

## **Ezra-Nehemiah Part 1**

“Where Scripture speaks, God speaks.” // St. Augustine

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. // 2 Timothy 3:16

Whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures. // Romans 15:4

### **Major Theme**

Ezra and Nehemiah overlap in history and ministry and at one point it was only one book not two.

Ezra-Nehemiah is the story of a New Exodus and God re-establishing His people Israel in the Promised Land.

### **God Keeps His Promises**

The people of Israel (specifically Judah and Jerusalem) were exiled to Babylon by the King Nebuchadnezzar after years of warnings from the prophets to repent of their sin.

The major prophets of this were Isaiah and Jeremiah.

This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.  
// Jeremiah 25:11

For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. // Jeremiah 29:10-11

### **Ezra 1:1-5 - God uses Cyrus**

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb...who says of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be inhabited,’ and of the cities of Judah, ‘They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins’...who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”  
// Isaiah 44:24, 26, 28 (see also Isaiah 45)

### **Ezra 1:6-11 - Israel Plunders Babylon**

Similar to the first Exodus from Egypt, God allows the people of Israel to plunder their captors so that they would be equipped to worship Him.

### **Ezra 2 - Let the Counting Begin**

Before the people of Israel entered into the Promised Land during the Exodus, there was an accounting of the people and their tribes.