

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME TWO
THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF JOSHUA–ESTHER
EZRA: TRUE MAN OF THE WORD
A SURVEY OF EZRA



The Heart of the Matter

Some people stand out from the crowd—charismatic, confrontational, and colorful—

while others tend to blend—quiet, contemplative, and studious. While the popular opinion might be that only the former group has the greatest spiritual impact on the world, Scripture is filled with people from both groups who have impacted the world positively for the Lord. Ezra, who falls into that latter group, is certainly no exception. Given the responsibility of leading a group of God's people back to Israel from Babylon to reestablish the proper way of worship, Ezra performed admirably—not because he was an electric personality but because he was a true man of the Word.



Discovering the Way

1. Let's Get a Little History under Our Belts

After generations of near continual sin, God's people in the southern kingdom of Judah were exiled to Babylon.

2. Understanding the Flow of the Book

The book of Ezra begins by describing the first group of Israelites returning to their land from their Babylonian captivity and shifts in chapter seven to describe the second group of Israelites returning from Babylon.



Starting Your Journey

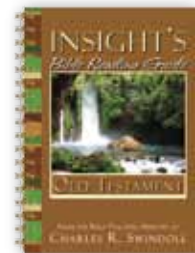
What is your objective? Do you wish to become a careful student of God's Word? If you pursue that goal, you will become one of those rare individuals who can open this book and give hope to the hurting.



Tools for Digging Deeper



**God's Masterwork
Volume Two
The Story of God's
People—A Survey
of Joshua–Esther**
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CD series



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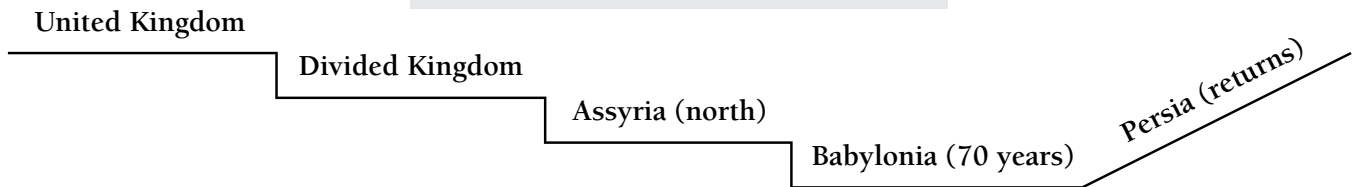
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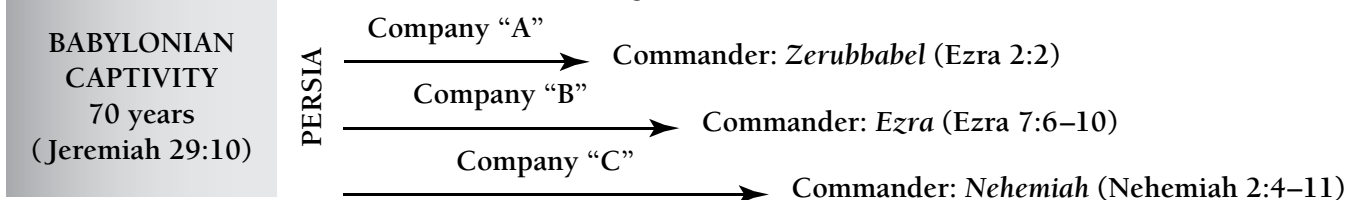
Helpful Facts Related to the Book of Ezra

POLITICAL CONTROL OVER ISRAEL



CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

THREE RETURNS TO JERUSALEM



PERSIAN KINGS OF BIBLICAL SIGNIFICANCE

KING	DATES BC	CHAPTERS IN EZRA	OTHER OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS
Cyrus	538–530	1–6	Haggai (520) Zechariah (520–515) Esther (474)
Cambyes	530–522		
Smerdis	522		
Darius I	521–486		
Xerxes I	486–465		
(Ahasuerus)			
Artaxerxes I	464–423	4:7–10:44	Malachi (450–400)
Darius II	423–404		Nehemiah (445–425)

CONTRASTS BETWEEN TWO BOOKS

EZRA	NEHEMIAH
Spiritual emphasis	Practical emphasis
Temple and Scripture	Wall and government
Commitment of a man	Determination of a nation
Revival and reformation	Motivation and accomplishment

EZRA

	Construction Leader: Zerubbabel		ESTHER	Reformation Leader: Ezra	
	CENSUS AND JOURNEY	Temple Foundation Opposition Determination Completion		CENSUS AND JOURNEY	Revival Condition Confession Covenant Cleansing
	CHAPTERS 1–2	CHAPTERS 3–6		CHAPTERS 7–8	CHAPTERS 9–10
Emphasis	Construction of the temple			Reformation of the people	
Persian King	Cyrus	Darius	XERXES	Artaxerxes	
Scope	National	General		Personal	Specific
Theme	Revival and reformation				
Key Verses	1:1–4; 3:2; 7:10				
Christ in Ezra	His birth anticipated in the preservation of the Davidic line and the remnant's return to the Promised Land; His work as spiritual rebuilders and restorers pictured in Zerubbabel and Ezra; His mediating presence and glory pictured in the altar and the temple				

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