

# An Old Testament Glance

## The History Books – Ezra

<b>Written</b>	450 BC	<b>Period*</b>	550-510 BC	<b>Author</b>	Ezra
<small>*Dates are sometimes hard to know. They can vary depending on scholars &amp; sources of information.</small>					
Ezra 1-6	The Struggle to Rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem				
Ezra 7-10	The Need for Spiritual Reform & Repentance				

*Just for your information, it looks like Ezra the Priest & Scribe wrote all of the following: 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, & Nehemiah. The Hebrew Bible has all these in ONE book.*

1. Briefly explain how 2 Chronicles ends? (2 Chr. 36:22-23)

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2. Briefly explain how Ezra begins (Ezra 1:1-3)

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*Ezra is divided into two parts as you can see in the outline above. Ezra wrote both parts but here is the difference: Ezra was not born yet when the events in Ezra 1-6 took place. He actually was in Jerusalem when Ezra 7-10 took place.*

3. Regarding the appearance of Ezra:

- a. Where did he come from? (Ezra 7:6) \_\_\_\_\_
- b. When did he come? (Ezra 7:1) \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Who was he? (Ezra 7:6) \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Why did he come? (Ezra 7:21) \_\_\_\_\_

*The Babylonians defeated Judah & hauled many off to Babylon in 586 B.C. While the Jews were exiled in Babylon, Persia defeated Babylon in 539 B.C. So now, 47 years later, The Nation of Israel is in exile under the control of Cyrus, king of Persia.*

4. What did King Cyrus decide to do? (Ezra 1:2)

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*His decision would require the Jews to return to Jerusalem & their home towns.*

*Some think that Sheshbazzar (Ezra 1:11) and Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:2) are the same person. Either way, they or he led caravans back to the Land of Israel. The purpose of this group was to rebuild the temple & restore the worship system.*

5. Regarding the religious life of the Jews:

a. What was restored? (Ezra 3:1-7)

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b. What reconstruction was begun? (Ezra 3:8-13)

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6. How did the locals in the area respond to this reconstruction? (Ezra 4:1-5)

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7. What Old Testament prophets were there at the time? (Ezra 5:1)

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*Notice that Ezra 7 starts out, "Now, after these things, .....Ezra came from Babylon." So, all the events in Ezra 1-6 already happened when Ezra arrived in Jerusalem.*

8. What authority did Artaxerxes, king of Persia give to Ezra?

a. Ezra 7:13 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Ezra 7:15 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Ezra 7:18 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Ezra 7:21 \_\_\_\_\_

e. Ezra 7:25 \_\_\_\_\_

9. How did Ezra feel about all this? (Ezra 7:28) \_\_\_\_\_

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*Ezra went to Jerusalem to carry out the above-mentioned tasks.*

10. What did Ezra want for the people to do as they rebuilt the nation?

a. Ezra 8:16: Find men of \_\_\_\_\_.

b. Ezra 8:21: \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves before our \_\_\_\_\_.

c. Ezra 8:21: To seek from Him the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

11. To guarantee success in rebuilding the nation, notice Ezra 8:

a. Write out Ezra 8:22 – "The hand of our God \_\_\_\_\_

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b. What did the people do after hearing this verse? (Ezra 8:23)

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*We, too, need to do the same thing. We, too, can rebuild our lives.*