

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME TWO
THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF JOSHUA—ESTHER
EZRA: TRUE MAN OF THE WORD
A SURVEY OF EZRA



The Heart of the Matter

Some people stand out from the crowd—charismatic, confrontational, and colorful—while others tend to blend—quiet, contemplative, and studious. While the popular opinion might be that only the former group has the greatest spiritual impact on the world, Scripture is filled with people from both groups who have impacted the world positively for the Lord. Ezra, who falls into that latter group, is certainly no exception. Given the responsibility of leading a group of God's people back to Israel from Babylon to reestablish the proper way of worship, Ezra performed admirably—not because he was an electric personality but because he was a true man of the Word.



Discovering the Way

1. Let's Get a Little History under Our Belts

After generations of near continual sin, God's people in the southern kingdom of Judah were exiled to Babylon.

2. Understanding the Flow of the Book

The book of Ezra begins by describing the first group of Israelites returning to their land from their Babylonian captivity and shifts in chapter seven to describe the second group of Israelites returning from Babylon.

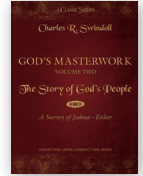


Starting Your Journey

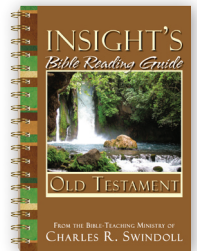
What is your objective? Do you wish to become a careful student of God's Word? If you pursue that goal, you will become one of those rare individuals who can open this book and give hope to the hurting.



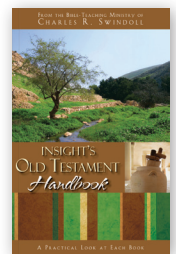
Tools for Digging Deeper



**God's Masterwork
Volume Two
The Story of God's
People—A Survey
of Joshua–Esther**
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



**Insight's Bible Reading
Guide: Old Testament**
by Insight for Living
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**Insight's Old Testament
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INSIGHT FOR LIVING

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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

EZRA

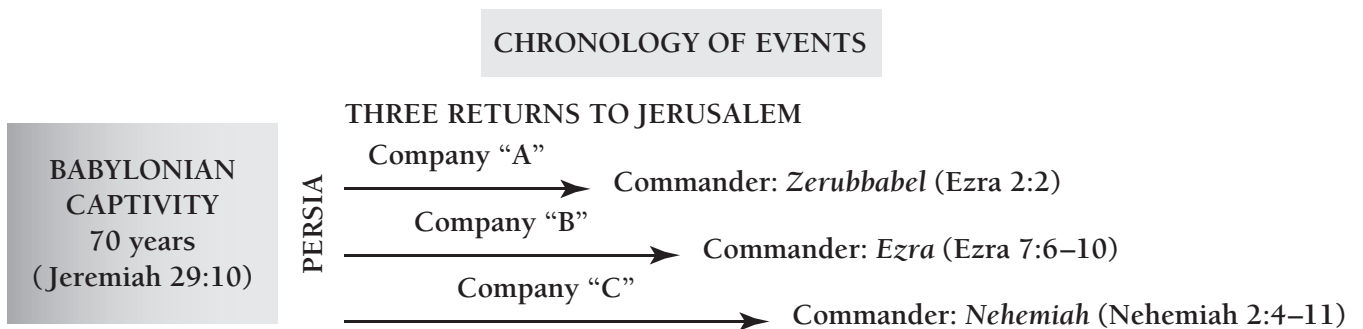
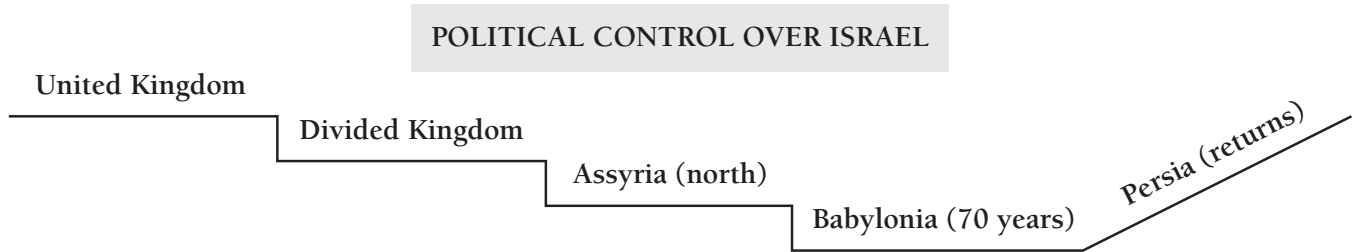
		Construction Leader: Zerubbabel		Reformation Leader: Ezra	
CHRONICLES	CENSUS AND JOURNEY	Temple Foundation Opposition Determination Completion	CHAPTERS 1-2	CENSUS AND JOURNEY	Revival Condition Confession Covenant Cleansing
		CHAPTERS 3-6		CHAPTERS 7-8	CHAPTERS 9-10
Emphasis	Construction of the temple			Reformation of the people	
Persian King	Cyrus	Darius	XERXES	Artaxerxes	
Scope	National	General		Personal	Specific
Theme	Revival and reformation				
Key Verses	1:1-4; 3:2; 7:10				
Christ in Ezra	His birth anticipated in the preservation of the Davidic line and the remnant's return to the Promised Land; His work as spiritual rebuilders and restorer pictured in Zerubbabel and Ezra; His mediating presence and glory pictured in the altar and the temple				

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Helpful Facts Related to the Book of Ezra



PERSIAN KINGS OF BIBLICAL SIGNIFICANCE

KING	DATES BC	CHAPTERS IN EZRA	OTHER OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS
Cyrus	538–530	1–6	Haggai (520) Zechariah (520–515)
Cambyses	530–522		
Smerdis	522		
Darius I	521–486		
Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)	486–465		
Artaxerxes I	464–423	4:7–10:44	Malachi (450–400) Nehemiah (445–425)
Darius II	423–404		

CONTRASTS BETWEEN TWO BOOKS

EZRA	NEHEMIAH
Spiritual emphasis Temple and Scripture Commitment of a man Revival and reformation	Practical emphasis Wall and government Determination of a nation Motivation and accomplishment