

IN &
OUT®

Ezra
and
Haggai

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

IN AND OUT®

EZRA AND HAGGAI
REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

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PAGE L E S S O N S

- 1 LESSON ONE: Does God Keep His Promises?
- 9 LESSON TWO: When the Enemy Comes
- 17 LESSON THREE: The Word of the LORD Came by Haggai
- 25 LESSON FOUR: The Hand of the LORD
- 31 LESSON FIVE: “I sat appalled. . . .”

A P P E N D I X

- 38 Explanations of the New American Standard Bible Text Format
- 39 Ezra Observation Worksheets
- 71 Ezra at a Glance
- 73 The Times of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther
- 75 Haggai Observation Worksheets
- 79 Haggai at a Glance
- 82 The Feasts of Israel
- 85 Map

Does God Keep His Promises?

Do you ever wonder? Quietly, secretly, do you ever wonder if God really does keep His promises? The answer, friend, is yes! Yes, He does keep His promises! Yes, He does what He says He will do.

If you have ever wrestled with questions about God’s power and love, this study will set you free.

TAKING IT IN

As you study Ezra, you will see God’s hand at work in the lives of men and in the events of history.

Start with prayer; in fact, we suggest you write it out below. Commit before God to do the homework and finish the study.

1. In the Appendix you’ll find **Observation Worksheets**—printouts of texts we’re studying, double-spaced and with wide margins to make them easy to read and mark. Read the Observation Worksheet for Ezra 1 slowly as you would any good book.
 - a. As you read, mark references to *Cyrus*, the king of Persia. We suggest you mark him with a green crown. There are a lot of kings mentioned in Ezra, and it is important that you take note of each one. Continue to mark Cyrus the same way in each chapter.

b. List what you learned about Cyrus below.

c. You probably noticed as you read that there were several references to *the house of God*. Repeated words or phrases like this are key to understanding the message of any book.

It's helpful to make a list of key words and phrases, like *Cyrus* and *house of God*, and how you will mark them throughout your study. This list will help you be consistent as you move from chapter to chapter and from book to book in your Bible study.

List the key words on the blank side of the Key Word Bookmark on the back cover of your Precept book. Marking suggestions for some frequently used words in the Bible are on the front of the card. An asterisk [*] shows these in this workbook.

For your study of Ezra, begin your key word list with *Cyrus*. Also add:

- 1) *house of God* or *temple* (see *tabernacle**)
- 2) *God*, * *Lord*

- 3) geographical references.* Since *Jerusalem* is so important in our study, double underline it in green and shade it blue. Look on the map in the Appendix to locate the places mentioned in this chapter.
 - 4) official documents—The book of Ezra contains several official documents, decrees, and letters that were copied into or quoted in the book of Ezra. These are important historically and therefore important to your understanding of Ezra. We suggest you mark them with a bracket in the margin so you can see where they begin and end.

For example: in Ezra 1, verses 2–4 quote the official decree issued by a king. It is an ancient official document of the kingdom of Persia.
 - 5) *priests*
 - 6) *Levites*
 - 7) expressions of time*—such as *in the first year of Cyrus . . .* are very important in the book of Ezra.
- d. Read Ezra 1 at least twice, marking the key words and phrases above.
 - e. List what this chapter says about *the Lord* and about *His house*.

- f. Summarize Ezra 1 with a few words from the text and record this on the chart “Ezra at a Glance” in the Appendix.

Summarizing each chapter of a book as you study is a great tool for helping you remember what you’re learning.

2. Next we come to Ezra 2.

This chapter lists the people who returned to Israel from captivity.

Your first thought may be, “Why should I read a list?” But remember two things. First, every person is important to God. The names of the families that returned home are important to God. Every name is proof that God is the promise-keeping God. Second, God put this list in Scripture for a reason. Let’s see if we can discover why.

- a. Using your Observation Worksheets, study Ezra 2.
 - 1) Mark key words on your list.
 - 2) Add *Zerubbabel* and *Jeshua* to your Key Word Bookmark.
 - 3) For Ezra 2, mark references to: *gatekeepers*, *singers*, and *servants*. Mark each in a different way. You’ll see them again in chapter 10.
 - 4) Note in the chapter margins the different groups returning to Jerusalem.
- b. List below the groups of people recorded for us. The first two are divided by family and by geographical location. We listed the first two for you.

