

Author--Ezra ? 7:28;8:21 1st person. Sometimes 3rd,7:1. Name of book comes from one of principal characters. Means the helper. Was priest, 7:1; scribe, 7:6,21 =layer of NT. Jurist. Copyist and authority in law. Started Great Synagogue=supreme tribunal of Jews. Collected OT books but not all of them. Neh 8. Lived to old age, died on trip to Persia, buried at Samarah on Tigris. Tradition.

Date--Written bet 456 (Ezra 10^o17-44) and 444 when Neh arrived. Events in book cover 538-456.

Aramic-- 4:7-6:18; 7:12-26. Official lang of Babylon and Persia. Aram=Syria so some versions say Syriac.

History

	Kings		Chpts
Cyrus	538-530		
Darius I	521-486	Haggai 520	1-6
Cambyses	530-522	Zech 520-15	
Smerdis (<i>psendo</i>)	522		--
Xerxes (Ahasars)	486-465		4:6
Esther	476		
Artaxerxes I	464-424		7-10; 4:7-23

Section I--The Return under Zerubbabel, 1-6.

Josiah. 627 reforms. Her's call 626. Law found 621. Fall

Nineveh 612 Josiah killed 608 Megiddo by Ph-Necho.

Jehoahaz. 3mo. To Egypt . 608

Jehoiakim. 608-597. =Eliakim. To Baby by Neb. Idolator.

Jehoiachin, 597. 3mo. To Baby. Evil. 2Kg 25:27-freed. 37yrlater.

Zedekiah, 597-86. Eyes out, 2Kg 25:7.

Reasons for cap, 2 Ch 26:14 and 21.

In Captivity-- Sennacherib 705 took 200000 to Assy, 2Kg 18:

605 Dan. 597 Jehoiachin. Zed 586.

Condition of people--Sub to scorn, Psa 137:3,5 Paid tribute. Isa 43:28 for indignities. Yet not slaves but

as colonists. High positions, Dan, Neh. Did Jer 29:5-7.

Observed law, Esth 2:8. Priests Jer 29:1.

I. The Decree of Cyrus, 1:1-11

A. Time, 1. 1st yr of capture of Baby, 539. Dan 5. Started 559. Empire from Aegean to India.

B. Content, 1-4. 1. Re prop of Jer, 1. Jer 25:12 made in 605. cf Dan 9:2. See Isa 45:13--200 yrs before. Cylinder discovered in 1800's shows Cyrus reversed policy of Assy and Baby and allowed exiles to return. Not a bel, Isa 45:4. Still beld in Bel and Nebo but recog God of Is as imp. Daniel may have testified to him, showing him Isa (Josephus said he did). Ful. prop apologetic. 1740-6/8

2. People, 2-4. God and commanded to rebuild. 4 means those Jews who were anywhere in empire (including 10 tribes) were to be helped by Gentile neighbors.

1. Re people. 5-6 2

G. Results, 5-11. Many immed. get ready, 50000 so many stayed. Some Priests naturally interested in going. Other Jews & Gen gifts cf. 2:40-42. 8:15
2. Re Cyrus, 7-11. Vessels restored. Taken in 605, Dan 1:2; 597 2 Kg 24:13 and 586 2 Kg 25:14-5. Rest restored by Darius Ezra 6:5. Furniture of temple destroyed, 2Kg 25:13. Sheshbazzar=Zer. Ez 1/5:16 cf Zech 4:9. Godd grandson of bad Jehoiachin (=Jeconiah). 1Chron3:17-19. 2499 listed in 9-10 but 5400 included smaller not-itemized vesseld, v 11.

