



Book
— **By** —
Book

EZRA

RETURN, REBUILD, RESIST

JUDAH WENT INTO CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON IN THREE PHASES:

1. **605 B.C.**—Among those taken were Daniel and friends.
2. **597 B.C.**—Including Ezekiel and 10,000 captives
3. **586 B.C.**—All remaining and the temple was destroyed.

THE RETURN CAN ALSO BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PHASES:

1. **536 B.C.**—Zerubbabel returned and began rebuilding the temple.
2. **458 B.C.**—Ezra returned with offerings and a decree from the king.
3. **445 B.C.**—Nehemiah returned and rebuilt the wall.

PEOPLE WE NEED TO KNOW

Make note of everything we learn about these key individuals. Be sure to look for other passages throughout the Bible where they are mentioned.

Keep in mind that sometimes an individual has more than one name, and sometimes more than one individual has the same name.

KINGS

KING CYRUS

KING ARTAXERXES

KING DARIUS

LEADERS

ZERUBBABEL

JESHUA (AKA JOSHUA)

EZRA

PROPHETS

HAGGAI

ZECHARIAH

THREE DECREES

DECREE #1

"This is what King _____ of Persia says:

"The _____, the _____ of heaven, has _____ me all the _____ of the earth. He has _____ me to build him a _____ at _____, which is in _____. Any of you who are his people may go to _____ in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the Lord, the God of _____, who _____ in Jerusalem. And may your God be with you! Wherever this Jewish remnant is found, let their neighbors _____ toward their _____ by giving them silver and gold, _____ for the journey, and _____, as well as a _____ offering for the _____ of God in _____."

Ezra 1:2-4

DECREE #2

Then King _____ sent this reply:

"To Rehum the governor, Shimshai the court secretary, and their colleagues living in Samaria and throughout the province west of the Euphrates River. Greetings.

"The letter you sent has been translated and read to me. I ordered a _____ of the records and have found that _____ has indeed been a _____ of _____ against many kings. In fact, _____ and _____ are normal there! Powerful _____ have ruled over Jerusalem and the entire province west of the Euphrates River, receiving tribute, customs, and tolls. Therefore, issue orders to have these men stop their work. That city must not be _____ except at my _____ command. Be diligent, and don't neglect this matter, for we must not permit the situation to harm the king's interests."

Ezra 4:17-22

DECREE #3

So King _____ sent this message:

“Now therefore, Tattenai, governor of the province west of the Euphrates River, and Shethar-bozenai, and your colleagues and other officials west of the Euphrates River—_____ from there! Do not _____ the construction of the Temple of God. Let it be _____ on its original _____, and do not _____ the governor of Judah and the elders of the Jews in their _____.

“Moreover, I hereby decree that you are to _____ these elders of the Jews as they rebuild this Temple of God. You must _____ the _____ construction costs, without _____, from my _____ collected in the province west of the Euphrates River so that the work will not be interrupted.

“_____ the priests in Jerusalem whatever is _____ in the way of young bulls, rams, and male lambs for the burnt _____ presented to the God of heaven. And without _____, _____ them with as much wheat, salt, wine, and olive oil as they need _____. Then they will be able to offer acceptable sacrifices to the _____ of _____ and pray for the _____ of the _____ and his _____.

“Those who _____ this decree in _____ way will have a _____ pulled from their _____. Then they will be lifted up and impaled on it, and their house will be reduced to a pile of rubble. May the _____ who has chosen the city of Jerusalem as the place to honor his name _____ any king or nation that violates this command and _____ this Temple.

“I, Darius, have issued this decree. Let it be obeyed with all diligence.”

Ezra 6:6-12

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

**WHY DID SO MANY OF THE PEOPLE
CHOOSE NOT TO RETURN TO JUDAH?**

**WHAT WAS THE FIRST THING THEY BUILT
AFTER THEY HAD SETTLED BACK IN JUDAH?**

**HOW LONG AFTER THEY ARRIVED
DID THEY BEGIN BUILDING THE TEMPLE?**

**WHY DID SOME PEOPLE WEEP WHEN
THE FOUNDATION WAS COMPLETED?**

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

**DESCRIBE THE TACTICS THEIR
ENEMIES USED AGAINST THEM.**

**WHO CAUSED THEIR WORK
ON THE TEMPLE TO STOP?**

**WHO DID GOD SEND TO ENCOURAGE
THEM TO RESUME BUILDING THE TEMPLE?**

**HOW MANY YEARS PASSED
BEFORE CONSTRUCTION RESUMED?**

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

**HAD THE “STOP ORDER” BEEN
LIFTED WHEN THEY WENT BACK TO WORK?**

**WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE
LETTER SENT TO DARIUS AND THE LETTER
PREVIOUSLY SENT TO ARTAXERXES?**

**HOW MANY YEARS TRANSPIRED FROM THE
BEGINNING OF THE WORK ON THE
TEMPLE UNTIL IT WAS COMPLETED?**

**WHAT WAS EZRA'S MAIN
PURPOSE IN RETURNING TO JERUSALEM?**

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

WHAT DID EZRA INSTRUCT THE PEOPLE TO DO BEFORE THEY STARTED THEIR JOURNEY? WHY?

WHAT SHOCKING REPORT DID EZRA RECEIVE WHEN HE ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM?

HOW DID EZRA RESPOND?

HOW DID THE PEOPLE RESPOND?

CHAPTER THEMES

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Chapter 5

Chapter 6

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