
BOOK OVERVIEW

Ezra

Author: Jewish tradition says Ezra.

Date: about 450 B.C. (after the captivity)

Recipients: not noted

Key word: Jerusalem (47 times)

Summary: The ups and downs of trying to rebuild Jerusalem after the 70 year Babylonian exile.

Key verses: Ezra 6:21-22

Theme: The restoration of the Temple and religious reform.

Notes:

The book covers about 80 years, 536–456 B.C., from the decree of Cyrus to shortly after Ezra arrives in Jerusalem.

Ezra was a priest and scribe (7:1-6)

About 57 years lapse between the end of chapter six and the beginning of chapter seven. During this time the events described in the book of Esther take place.

Chapters 1-6 describe the activities of the first group to return to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel.

Chapters 7-10 describe the activities of the second group as they return under the leadership of Ezra.

Some believe that Ezra was the originator of the Jewish synagogue system.

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