

## Ezra-Nehemiah: Out of the Exile

		Ezra										Nehemiah																													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13																	
Chapters		Ezra										Nehemiah																													
Sections		Initial Return from Exile and the Rebuilding of the Temple						Ezra's Return and Reforms				Nehemiah's Return and the Rebuilding of the Wall							Ezra, the Law, and Covenant		Final Reforms																				
Themes	God's Sovereignty	1:1 1:2 1:5					5:5	6:12 6:14 6:22	7:6 7:9 7:23 7:27-28	8:18 8:21-23 8:31	9:8-15	10:14		2:8 2:12 2:18-20	4:15 4:20	5:13	6:9 6:16	7:5		9:6-37					13:2																
Themes	The Hand of the Lord							7:6 7:9 7:28	8:18 8:22 8:31				1:10	2:8 2:18																											
Key Events		Decree of Cyrus, releasing the people of Israel	42,360 plus 7,337 servants and 200 singers return	The people rebuild the altar and begin offering sacrifices.	Celebrate the Feast of Booths <small>Temple foundation is laid</small>	Adversaries and opposition ensue from the time of Cyrus until the time of Darius (note that this chapter spans some chron.)	Rebuilding resumes	Mention is made of Haggai and Zechariah prophesying	Darius receives a complaint letter from Tattenai, decrees that building goes on	Temple rebuild completed	Passover celebrated	Ezra Returns to Jerusalem	Ezra leads a group to Jerusalem	Proclaims a fast and seeks God's hand for a safe journey	Ezra cries out to God due to Israel's intermarrying and giving in to social seduction	The people repent and put away their foreign wives	Nehemiah hears of the state of Jerusalem, mourns, fasts, prays, confesses	Asks God to give him success	Nehemiah gains favor of Artaxerxes to go to Jerusalem	Arrives in Jerusalem	Inspects the walls by night	Descriptions of who was rebuilding and where	Laborers work with sword and trowel	Sanballat and Tobiah offer opposition	Oppression of the poor contrasted with Nehemiah's generosity	External conspiracy by Sanballat, Tobiah, & Geshem	Internal conspiracy by Shemaiah	Wall is finished	Nehemiah gives control over to Hanani	Genealogy recorded	Ezra reads the law, the people weep	Celebrate Festival of Booths <small>Great rejoicing</small>	Corporate confession of sin	History of Israel recited	The people make a covenant	Populating of Jerusalem	List of priests and Levites	Dedication of Wall	Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem after some time away in Babylon	Finds covenant from CH10 being broken	Offers reform

**Key Verses:**

Ez 1:1 - Fluffiest of Jer. 25:11ff, 29:10ff  
 Ez 7:10 - Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord and to teach...  
 Ez 8:22 - Ezra was ashamed to ask for a band of soldiers for protection  
 Ez 9:12 - Intermarriage and social seduction.  
 Neh 4:9 - They prayed and posted a guard.  
 Neh 4:17 - Sword and trowel  
 Neh 5:6, 13:8 - Nehemiah's anger  
 Neh 8:14-17 - Festival of Booths celebrated - first time since Jeshua son of Nun.  
 Neh 9:6-37 - Summary of Israel's history to present.  
 Neh 10 - promises; Neh 13, promises broken.

**Big Questions:**

1. How are we to see the timeline of these two books take shape?
2. Why is it that Israel (and we ourselves) are so prone to wander?
3. What do we make of Nehemiah's anger outbursts?

**Author:**

Ezra and Nehemiah  
 Possibly edited later

**Date:**

ca. 423 - 400 B.C.

**Time Period:**

538 B.C. to ca 433 B.C.  
 From the Decree of Cyrus to Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem.