

The Book of Ezra

Author

Who does ancient Jewish tradition claim that wrote the book of Ezra and the book of Nehemiah?

Date

When did Ezra and Nehemiah arrive in Jerusalem?

Structure

What are the two main parts of the book of Ezra?

Literary Background

What languages were the book of Ezra written in?

Themes and Characteristics

What are the three main themes in the book?

Read 1:1 What did Jeremiah prophesy concerning the Babylonian exile? (Note 1:1)

Read 1:2–4 What does the decree of Cyrus specify? (Note 1:2–4)

Read 1:5-6 Are the exiles that return given gifts to use for the sanctuary? (Note 1:6)

Who is the first governor of the Persian province of Judah? (Note 1:8)

Who is the second governor of the Persian province of Judah? (Note 2:2)

What was the required evidence necessary to reestablish rights to the priesthood? (Note 2:62)

What is the first step in restoring the worship of Israel in the temple? (Note 3:2)

Chart -- The Early Postexilic Period

Read 3:10–13 What is the meaning of the phrase, “for he is good”? (Note 3:11)

How did the temple of Solomon compare with the reconstructed second temple?
(Note 3:12)

Did the Samaritans try to undermine the reconstruction of the temple? (Note 4:1–24)

Who are the Samaritans? (Note 4:1)

When does work restart on the building of the temple? (Note 5:1–6:15)

Why does king Cyrus II assume the title of “King of Babylon”? (Note 5:13)

Is there a historical tradition within the Old Testament to pray for civil rulers?
(Note 6:10)

What is the second temple? (Note 6:13-15)

Who is appointed to slaughter the lambs for Pass over? (Note 6:20)

Who is Ezra? (Note 7:1) (Note 7:5)

Is Ezra one of the outstanding figures of post- exilic Judaism? (Note 7:10)

Word Study — Scribe

What is Ezra's reform? (Note 9:1–10:44)

Word Study — Put Away