

Bible Study: Book of Ezra

...ple and the treasures of the
...cials. ¹⁹They set fire to God's temple
...roke down the wall of Jerusalem; they
...all the palaces and destroyed every-
...of value there.
...He carried into exile to Babylon the rem-
... who escaped from the sword, and they

given me all the kingdoms
and he has appointed me to build
ple for him at Jerusalem in Judah.
one of his people among you—may
LORD his God be with him, and let
go up.' ”

Ezra

Cyrus Helps the Exiles to Return

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of the king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: The LORD, the God of heaven, has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. ³Any-

lem. ⁶All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and stock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to the freewill offerings. ⁷Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god. ⁸Cyrus king of Persia had them brought by Mithredath the eunuch, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

⁹This was the inventory

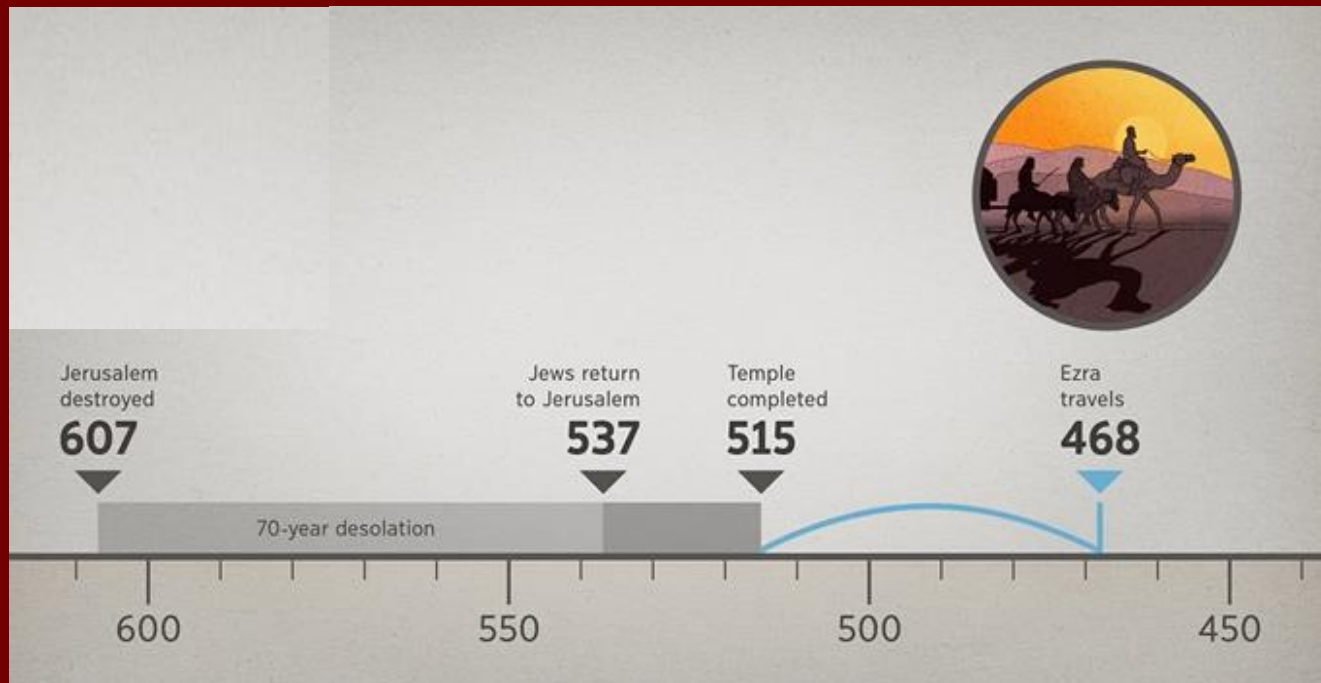
gold dishes

silver dishes

Background

■ Timing

- Ezra passes over the subsequent period of time until the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, 468 B.C.E., when Ezra personally comes into the picture.



Background

■ Timing

- Ezra uses the first person from chapter 7, verse 27, to chapter 9 but changes to the third person in chapter 10, putting himself in the background to concentrate on the activities of princes, the priests and Levites and the rest of those who had been repatriated, especially dealing with correcting the situation of the ones who had married foreign wives.



Book of Ezra

Chapters 7-8

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gold dishes

silver dishes

Outline of Content

• 7

- Ezra comes to Jerusalem (1-10)
- Artaxerxes' letter to Ezra (11-26)
- Ezra praises God (27, 28)

• 8

- List of those returning with Ezra (1-14)
- Preparations for the journey (15-30)
- Departure from Babylon and arrival in Jerusalem (31-36)



Book of Ezra

Chapters 9-10

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Outline of Content

- **9**

- Intermarriage in Israel (1-4)
- Ezra's prayer of confession (5-15)

- **10**

- Covenant to send away foreign wives (1-14)
- Foreign wives dismissed (15-44)



Background

■ Importance of Ezra

- **As Christian, though we are scarred by sin and rebellion against God, there is great hope that God forgives, when we seek Him in repentance and brokenness (1 John 1:9).**
- **The return of the remnant to Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the Temple can be viewed as a metaphor of Christians, who returns from the captivity of sin and rebellion against God to be part of the spiritual Temple of God (I Corinthians 3:16) and the Royal Priesthood (I Peter 2:9).**