

Ezra-Nehemiah Part 6

Major Theme

The hand of God is for our good when we seek Him.

Historical and Biblical Context

Decree from a Persian King to return to Jerusalem	Ezra 1	Ezra 7
People numbered for the journey home	Ezra 2	Ezra 8
Trouble encountered by the remnant	Ezra 3-6 (external)	Ezra 9-10 (internal)

- Ezra 1-6 covers a 100 year history, while Ezra 7-10 takes place over the span of one year.

The ones who returned - Ezra 8:1-14

- The first two returnees named come from the two lines of priests descending from Aaron.
- The third name to be listed by Ezra is a descendant of David.
 - *Ezra is using the genealogy to show his focus and purpose - the worship of God and the promise of the Messiah.*
- There are 12 families of Israel listed in Ezra 8:3-14. This points to the renewing of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Missing Levites - Ezra 8:15-20

- And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Behold, I have taken the Levites from among the people of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the people of Israel. The Levites shall be mine, for all the firstborn are mine. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated for my own all the firstborn in Israel, both of man and of beast. They shall be mine: I am the LORD." // Numbers 3:11-13
- "The Levites of Ezra's day either don't know who they are, or they don't want to be what God called them to be." Hamilton// "Exalting Jesus in Ezra-Nehemiah"
- In Numbers 16 there is the story of Korah's rebellion.
 - "And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods." // Numbers 16:32

Fasting and Funds - Ezra 8:21-30

- Fasting - Matthew 6:16-18
- Treasure - Matthew 6:19-24

Safe Passage, Silver and Sacrifices - Ezra 8:31-36

- Seeking God - Matthew 6:25-34