

**“Our Promise-Keeping God”**

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Joshua 23:14-15

5.11.14

**Introduction:**

- A. Sometimes it’s hard to know \_\_\_\_\_ to believe and \_\_\_\_\_ to believe.
- B. When the God of the Bible makes a \_\_\_\_\_, He \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- C. Ezra and Nehemiah are \_\_\_\_\_ books.
  - 1. They seek to reveal a spiritual, theological, and \_\_\_\_\_ history of God and God’s people.

**I. Setting the Stage for the Story of Ezra.**

- A. A brief history of God’s people:
  - @ 2000 B.C. - God moved Abraham to Canaan
  - @ 1500 B.C. - God freed the Jews from Egyptian Captivity
  - @ 1000 B.C. - David was the 2nd king of Israel
  - 930 B.C. - The Kingdom divided: into Northern (Israel) and Southern (Judah) Kingdoms
  - 724 B.C. - The Northern Kingdom (Israel) was taken into Assyrian Captivity
  - @ 605 B.C. - Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, took away about 10,000 of the brightest and sharpest of Judah
  - 586 B.C. - The Southern Kingdom (Judah) was taken into Babylonian Captivity
  - 539 B.C. - Babylon the Great fell to the Persians under the leadership of Cyrus
- B. Three Personalities and Three Stages:
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ rebuilds the temple – 538 B.C. - 516 B.C. (Ezra 1-6)
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ rebuilds the spiritual life of Israel – 458 B.C. (Ezra 7-10)
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_ rebuilds the walls – 448 B.C. (Nehemiah 1-13)

**II. Ezra Chapter One**

- A. Three biblical texts are vital in understanding this event: Jeremiah 25:8-14, Jeremiah 29:1-14, and Isaiah 44:24-45:6.

**Conclusion:**

- A. God has the power to \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. What promises of our promise-keeping God do you need to put more \_\_\_\_\_ in?

Answer Key: Intro.A. who, what. B. promise, keeps. C. historical. C.1. redemptive. B.1. Zerubbabel. B.2. Ezra. B.3. Nehemiah. Concl.A. fulfill, promises. B. faith.