II. The Census of the People, 2:1-70.

- A. The Leaders, 2:1-2. Note province, 1. Not ind nation. Joshua. Neh not same as one 80yrs later. Mordecaiot same bec he remained in Persia.
- B. The Families, 2:3-19.
- C. The Cities, 2:20-35. see 21,29,33,34 for familiar places.
- D. The Priests, 2:36-39. 4289.
- E. Levites, 40-42. 74 Levites very msall no to help 4289 priests. Singers, porters. Total 341. Porters=doorkeepers. Kept people from entering into areas where forbidden. Psa 84:10=someone at threshold, passerby or beggar.
- F. Nethinim, 2:43-54. Desc of Gibeonites, Josh 9). S'rvants.
- G. Solomon's servants, 2:55-58. Desc of Sol's prisoners of war. Like Nethinim. Still loved Is after years of service.
- H. Uncertain Genealogies, 2:59-63. Only prob with priests, 62. Wonder more gen not lost. Priests' cases decided later by HP using U and T. Ex 28:30.
- I. Totals, 2:64-70.
1. People, 42360. 2. Servants, 7337. 3. Singers, 200. Singers from tribes other than Levi. to supplement Levitical ones
4. Animals, 66-67. 61000 drams gold @ \$5.60/ = \$341,600. 5000 pounds silver @ \$17/ = \$85,000. 100 priests garmts.

III. The Construction Begun, 3:1-13.

6 mo journey. 530 direct miles, tho nearer 900 actual.

- A. Sacrifices begun, 3:1-6
1. Time, 1 and 6. Sept 25, 1 536 (allows 2 yrs after Cyrus' decree).
2. Means, 2-3. Altar built. Pattern from law, 2. Motivation v 3=fear of neighbors. Offerings am and pm, Ex 29:38-42. Takes trials and fear to realize need of God.
3. Specifics. Trumpets (regathering), 1st day 7th mo. Atonement (cleansing) 10th day. Tabernacles 15-21st days (mill blessings). Only Tab noted. Numb 29:12-38. Then regular cycle of feasts. Monthly new moon not req but did it anyway.
- v 3 Base. Either on permanent base or on old base discovered where it was before captivity.
- v6. Offerings tho not even foundation. Morning and eve sac reminds we need to commune with God both times.

B. Structure Begun (Foundation), 3:7-13.

1. The Contracting, 7. Men, material (from Tyre as Sol, 2 Chr 2:16, paid for with food), money (from Cyrus, 6:4).

2. The Construction, 8-9. a. Time, May-June 535.7mo since v 1. 605-535=70 yrs capt. b. Workers, 8-9. 341 Levites. Sol had 24000! Names =2:40.

3. The Celebration, 10-13. a. The music, 10-11. Psa 136. By course=antiphonally.

b. The Crying, 12-13. Sol temple destroyed 50-55 yrs before so could remember. Hag 2:3. Not so grand as Sol. Old too prone to look back.

IV. Opposition, 4:1-24.

A. The Compromise, 4:1-3. 1. Adversaries, 1. Jad and Ben largest group of returnees. 2x 2 Kg 17:24 done in 669 during reign of Esarhaddon (680-668). Fulfilled Isa 7:8 spoken in 734. Foreigners intermarried and their descendants were the adversaries. seek-worship

2. The Approach, 2. Sounded good, Let's help. Eclectic =choosing best? from several systems of rel. 2 Cor 11:15; 6:17. 3. The Answer, 3. Can't accept pagans on =. Eventually built own temple on Gerizim, Jn 4.

B. The Continuance of opp. 4-24. The Campaign.

People of land=Samaritans. Troubled-bribed, threatened (alternate reading=terrified). Hired PR men back at court in Sushan 535 BC. Dan dead and no one to help. Cyrus 535-530, Cambyses, 530-522, Smerdis, 522, Darius, 521. Chronology resumes in v 24.

C. The Climax, 23-24. Similar opp under Xerxes 486-465 and Artax 464-423. Xerxes in 486, Accusation=Satan. same wd This acc nowhere else mentioned.

2. Artaxerxes. Accusers=People in 7 Samaritans who hired 2 Persian officials of v 8. Tabeel prob =Tobiah, Neh 2:9 Associates others who were transplanted into Samaria by Esarhaddon, v 2, and Ashurbanipal=Annapper, v 10.

The letter, 12-16. Profess concn for King. Progress on walls, 12 exaggerated in light of v 13. Temple not mentnd in this letter bec completed in 515. Perhaps v 23 says they destroyed some of wall that had been built and this accounted for Neh's mourning in Neh 1:3-4. Decree of v 23 in 446. ~~The king's decree was that~~ v 12-rebellious under Jehoiakim, Zedekiah. v 14 Maintenance=lit, eat salt of the place; ie on king's payroll. v 15 records as in Esther 6:1.

