

THE BOOK OF EZRA

430 B.C.

Construction

Leader Zerubbabel the prince

Reformation

Leader Ezra: priest, teacher, scribe

1 & 2 Chronicles

70 years



Cyrus' Decree to Return

Altar Rebuilt and Temple Foundation Laid

Political Opposition Halts Work

Temple Completion

Book of Esther

Artaxerxes Commissions Ezra Preparation, Journey, and Arrival

Ezra Repents, Prays, and Calls for Separation

538 BC

536 BC

535 BC

520-516 BC

458 BC

Cyrus decrees to send Zerubbabel

(God is not Silent)

1-2

3

4-6

5-6

7-8

9-10

MEDO-PERSIAN KINGS:

Cyrus
559-530

Cambyses
530-522

Darius
521-486

Xerxes
Ahasueres
486-464

Ahasueres I
464-423

First Return

Restoration of Temple

ca. 60 years

Second Return

Restoration of People

49,897 Men and families

1754 Men and families

"Don't stay in Babylon"

"Don't be deterred from doing God's will."

"Don't settle for half-done."

"Don't repeat past mistakes."

"This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years...For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place." (Jeremiah 25:11, 29:10)

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

about a century since the 1st return

Artaxerxes stirs and sends Nehemiah

444 BC

1-3

The wall is rebuilt despite external opposition and internal oppression

4-7

Spiritual Renewal and Wall is dedicated

8-12

Unfinished: Leaders lapse into sin and people follow

13

Malachi

"Remnant...in great trouble; Wall broken down" (1:3)

"The wall...finished... in fifty-two days" (6:15)

"The people... (committed) to walk in God's Law" (10:28-29)

Anticlimactic ending of renew to sin

Construction

Rebuilding the Wall

Instruction

Restoring the People

Prayers:

1:4-11; 2:4; 4:4-5; 4:9; 5:19; 6:9; 6:14; 9:5-38; 13:14; 13:22; 13:29; 13:31

Nehemiah:

Respected Governor of Judah

Powerful Reformer of Society

Effective Leader of the Project

Trusted Cupbearer to the King

increasing responsibility and authority

Nehemiah 6:15

15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.



Innocence



Conscience



Government



Promise



Law



Grace



Church



Rapture

Tribulation



Second Coming



Millennial Kingdom



Eternal State

Group	Who They Were	Primary Responsibilities
Priests	Descendants of Aaron	Offer sacrifices, pronounce blessings, teach the Law
Levites	Tribe of Levi (non-Aaronic)	Assist priests, teach the Law, care for Temple furnishings
Singers	Levites from the sons of Asaph	Lead musical worship and praise
Gatekeepers	Levitical families assigned to the gates	Guard Temple entrances, regulate access, protect holiness
Temple Servants	Likely descendants of the Gibeonites (Josh 9)	Manual and logistical labor (wood, water, support)
Sons of Solomon's Servants	Descendants of royal laborers (1 Kgs 9:20-21)	Skilled and support labor

Group	Number	% of Total Returnees (42,360)
Priests	4,289	10.13%
Levites	74	0.17%
Singers	128	0.30%
Gatekeepers	139	0.33%
Temple Servants (including Solomon's)	392	0.93%
Total Temple Workers	5,022	11.85% (1 out of every 8)