3-20—the people by family

21-35—the people by city

36-39

40-42

43-54

55-57

59-63

-
- c. What roles do the people groups listed in Ezra 2 play in rebuilding the nation of Israel?
- d. Why do you think God included this chapter in Scripture? How would it have benefited the original readers of Ezra's book?
- e. Before we move away from Ezra 2, be sure to record a summary in a few words on your "Ezra at a Glance" chart. (By the way, Nehemiah, a contemporary of Ezra, includes the same list of people in chapter 7 of his book.)
3. The first group has returned to the land and the people are living in their cities. Now, the work begins.
- a. Observe Ezra 3
- 1) Add *burnt offering* to your key word list. You may want to box this phrase in red and shade it red.
 - 2) Mark *foundation* in this chapter only. We suggest you underline it in brown.
- b. Don't forget to summarize Ezra 3 on your "Ezra at a Glance" chart.
- c. After the people gathered in Jerusalem, what building project came first? Why?

d. What did you learn about burnt offerings from your observations of Ezra 3?

4. The first feast the people celebrated when they returned was the Feast of Booths (Ezra 3:4).

a. Read Leviticus 23:39-44 and record the main points about this feast.

b. Look at the chart “The Feasts of Israel” in the Appendix. Note anything else you learn about this feast.

c. What was the purpose of this feast? What historical event was brought to mind when it was celebrated?

-
- d. What would the Feast of Booths mean to the men and women returning home after 70 years of captivity?

 5. When did the work on the temple begin? You might note this in the margin of your Bible.

 6. Who were the leaders? Look at 2:2; 3:2, 8.

 7. What happened when the temple foundation was laid?

**LIVING
IT OUT**

Now for some application from what we've studied this week.

1. What have you learned about God this week, and what difference will it make in your life?

2. Read Proverbs 21:1. Does knowing that God moves even in the hearts of people who ignore or reject Him strengthen your faith? How?

Friend, please don't miss the significance of these passages! God keeps His promises. He promised to bring His people back to the land, and He did. He did exactly what He said He would do. When everything seemed hopeless, God brought hope. You too can trust His promises. Every word of His is true; you can rest from your worries in His unchanging grace.

EZRA 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW** in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying:
- 2 “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.
 - 3 ‘Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.
 - 4 ‘Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.’ ”
 - 5 Then the heads of fathers’ *households* of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up and rebuild the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.
 - 6 All those about them encouraged them with articles of silver, with gold, with goods, with cattle and with valuables, aside from all that was given as a freewill offering.
 - 7 Also King Cyrus brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and put in the house of his gods;
 - 8 and Cyrus, king of Persia, had them brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and he counted them out to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.
 - 9 Now this *was* their number: 30 gold dishes, 1,000 silver dishes, 29 duplicates;
 - 10 30 gold bowls, 410 silver bowls of a second *kind* and 1,000 other articles.
 - 11 All the articles of gold and silver *numbered* 5,400. Sheshbazzar brought them all up with the exiles who went up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

EZRA 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW these are the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city.

2 These came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum *and* Baanah.

The number of the men of the people of Israel:

- 3 the sons of Parosh, 2,172;
- 4 the sons of Shephatiah, 372;
- 5 the sons of Arah, 775;
- 6 the sons of Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua *and* Joab, 2,812;
- 7 the sons of Elam, 1,254;
- 8 the sons of Zattu, 945;
- 9 the sons of Zaccai, 760;
- 10 the sons of Bani, 642;
- 11 the sons of Bebai, 623;
- 12 the sons of Azgad, 1,222;
- 13 the sons of Adonikam, 666;
- 14 the sons of Bigvai, 2,056;
- 15 the sons of Adin, 454;
- 16 the sons of Ater of Hezekiah, 98;
- 17 the sons of Bezai, 323;
- 18 the sons of Jorah, 112;
- 19 the sons of Hashum, 223;
- 20 the sons of Gibbar, 95;
- 21 the men of Bethlehem, 123;
- 22 the men of Netophah, 56;
- 23 the men of Anathoth, 128;

- 24 the sons of Azmaveth, 42;
25 the sons of Kiriath-arim, Chephirah and Beeroth, 743;
26 the sons of Ramah and Geba, 621;
27 the men of Michmas, 122;
28 the men of Bethel and Ai, 223;
29 the sons of Nebo, 52;
30 the sons of Magbish, 156;
31 the sons of the other Elam, 1,254;
32 the sons of Harim, 320;
33 the sons of Lod, Hadid and Ono, 725;
34 the men of Jericho, 345;
35 the sons of Senaah, 3,630.
36 The priests: the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, 973;
37 the sons of Immer, 1,052;
38 the sons of Pashhur, 1,247;
39 the sons of Harim, 1,017.
40 The Levites: the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, 74.
41 The singers: the sons of Asaph, 128.
42 The sons of the gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, in all 139.
43 The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,
44 the sons of Keros, the sons of Siaha, the sons of Padon,
45 the sons of Lebanah, the sons of Hagabah, the sons of Akkub,
46 the sons of Hagab, the sons of Shalmal, the sons of Hanan,
47 the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, the sons of Reaiah,
48 the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, the sons of Gazzam,
49 the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, the sons of Besai,
50 the sons of Asnah, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephisim,
51 the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,
52 the sons of Bazluth, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,
53 the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah,

- 54 the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha.
- 55 The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Hassophereth, the sons of Peruda,
- 56 the sons of Jaalah, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,
- 57 the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Ami.
- 58 All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants were 392.
- 59 Now these are those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan *and* Immer, but they were not able to give evidence of their fathers' households and their descendants, whether they were of Israel:
- 60 the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 652.
- 61 Of the sons of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and he was called by their name.
- 62 These searched *among* their ancestral registration, but they could not be located; therefore they were considered unclean *and excluded* from the priesthood.
- 63 The governor said to them that they should not eat from the most holy things until a priest stood up with Urim and Thummim.
- 64 The whole assembly numbered 42,360,
- 65 besides their male and female servants who numbered 7,337; and they had 200 singing men and women.
- 66 Their horses were 736; their mules, 245;
- 67 their camels, 435; *their* donkeys, 6,720.
- 68 Some of the heads of fathers' *households*, when they arrived at the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, offered willingly for the house of God to restore it on its foundation.
- 69 According to their ability they gave to the treasury for the work 61,000 gold drachmas and 5,000 silver minas and 100 priestly garments.
- 70 Now the priests and the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers and the temple servants lived in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

EZRA 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW** when the seventh month came, and the sons of Israel *were* in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem.
- 2 Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers arose and built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God.
 - 3 So they set up the altar on its foundation, for they were terrified because of the peoples of the lands; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening.
 - 4 They celebrated the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and *offered* the fixed number of burnt offerings daily, according to the ordinance, as each day required;
 - 5 and afterward *there was* a continual burnt offering, also for the new moons and for all the fixed festivals of the LORD that were consecrated, and from everyone who offered a freewill offering to the LORD.
 - 6 From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, but the foundation of the temple of the LORD had not been laid.
 - 7 Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and food, drink and oil to the Sidonians and to the Tyrians, to bring cedar wood from Lebanon to the sea at Joppa, according to the permission they had from Cyrus king of Persia.
 - 8 Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, began *the work* and appointed the Levites from twenty years and older to oversee the work of the house of the LORD.

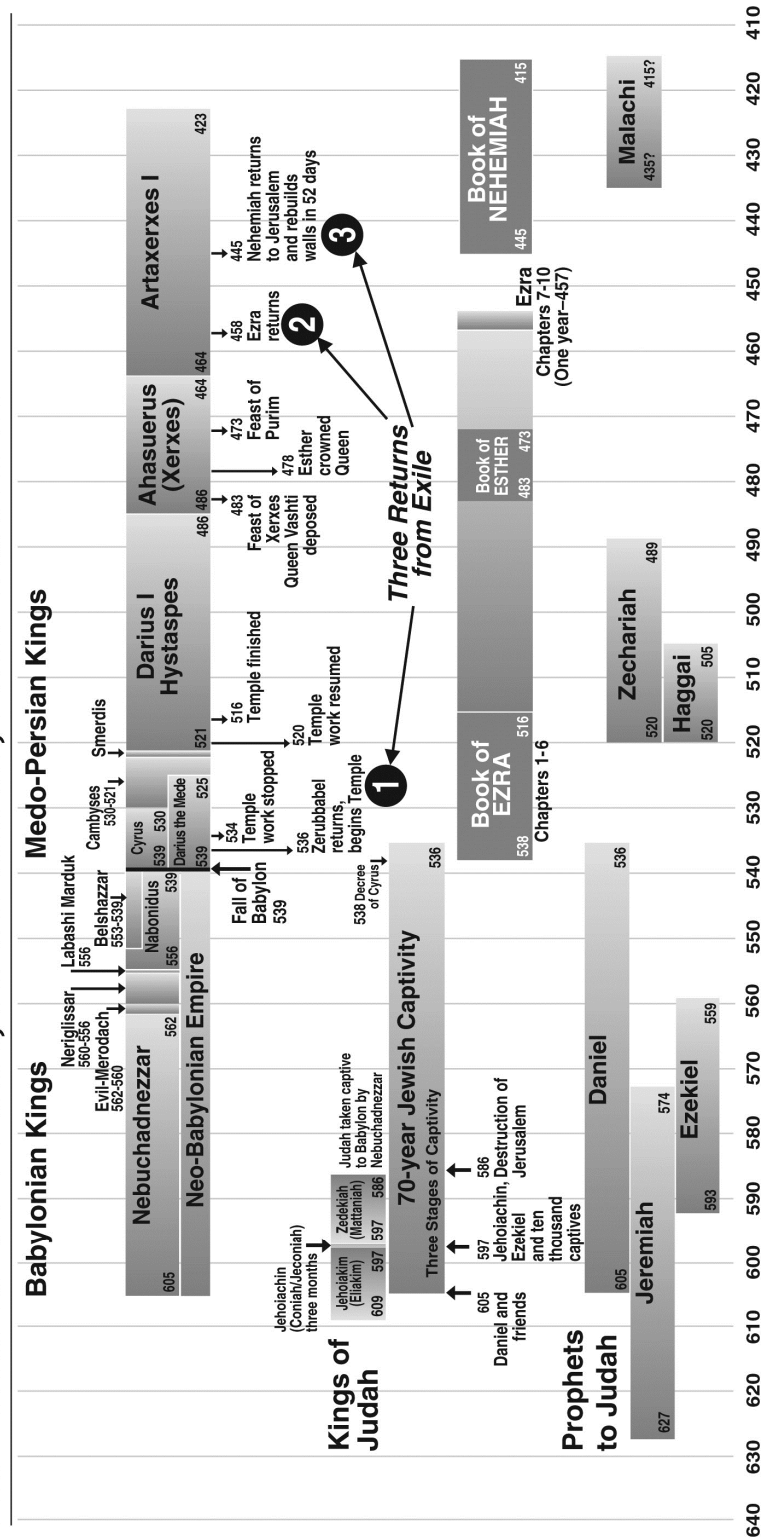
- 9 Then Jeshua *with* his sons and brothers stood united *with* Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah *and* the sons of Henadad *with* their sons and brothers the Levites, to oversee the workmen in the temple of God.
- 10 Now when the builders had laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD according to the directions of King David of Israel.
- 11 They sang, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, *saying*, “For He is good, for His lovingkindness is upon Israel forever.” And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.
- 12 Yet many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers’ *households*, the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy,
- 13 so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the shout of joy from the sound of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard far away.

EZRA AT A GLANCE



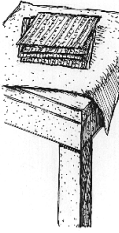






Book Theme:

	Segment Divisions	Chapter Themes
Author:		1
		2
Date:		3
		4
Purpose:		5
		6
Key Words:		7
		8
		9
		10




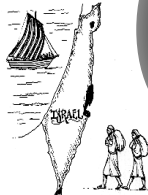
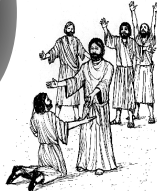
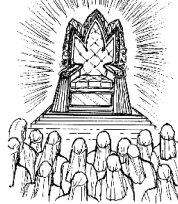
THE TIMES OF EZRA, NEHEMIAH, AND ESTHER



THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL

		1st Month (Nisan) Festival of Passover (<i>Pesach</i>)			3rd Month (Sivan) Festival of Pentecost (<i>Shavuot</i>)	
Slaves in Egypt	Passover	Unleavened Bread	First fruits	Pentecost or Feast of Weeks		
						
Whoever commits sin is the slave to sin	Kill lamb & put blood on doorpost Exodus 12:6, 7	Purging of all leaven (symbol of sin)	Wave offering of sheaf (promise of harvest to come)	Wave offering of two loaves of leavened bread		
	1st month, 14th day Leviticus 23:5	1st month, 15th day for 7 days Leviticus 23:6-8	Day after Sabbath that occurs during the week of Unleavened Bread Leviticus 23:9-14	50 days after first fruits Leviticus 23:15-21		
	Christ our Passover has been sacrificed	Clean out old leaven... just as you are in fact unleavened	Christ has been raised...the first fruits	Going away so Comforter can come	Promise of the Spirit, mystery of church: Jews-Gentiles in one body	
				 Mount of Olives		
John 8:34	1 Corinthians 5:7	1 Corinthians 5:7, 8	1 Corinthians 15:20-23	John 16:7 Acts 1:9-12	Acts 2:1-47 1 Corinthians 12:13 Ephesians 2:11-22	

Months: Nisan—March, April • Sivan—May, June • Tishri—September, October

7th Month (Tishri) Festival of Tabernacles (<i>Succhoth</i>)			
Interlude Between Festivals	Feast of Trumpets 	Day of Atonement 	Feast of Booths or Tabernacles 
	<i>Trumpet blown — a holy convocation</i>	<i>Atonement shall be made to cleans you</i> Leviticus 16:30	<i>Harvest celebration memorial of tabernacles in wilderness</i>
	7th month, 1st day Leviticus 23:23-25	7th month, 10th day Leviticus 23:26-32	7th month, 15th day, for 7 days; 8th day, Holy Convocation Leviticus 23:33-44
	Regathering of Israel in preparation for final day of atonement Jeremiah 32:37-41 	Israel will repent and look to Messiah in one day Zechariah 3:9, 10; 12:10; 13:1; 14:9 	Families of the earth will come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Booths Zechariah 14:16-19 
Ezekiel 36:24	Ezekiel 36:25-27 Hebrews 9, 10 Romans 11:25-29	Ezekiel 36:28	

Israel had two harvests each year—spring and autumn

