

THE OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF EZRA

I. The rebuilding of the Temple (Ezra 1-6).

A. The return of the exiles (Ezra 1, 2).

1. The proclamation of Cyrus to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem (1:1-11).
2. The returnees (2:1-70).

B. The work begun under Zerubbabel (Ezra 3).

1. The altar rebuilt and sacrifices made (3:1-7).
2. The foundation of the temple laid (3:8-13).

C. The work opposed and stopped (Ezra 4).

1. The adversaries (4:1-10).
2. Their letter to Artaxerxes (4:11-16).
3. The King's response (4:17-22).
4. The work stopped by force (4:23-24).

D. The work resumed and completed (Ezra 5-6).

1. The ministry of prophets Haggai and Zechariah and the work resumed (5:1-2).
2. The adversaries' letter to Darius (5:3-17). The purpose of the letter was to determine if Cyrus had actually authorized the rebuilding of the house of God.
3. The search for the decree of Cyrus concerning the house of God found, confirmed, and strengthened by a further decree of Darius (6:1-12).
4. The completion, dedication of the house of God, and the resumption of the priests' ministry, followed by the observance of the Passover (6:13-22).

II. The ministry of Ezra (Ezra 7-10).

A. The move of Ezra from Babylon to Jerusalem (Ezra 7-8).

1. The return of Ezra, the priest, to Jerusalem (7:1-10).
2. The decree of King Artaxerxes on behalf of Ezra (7:11-26).
3. Ezra's praise to God (7:27-28).
4. The second group of exiles who returned with Ezra (8:1-14).
5. The Levites who joined them at the river Ahava (8:15-20).
6. The fast proclaimed by Ezra for their journey, and the exiles arrival at Jerusalem (8:21-32).
7. The treasures brought from Babylon were deposited in the temple (8:33-36).

B. The Jews' abominable sin – mixed marriages (Ezra 9-10).

1. Ezra's grief and his prayer (9:1-15).
2. The repentance of the people (10:1-17).
3. The names of the offenders (10:18-44).