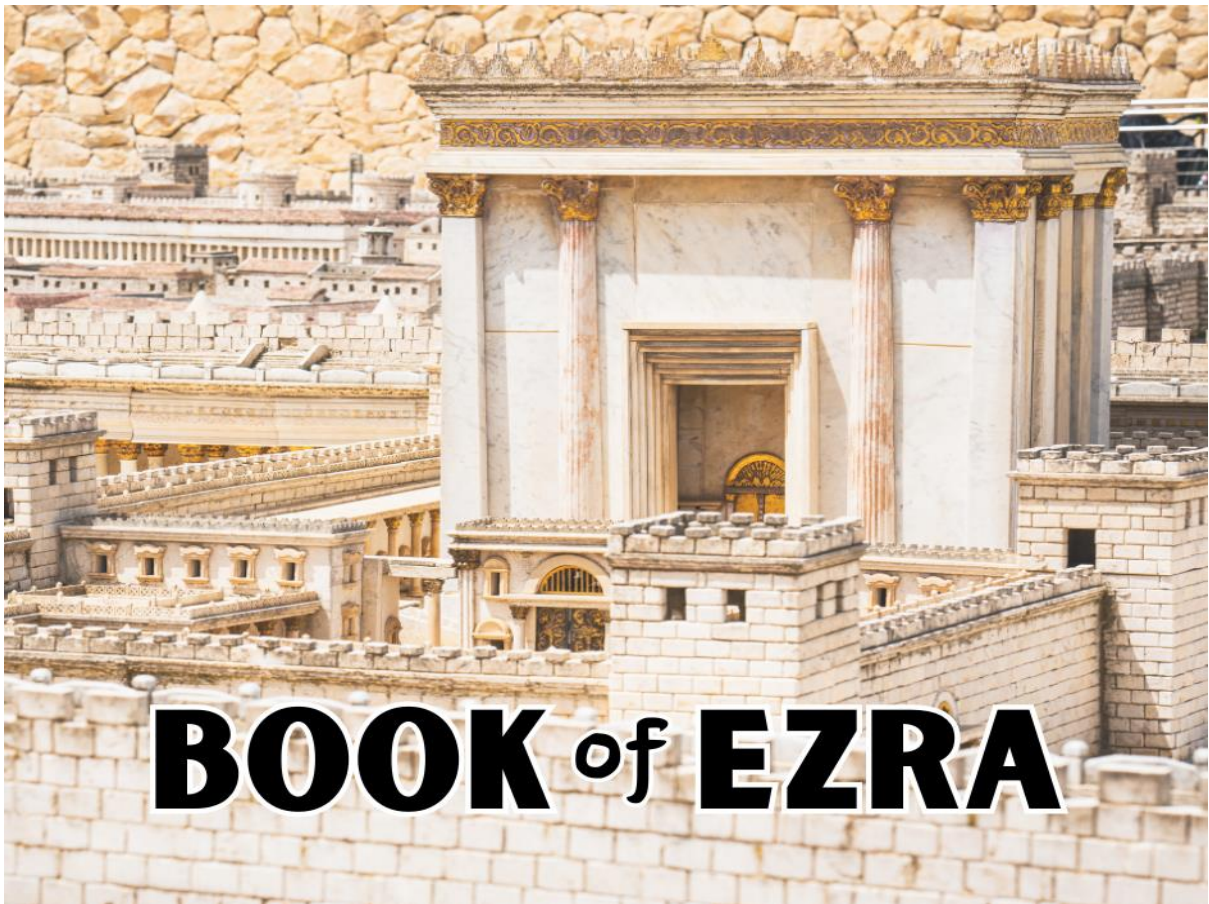




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**LIVERPOOL**  
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*Bible Studies in the Book of Ezra*



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1. Ezra 1-2   Sun 28 July	3
2. Ezra 3   Sun 4 August	8
3. Ezra 4   Sun 11 August	12
4. Ezra 5-6   Sun 18 August	17
5. Ezra 7   Sun 25 August	22
6. Ezra 8-9   Sun 1 Sept	26
7. Ezra 10   Sun 8 Sept	31





## **Biblical Theology and Salvation History Questions:**

1. **Ezra 1:1** - How does the proclamation of Cyrus fulfill God's promises to Israel?
  - *Refer to Jeremiah 29:10-14 and how this return is part of God's larger plan for His people.*
  
2. **Ezra 2:64-70** - How does the rebuilding of the temple foreshadow the coming of Jesus and the establishment of the new temple in the hearts of believers?
  - *Refer to John 2:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 3:16.*

## **Application Questions:**

1. **Reflecting on Ezra 1:1-6**- How can we recognize and respond to God's calling in our own lives today? What steps can we take to be obedient to His plans?

2. **Examining Ezra 2:68-70** - What can we learn from the Israelites' generosity and commitment to the rebuilding of the temple? How can we apply these principles of giving and dedication to our own lives and church community?

