22, 2 CHRONICLES 34)

- He served under King Josiah
- He was assigned to count the offerings for the temple
- He found the Book of the Law in the temple

AMARIAH (2 CHRONICLES 19)

- He served under King Jehoshaphat

“Amariah the high priest will have final say in all cases involving the LORD.”

2 Chronicles 19:11

ZECHARIAH (2 CHRONICLES 24)

- He served under King Joash after the death of his father, Jehoida
- Joash had him stoned because God sent him to confront the king about his sin.

AZARIAH (2 CHRONICLES 26)

- He served as High Priest under King Uzziah
- He confronted King Uzziah when the king entered the holy place to burn incense.



PROPHETS

ELIJAH (1 KINGS 17-21; 2 KINGS 1-2)

- Elijah was a prophet to the northern kingdom.
- Most of his story is recorded in 1 Kings
- Elijah challenged King Ahaziah for inquiring of Baal-zabub, the god of Ekron, about his health after an injury.
- The king sent men in groups of 50 to bring Elijah to him.
- At the end of his ministry, God gave his mantle to Elisha.
- Elijah was taken up to Heaven in a whirlwind. He did not die.

ELISHA (2 KINGS 4-8)

- Healed the waters of Jericho
- Multiplied a widow's oil
- Prophesied a son for Shunammite woman who hosted him and later raised him when he died
- Removed poison from a pot of stew Multiplied 20 barley loaves to feed 100 men
- Warned the king of Israel about the plans of the king of Aram so that Israel always defeated them.

AZARIAH (2 CHRONICLES 15)

- Delivered God's message to King Asa and the people of Judah and Benjamin.

MICAIAH (1 KINGS 22; 2 CHRONICLES 18)

- A prophet to the northern kingdom under King Ahab
- Delivered an unpopular prophesy to Ahab and Jehoshaphat before they went into battle against Ramoth-gilead.



WHY CAPTIVITY?

WHY DID GOD SEND HIS PEOPLE INTO CAPTIVITY? (2 KINGS 17:7-17)

- They worshiped other gods.
- They followed the practices of the pagan nations
- They secretly did many things that were not pleasing to the Lord.
- They built pagan shrines for themselves
- They set up sacred pillars and Asherah poles
- They ignored the Lord's specific and repeated warnings
- They ignored the prophets God sent. They would not listen.

WHY DID GOD SEND HIS PEOPLE INTO CAPTIVITY? (2 KINGS 17:7-17)

- They were stubborn and refused to believe in the Lord
- They rejected God's decrees and the covenant He made with their ancestors
- They despised God's warnings
- They sacrificed their own sons and daughters in the fire.
- They consulted fortune-tellers
- They practiced sorcery and sold themselves to evil

GROUP TALK

Let's look back at that list. Do we see any similarities to our current culture and the attitude toward God?

How should we respond?



**IS THIS REALLY
RELEVANT TODAY?**

¹¹ These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. ¹² If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.

1 Corinthians 10:11-12

PITFALLS OF POWER - THEN & NOW

- Even the powerful have enemies, both inside and outside.
- Power creates an illusion of control.
- Powerful people are often insulated from reality.
- Powerful people sometimes make immoral compromises and alliances to increase power.

PITFALLS OF POWER - THEN & NOW

- Power can change a person's personality and values.
- Powerful people don't like to have their mistakes brought to light.
They are always right.
- Powerful people are often more easily influenced than they realize.



UNEXPECTED ENDINGS

THEY STARTED WELL

- Solomon started his reign humble and dependent on God, but after years of disobedience, he ended his reign given over to idolatry, even sacrificing his sons in the fire.
- When Asa took the throne, his heart was fully committed to the Lord. After many years, he took God's role into his own hands and then became angry with God's prophet (and with God). He was so angry that he refused to ask God to heal him from a painful disease.

THEY STARTED WELL

- Joash tore down the pagan altars and images and repaired the temple. After Jehoiada died, he abandoned the Lord and served idols. When Zechariah the prophet brought a message from God, Joash had him stoned to death.
- Uzziah sought the Lord and did what was right, but later in life he became proud and usurped the role of the priest.