The King's Answer and Decree, 17-23. v 20-David, Sol. Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Hezekiah. v 21-King left door open to change mind, cf Neh 2:8. Good thing, for laws Medes change not.

V. The Construction Renewed, 5:6:12. A. The Preaching, 1-2 Stopped in 530 under Cyrus. Now 15 yrs later resumed. Use Hag 1:4, 14; 2:12-13 Zech 1:16; 4:9

B. The Protest, 3-17. Tatnai Persian gov W of Euphrates. Sheth-aide. v 3-wall of temple. v 4 Names of Jewish leader Letter of 4:12-16 written 70 yrs later and walls of city inc Tatnai challenging but didn't stop bec of v.5. Would take about 1 yr to hear from Darius. v 11-13. Jews gave Tatnai whole hist of temple. Sol completed 960, Neb destroyed 586, Cyrus decree 538. v 17 If Cyrus' decree found, Tatnai hoped for reversal, 17b.

C. The Answer, 6:1-12. 1. Discovery, 6:1-2. Achmetha in Media (Ecbatana). Wonder it was found. Poss there bec not so hot and humid as Babylon and better for papyrus or leather scroll. 2. Details, 3-5. This official and more detailed record for archives. Ezra 1 public and not so detailed. This official memo. Height 60 cubits. Sol' porch 120, 2Chr3:4. Breadth 60-Sol's only 20. Maybe these were limits king allowed and Zer didn't build to limit (to acct for Hag2:3.) 3. The Decree, 6-12. This stunned Tatnai to have added decree Also financing which ~~was~~ cut into Tatnai's cut, 8. v 10 custom to pay for kg. Jer 29:7. Penalty, 11. Darius impaled 3000 when conquered Babylon.

VI. The Construction Completed, 6:13-22.

A. The Work, 13-14. Tatnai hustled. Elders supervised. Youth built. Artaxerxes mentioned bec reigning at time of Ezra' writing and 7:20.

B. The Completion, 15. 515, Mar 12.

C. The Dedication, 16-18. Sol 1 Kg 8:63 offered 20000 oxen and 120000 sheep. Sin off ^{for 12 tribes} Num 7:87. Priests' courses 1 Chron 23-26. v 18 service same word as work in 4:24.

D. The Passover, 19-22. April 21, 515-5 wks after ded. Priests purified selves. Leaders need to. Then priests did it for families instead of father as in Egypt.

v. 22-Kg of Assy-Darius whoruled former territory of Assy.

Section II-The Return under Ezra, 7-10.

I. The Return, 7:1-8:36.

A. The Leader, 7:1-10. v1. 58 yrs later, 515-458. Esther and Mordecai's inf helped soften Artax twd Jews.

Abbreviated genealogy. As Matt 1. Seraiah, 2Kg 25:18-21.

Hilkiah (during Josiah, 2Kg 22:4). Azariah priest in Sol's temple 1 Chr 6:10, Scribe=bible teacher, Jer 8:8. Ready=skilled.

Journey-March 27 to July 24, 458. ^{hot summer} Nathinim, v7, Gibeonites. v 10-Seek truth of law, do it, teach by precept and example.

E. The Letter, 7:11-28. 1. Authority behind it, 14. King and his 7 supreme court., Esth 1:14. 2. Authorizations of it.

(1) Rec gifts, 15-17. (2) Do whatever, maybe build walls, 18 (3) Take remaining vessels (4) Rec from treasurers w of Euphrates up to \$200000, 625 bushels wheat, 580 gallons wine and oil. Tribute was taken from people in money and produce. (5) Do will of God, 23 so no wrath on Artax. (6) Exempt from taxes, 24. (7) Teach and punish uninstructed Jews, 25-6.

3. Thanksgiving for it, 27-8. Tho Ezra initiated this v.6, and was granted it bec of his favor with king, he ascribes its doing to God.

