



*PURSUE: Women Pursuing Christ Through His Word*  
*Fall 2023-2024*  
*Lecture Notes*  
*Minor Prophets Lesson 13*  
*January 15, 2024*

*THE RETURN*

*Overview of Ezra/Nehemiah*

*I. General information:*

- 1. Considered one book until \_\_\_\_\_ when separated in the \_\_\_\_\_ Bible.*
- 2. Continuation of 1 and 2 Chronicles. Last verses of 2 Chronicles are \_\_\_\_\_ to begin the book of Ezra.*
- 3. The information covers events that took place during the reigns of several Persian kings from Cyrus to \_\_\_\_\_. During that time the events of \_\_\_\_\_ took place.*
- 4. The return of the Jews from captivity was prophesied by the prophets \_\_\_\_\_ (44:26-28) and \_\_\_\_\_ (29:10-14), and their return was specifically designated to Cyrus the King of Persia. Cyrus conquered Babylon in 539 BC and died 8 years later.*

*II. 3 \_\_\_\_\_ of the Return*

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ - Ezra Chapter 1-2 covers the first group of returnees*
  - a. Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ people as well as hundreds of livestock.*
  - b. They build the \_\_\_\_\_, start construction on the Temple, and begin to initiate the \_\_\_\_\_ of laws regarding sacrifices and \_\_\_\_\_ days.*
  - c. Temple rebuilding is \_\_\_\_\_ due to opposition and isn't completed until the reign of Darius.*
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ speak to encourage the people to trust God and resume the work.*
- 2. Ezra- Ezra chapter 7-8 records the next group to return.*
  - a. Ezra is given permission to return in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of King \_\_\_\_\_.*
  - b. approximately \_\_\_\_\_ people return mostly of the priests and Levites.*
  - c. Ezra is informed that the \_\_\_\_\_ of intermarriage has been ignored, and many men have married \_\_\_\_\_ women.*
  - d. Due to Ezra's example of confession and repentance a \_\_\_\_\_ is made to send away all the foreign women and children.*
  - e. Ezra teaches the people the law through several sessions of \_\_\_\_\_ reading and works to bring all into \_\_\_\_\_ with it.*

3. Nehemiah- Nehemiah is called by God to return and rebuild the walls.

- a. Ezra receives \_\_\_\_\_ from Artaxerxes I.
- b. In Jerusalem he secretly \_\_\_\_\_ the walls.
- c. Despite much opposition, the walls were completed in \_\_\_\_\_ days.
- d. Ezra leads the people in a \_\_\_\_\_ service.
- e. The people respond with much repentance and joy as the Feast of \_\_\_\_\_ is celebrated, and a \_\_\_\_\_ is made to follow God fully.
- f. Nehemiah \_\_\_\_\_ to Babylon.
- g. When he returns to \_\_\_\_\_ and finds that once again the Temple is in \_\_\_\_\_ and the people have fallen into sin.

### III. Qualities of leadership

1. Conviction-Ezra 1:5 “everyone whose spirit God had \_\_\_\_\_ to go up and rebuild...”
2. Commitment-\_\_\_\_\_ under persecution Neh.4:14-15
3. Collaboration- encouraging \_\_\_\_\_ in the effort Neh. 2:17-18