### **Additional Bible Passages for Context:**

1. **Jeremiah 29:10-14** - Understanding God's promise of return from exile.
2. **Isaiah 44:28, 45:1-4** - Prophecy concerning Cyrus.
3. **Exodus 25-31** - The significance of temple items and worship.
4. **John 2:19-21** - Jesus as the new temple.
5. **1 Corinthians 3:16** - Believers as the temple of God.
6. **Luke 4:18-19** - Jesus' proclamation of freedom and restoration.
7. **John 14:2-3** - Jesus preparing a place for believers.

### **Concluding Thoughts:**

Ezra 1 and 2 provide a powerful narrative of God's faithfulness and the fulfillment of His promises. The return from exile and the rebuilding of the temple foreshadow the greater work of restoration through Jesus Christ. As we reflect on these chapters, let us be encouraged to recognize God's hand in our lives, respond to His calling with faith and obedience, and contribute wholeheartedly to the work He is doing in and through us. Let us also be reminded that, just as every individual played a vital role in the restoration of Israel, each of us is essential in God's ongoing story of redemption.

## ***Prayer Points***





## **Biblical Theology and Salvation History Questions:**

1. **Ezra 3:1-3** - How does the act of rebuilding the altar before the temple reflect the priorities of the Israelites in their relationship with God?
  - *Compare with Haggai 1:4-9 on prioritizing God's house.*
  
2. According to Hebrews 10:1-14, why don't believers today need a physical altar? What kind of an altar do we have? (Hebrews 10:15-25 and 13:9-15)

## **Application Questions:**

1. **Reflecting on Ezra 3:1-3** - How can we prioritize worship and our relationship with God in our daily lives?



## **Concluding Thoughts:**

Ezra 3 captures a significant moment in Israel's history as they return from exile and begin to rebuild the temple. This chapter highlights the importance of worship, the reestablishment of spiritual practices, and the communal effort required to fulfill God's purposes. As we reflect on these verses, we are reminded of the centrality of worship in our lives, the importance of community, and the need to trust in God's unfolding plan. Jesus, as the true foundation of our faith, brings fulfillment to these Old Testament promises and offers us a secure and eternal hope. Let us prioritize our relationship with God and celebrate His work in our lives.

## ***Prayer Points***

### 3. Ezra 4 | Sun 11 Aug

#### Introduction Question:

1. **Have you ever faced opposition or obstacles while trying to accomplish something you believed was important or God-honoring? How did you respond to those challenges?**

#### Exegetical and Comprehension Questions:

1. **Ezra 4:1-2** - Who approached Zerubbabel and the leaders of Judah, and what did they propose? What was their true intention?
  - *Refer to 2 Kings 17:24-34 for background on the people who settled in Samaria.*
  
2. **Ezra 4:3** - How did Zerubbabel and the leaders respond to the proposal? Why did they reject the help?





## **Additional Bible Passages for Context:**

1. **2 Kings 17:24-34** - Background on the people of Samaria.
2. **Nehemiah 4:1-3** - Similar opposition faced by Nehemiah.
3. **Ephesians 6:12** - Understanding spiritual warfare.
4. **2 Corinthians 6:14-18** - The importance of being separate from unbelievers in spiritual matters.
5. **John 15:18-21** - Jesus' teaching on the world's hatred.
6. **Matthew 5:11-12** - Jesus' teaching on persecution.
7. **Isaiah 55:8-9** - Trusting in God's higher ways and timing.

## **Concluding Thoughts:**

Ezra 4 provides a vivid picture of the opposition and challenges that the Israelites faced as they sought to rebuild the temple. This chapter reminds us that God's work often encounters resistance, both from external enemies and internal discouragement. As we study these verses, we are encouraged to remain steadfast in our faith, discerning in our alliances, and trusting in God's ultimate sovereignty and timing. The opposition and delays in rebuilding the temple also point us to Jesus, who faced the ultimate opposition and yet triumphed, becoming the cornerstone of our faith. Let us draw strength from His example and remain committed to the work God has called us to, knowing that His purposes will prevail.

## ***Prayer Points***



## 4. Ezra 5-6 | Sun 18 Aug

### Introduction Question:

1. Share an event where God tested your patience.

### Exegetical and Comprehension Questions:

1. **Ezra 5:1-2** - Who were the prophets that encouraged the Jews to resume rebuilding the temple, and what was their message?
  - *Refer to Haggai 1:1-11 and Zechariah 1:1-6 for their prophecies.*
  
2. **Ezra 5:3-17** - How did the local authorities respond to the resumption of the temple rebuilding, and what was the response of the Jewish leaders?



2. **Ezra 5:3-5** - How does the steadfastness of the Jewish leaders in the face of opposition illustrate the importance of obedience and trust in God's plan?
  - *Compare with Acts 4:19-20 where Peter and John choose to obey God rather than men.*
  
3. **Ezra 6:13-15** - How does the successful completion of the temple foreshadow the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan in Jesus, the true temple?
  - *Refer to John 2:19-21 where Jesus speaks of His body as the temple.*

### **Application Questions:**

1. **Considering Ezra 5:3-5** - When faced with opposition, how can we remain steadfast and trust in God's protection and guidance? What practical steps can we take to stay focused on our mission?

