

Wayne Parks Ministries presents
Christ in Every Book of the Bible
from *Genesis to Revelation*

Ezra

The Book of Ezra covers a segment of the history of Israel after the return of the Jews to their homeland. After Medo-Persia had conquered Babylon, Cyrus the king, authorized the return of the Jews to their homeland.

Important facts to remember from this book are:

1. The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, mark the end of Old Testament history. (The remainder of the books of the Old Testament are poetic or prophetic.) In the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, we see Jerusalem and the temple being rebuilt as the seventy years of captivity come to an end.
2. The last three prophets of the Old Testament, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi lived during this time of rebuilding.
3. Ezra was a priest and a descendent of the priest Hilkiah who helped Josiah the King with religious reform in Judah 160 years earlier. Ezra was a captive Jew of high rank, whom the King of Persia trusted and allowed to return to Jerusalem to make sure the laws of God were being carried out.
4. The restoration of the walls of Jerusalem and the temple which were ruined by sin, are a picture of how Christ Jesus restores lives broken and destroyed by sin.

TRUE OR FALSE: Write T or F followed by the verse in which you found the answer:

- | <u>T/F</u> | <u>Verse</u> | |
|------------|--------------|--|
| _____ | _____ | 1. King Cyrus of Persia felt directed by "the Lord God of Heaven" to allow all willing Jews to return and restore the temple in Jerusalem during his second year of reign. |
| _____ | _____ | 2. King Cyrus restored to the Jews the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar had seized at the beginning of captivity. |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Chapter 2 lists those who returned to Jerusalem after the captivity ended. |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Over 42 thousand Jews returned to Jerusalem, plus servants and a choir of 200. |
| _____ | _____ | 5. At the praise festival, there were no priests left who had seen the former temple before its destruction. |
| _____ | _____ | 6. The adversaries of the Jews became very kind, and helped rebuild the temple. |
| _____ | _____ | 7. Artaxerxes, the new king of Persia, believed the hateful letter from the adversaries, and halted the rebuilding. |
| _____ | _____ | 8. The work was resumed before Darius came to power. |
| _____ | _____ | 9. The work was resumed without permission of any king. |
| _____ | _____ | 10. King Darius, after a letter from the Jews, found Cyrus' original decree and thus authorized the rebuilding to continue. |
| _____ | _____ | 11. King Darius' decree further ordered destruction of those who hindered this work. |
| _____ | _____ | 12. The temple was not finished during Darius' reign. |
| _____ | _____ | 13. Ezra was a direct descendent of Aaron the priest. |
| _____ | _____ | 14. King Artaxerxes gave Ezra a special letter of permission to go to Jerusalem to teach the law, and to beautify the temple. |
| _____ | _____ | 15. Ezra could not take anyone with him. |
| _____ | _____ | 16. Ezra was allowed to take a freewill offering from the people in Babylon before he left. |
| _____ | _____ | 17. Ezra proclaimed a fast because he needed more money. |

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- _____ 18. God brought them safely through the land of the enemy, even with their cargo of gold and silver.
- _____ 19. Ezra was so angry about the gold and silver, he plucked out his hair and beard, and tore his clothes.
- _____ 20. Ezra made everyone "put away" their heathen wives and children.