

An Outline of Ezra

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