C. The Journey, 8:1-36. 1. The Group, 1-14. Family names so some of same appear in ch 2, but not same individuals. 1514 men plus women and kids=6-7000. Much smaller than under Zer. Glamor worn off.

2. The Problems, 15-30.. ~~Nm~~ #1-No Levites, 15-20.

Don't know where river is but only 9 days from Babyln Only 341 Levites went with Zer. At Casiphia must have been settlement of Levites and Nethinim. 40+220 respnded.

Problem #2, Protection, 21-23 Evidently boasted to king of power of God, now ashamed to ask for escort. Fasted, prayed. God lead but not with pillar fire. Neh used excort, 2:9. God leads in diff ways.

Problem #3-safeguarding the money, 24-30. \$3-5 mill. Divided among 24, v 24. Not all would be caught by robber Then exhorted, 28. Expected accounting, 29. 2 Cor 8:16-21.

3. The Arrival, 31-36. Some narrow escapes on way, 31. Accounts settled and written, 34. Offered sac with joy for 1st time seen Jerus, 35. Delvd king's orders to satraps, 36 and they responded.

II. The Reformation, Revival, 9:1-10+44.

A. The Condition, 9:1-4. Some time passed 10:9-4months later. Princes (rulers) reported.

1. The Rebellion. Broke Deut 7:1-6. All classes esp leaders.

2. The result, 2. Mixture and dilution of holy seed. Children would take rel of mother who was heathen.

3. The Reaction, 3-4. Rent garment, plucked hair, sat astonished, like-minded gather around. You will not be alone if react against sin. Someone has to lead.

B. The Confession, 9:5-15. /v4-attitude twd words of God

1. Timev 5. Animal /ultimate test of relatnship. slain at 2:30; pieces put on altar at 3:30 p.m.

2. Signs of it, v5. Rent clothes. Position of submission

3. Associations, 5-15. Only "I" and "my" in v 5. Then we, our, us, 37x in rest of prayer.

- 4. Acknowledgements, 7-15. (1) Of past sins, 7. (2) Of recent deliverance, 8-9. (3) Of present sin, 10-12. (4) Of deserved punishment, 13-14. (5) Of righteousness of God and any punishment to come, 15. Not gracious, but righteous. Innocent in nation guilty too. Submission.

C. The Covenant, 10:1-8.

- 1. Concern, 1. This won the people. No Pharisical att.
- 2. Companions, 2. Hope-he relied on promise attached to repentance in Deut 30:9-10.
- 3. Covenant, 3-4 Put away wives. cf. 1 Cor 7:12,14,16.
- 4. Course of Action, 5-8. Made leaders swear allegiance. v 5. Contd fast in private, prob overnight, including no drink, 6. Proclamation, 7-8. All report to Jerus. If didn't, substance would be forfeited (lit.), devoted, i.e. to benefit of temple, Lev 27:28)

D. The Cleansing, 10:9-44.

Dec 8, 457 Fear, rain

- 1. Time, 9. 4 months after Ezra's arrival in Jerus.
- 2. **Requirements**, 10-11. Confess, submit, separate.
- 3. Reaction, 12. a. **Necessity for procedure**
- 4. Procedure, 13-4, 16-17. Rain hindered and time needed to carry out separations decently, esp where children involved, 44, and many people involved.
 - b. Outline of procedure, 14. Decentralized.
 - c. Duration, 16-17. That yr there was an intercalary month added, so 4 months total. Ended Apr 15, 456
- 5. Opposition, 15. Trans stood up ag this matter. 2 leaders and 2 helpers. Meshullam did give up wife, 29. Other helper was Levite and that lent weight to have clergy on side. Not the only 4 who opposed. Only nevertheless.
- 6. Public record, 18-44. 17 priests, 10 Levites, 86 of congregation = 113. 25% were rel leaders. Relatively small number but 1 Cor 5:6; Gal 5:9. As proof of repentance, gave right hand, Ezek 17:18 and offered ram for trespass, Lev 5:14-16, v 19. This was difficult to do with kids tho sustenance allowance prob provided. Evil stayed but returned under Neh 12 yrs later, 10:30, and 30 yrs later, 13:23.