**An Outline of Ezra**

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1. Rebuilding the temple (1–6)
2. Decree of Cyrus allowing return from exile and rebuilding of the temple (1:1–4)
3. First return from exile (1:5–2:70)
4. Construction and completion of the temple (3:1–6:22)
5. The altar and foundation of the temple are finished under Zerubbabel and Jeshua (3:1–13).
6. Samaritans oppose the project and stop further construction (4:1–24).
7. Work begins again because of the prophetic ministry of Haggai and Zechariah and an appeal to Darius (5:1–17).
8. The temple is finished (6:1–22).
9. Darius permits the construction to begin again (6:1–12).
10. The temple is finished amid the ministry of Haggai and Zechariah (6:13–22).
11. Rebuilding the people (7–10)
12. Ezra leads a return from exile (7–8)
13. Biography of Ezra the priest (7:1–6)
14. Overview of the second return from exile (7:7–10)
15. The king’s letter (7:11–28)
16. A copy of the letter (11–26)
17. Ezra’s response to the letter (27–28)
18. A registry of returners (8:1–20)
19. The people who return (1–14)
20. The Levites and temple servants who return (15–20)
21. Fasting for protection on the journey (8:21–23)
22. Arrival in Jerusalem and offerings in the temple (8:24–36)
23. Ezra leads reforms in Israel (9–10)
24. Ezra’s response to mixed marriages (9:1–15)
25. His immediate response (1–5)
26. His confession of sin and acknowledge of grace (6–15)
27. Israel’s response to mixed marriages (10:1–44)
28. Their acknowledge and confession of sin (1–17)
29. A registry of those who married and agreed to divorce foreign women (18–44)