AMAZING TRANSFORMATION

- Manasseh led the people of Jerusalem and Judah to do even more evil than all the pagan nations
 - He sacrificed his own sons in the fire
 - He practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft
 - He set up a carved idol in the temple
 - He ignored God's warnings

AMAZING TRANSFORMATION

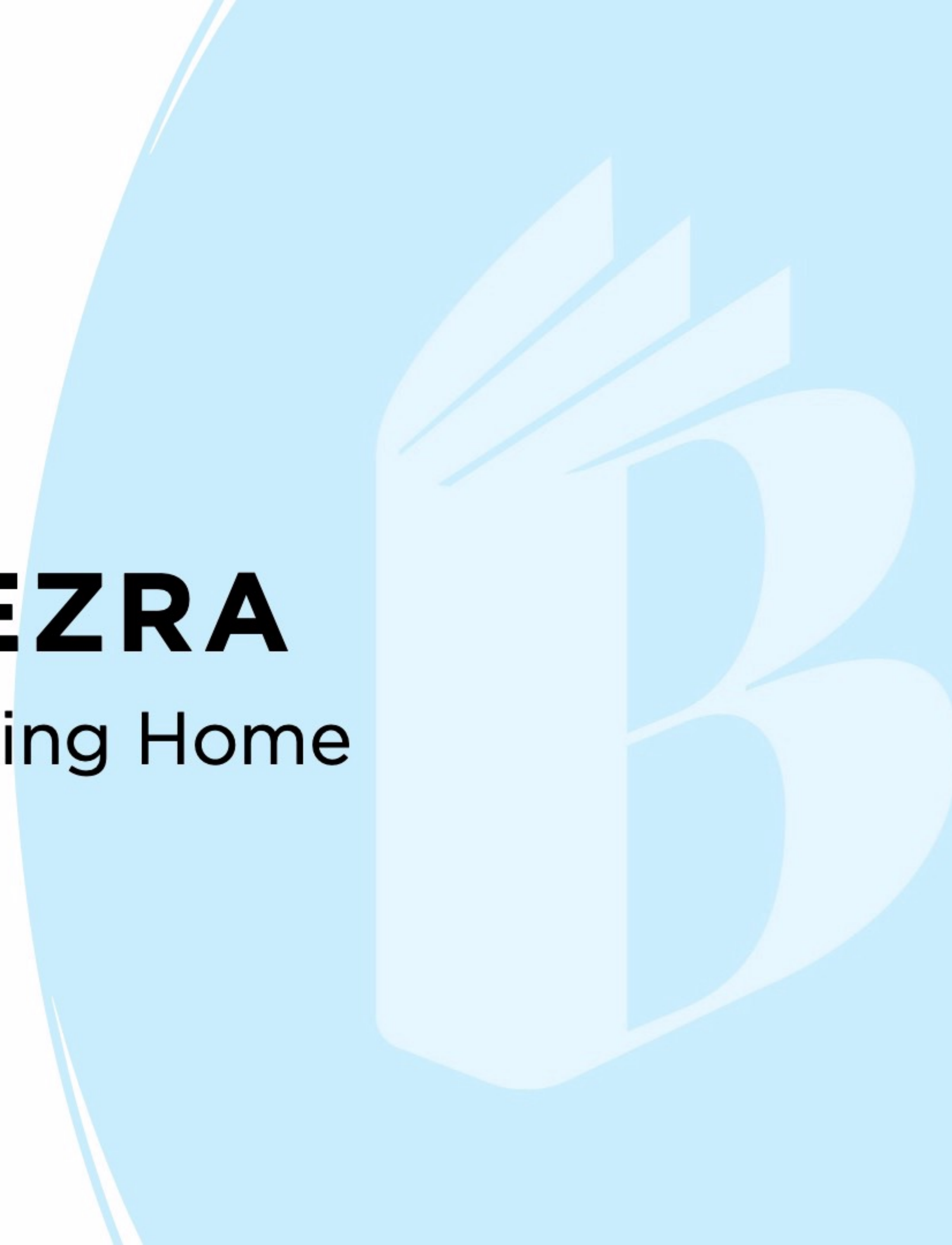
- He was taken captive into Babylon and in deep distress he sought the Lord and humbled himself.
- The Lord heard his prayer and brought him back to Jerusalem
- He tore down all the altars and idols, restored the altar of the Lord, and encouraged the people to serve the Lord



CURRENT EVIDENCE OF THIS PERIOD OF BIBLICAL HISTORY

The background is a light blue gradient. On the right side, there is a large, stylized, light blue letter 'B'. Overlaid on the upper part of the 'B' is a white icon of an open book with several pages fanning out. The text 'NEXT BOOK' is centered horizontally across the middle of the image.

NEXT BOOK

A large, stylized blue letter 'B' logo is positioned on the right side of the image. It has a modern, geometric design with a white outline and a light blue fill. The background is a solid light blue color.

EZRA

Going Home

A stylized, light blue graphic in the background depicts a hand holding a torch. The hand is formed by several overlapping, curved shapes, and the torch is represented by a series of radiating lines emanating from the palm.

Important Gentile Kings
New Leaders for A New Challenge
Two Prophets You May Know Already
Ancient Observations with Modern Applications

GOAL FOR THIS MONTH

Read Ezra at least once.
(There are only 10 chapters.)

Be sure to make notes of any insights you gain
as you read and study along with
any questions you encounter.

WANT MORE NOTES?

newspring.org/bbb



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