

Interesting Facts About Ezra

MEANING: Ezra means “Yahweh helps.”

AUTHOR: Ezra.

TIME WRITTEN: Probably between 457 and 444 B.C.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:

- 15th Book in the Bible
- 15th Book in the Old Testament
- 10th of 12 books of History (Joshua - Esther)
- 51 Books to follow it.



CHAPTERS: 10

VERSES: 280

WORDS: 27,441

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT EZRA:

- The Book of Ezra continues the Old Testament narrative where 2 Chronicles ends.
- Ezra shows how God fulfills His promise to return His people to the land of promise some 70 years after the exile.
- The return from Babylon to Judea has been called Israel's “Second Exodus.”
- Only a remnant choose to return after the seventy year period of Babylonian captivity ended.
- Out of perhaps 2 to 3 million people, only some 49,897 choose to return to Judea.
- Ezra relates the events of two returns from Babylon.
 - The 1st was led by Zerubbabel (538 B.C.) to rebuild the Temple. 1-6
 - The 2nd was led by Ezra some 81 years later in 457 B.C. to rebuild the spiritual condition of the people. 7-10
- The distance covered in the returns was about 900 miles.
- Fewer than 2,000 men accompanying Ezra to Judea.
- Between chapters 6 and 7 is a period of nearly six decades (60 years), during which Esther lives and rules in Persia, and the events in the Book of Esther take place.

EZRA

- Ezra was a godly man characterized by:
 - A strong trust in God.
 - Moral integrity.
 - Grief over sin.
- Ezra was a contemporary of Nehemiah who arrived in Jerusalem in 444 B.C.
- During the period covered by the Book of Ezra:
 - Gautama Buddha (560-480 B.C.) lived in India.
 - Confucius (551-479 B.C.) lived in China.
 - Socrates (470-399) lived in Greece.
- During the month of October in the year 539 B.C., King Cyrus of Persia overthrew Babylon, and in 538 B.C. issued a decree that allowed the exiled Jews to return to their homeland that had been conquered by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians.
- Two centuries before the Temple was rebuilt, Isaiah had recorded in Isaiah 44:28 - “Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid.'”
- King Darius found the decree of Cyrus and carried it out.
- Those who return from the exile are from the tribes of:
 - Judah
 - Benjamin
 - Levi
- Chronology of the rebuilding of the Temple.
 - Completed 21 years after the foundations were laid.
 - 2 years the work was underway. 536-534 B.C.
 - Opposition stopped the work for 14 years. 534-520 B.C.
 - Work was resumed in 520 B.C.
 - Temple was completed 5 years later in 515 B.C.
 - Actual work on the Temple took 7 years.