2. **Examining Ezra 6:1-5** - How can we recognize and celebrate God's sovereignty and provision in our own lives, especially when unexpected support comes from unlikely sources?

### **Additional Bible Passages for Context:**

1. **Haggai 1:1-11** - The call to rebuild the temple.
2. **Zechariah 1:1-6** - A call to return to the Lord.
3. **Haggai 2:4-9** - Encouragement and the promise of God's presence.
4. **Acts 4:19-20** - Obedience to God over human authority.
5. **Proverbs 21:1** - God's control over the hearts of rulers.
6. **John 2:19-21** - Jesus as the true temple.
7. **1 Peter 2:4-5** - Believers as living stones in God's spiritual house.

### **Concluding Thoughts:**

Ezra chapters 5 and 6 demonstrate the power of perseverance, prophetic encouragement, and God's sovereignty in fulfilling His plans. Despite opposition and delays, the Israelites continued to trust in God's promises and leadership. The completion of the temple and the subsequent celebrations highlight the importance of obedience, communal worship, and thanksgiving. These chapters also foreshadow the greater fulfillment of God's plan through Jesus Christ, the true temple, and the cornerstone of our faith. As we study these passages, let us be encouraged to persevere in our own spiritual journeys, trust in God's sovereignty, and celebrate His faithfulness in our lives.

## ***Prayer Points***



4. **Ezra 7:27-28** - How does Ezra respond to the king's letter, and what does this tell us about his character and faith?

### **Biblical Theology and Salvation History Questions:**

1. **Ezra 7:1-6** - How does Ezra's priestly lineage connect to the larger story of Israel's priesthood and the role of the Law in guiding God's people?
  - *Compare with Deuteronomy 17:18-20 and the role of the priestly tribe of Levi.*
  
2. **Ezra 7:27-28** - How does Ezra's praise to God illustrate the theme of God's providence and faithfulness in fulfilling His promises?
  - *Refer to Nehemiah 9:6-8 for another instance of acknowledging God's providence.*





## **Concluding Thoughts:**

Ezra 7 marks a significant moment in Israel's history as Ezra, a scribe and priest, is commissioned to lead a group of exiles back to Jerusalem. His mission is not only to rebuild the physical structures but also to restore the spiritual foundations by teaching God's Law. Ezra's lineage, dedication to God's Word, and the support from King Artaxerxes highlight God's providence and the importance of faithful leadership. As we study this chapter, we see a clear link to Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of God's law and the perfect example of faithful obedience. Just as Ezra was called to teach and uphold the Law, we are called to live out and share the gospel, relying on the wisdom and strength that come from Christ. Let us set our hearts on God's Word and trust in His provision as we fulfill our God-given missions.

## ***Prayer Points***

## 6. Ezra 8-9 | Sun 1 Sept

### Exegetical and Comprehension Questions:

1. **Ezra 8:1-14** - Who were the key leaders listed in the genealogy, and why is it important to know their lineage?
2. **Ezra 8:15-20** - Why did Ezra pause at the river Ahava, and what issue did he discover? How was it resolved?
  - *Refer to Numbers 3:5-10 for the role of the Levites.*
3. **Ezra 9:1-2** - What problem did the leaders report to Ezra upon his arrival, and why was this issue significant?

4. **Ezra 9:3-15** - How did Ezra react to the news of the people's unfaithfulness, and what does this reveal about his character?

### **Biblical Theology and Salvation History Questions:**

1. **Ezra 8:31-36** - How does God's protection of Ezra and his companions illustrate His faithfulness to His people?
  - *See Psalm 121:7-8 for God's protection on journeys.*
  
2. **Ezra 9:1-2** - How does the issue of intermarriage relate to the covenant faithfulness God expects from His people?
  - *Refer to Deuteronomy 7:3-4 on intermarriage and idolatry.*



## Making a Clear Link to Jesus:

1. **Ezra 8:21-23** - How does Jesus teach about prayer and fasting, and what can we learn from His example?
  - *Refer to Matthew 4:1-11 for Jesus' fasting and prayer in the wilderness.*
  
2. **Ezra 9:5-15** - How does Ezra's prayer of confession and the need for a mediator point to Jesus as our ultimate High Priest and Mediator?
  - *See Hebrews 4:14-16 for Jesus as our High Priest.*

## Additional Bible Passages for Context:

1. **Numbers 3:5-10** - The role of the Levites in Israel's worship.
2. **Matthew 6:16-18** - Jesus' teaching on fasting.
3. **Psalms 121:7-8** - God's protection on journeys.
4. **Deuteronomy 7:3-4** - Instructions against intermarriage with pagan nations.
5. **Daniel 9:4-19** - A prayer of confession and repentance.
6. **Matthew 4:1-11** - Jesus' fasting and prayer in the wilderness.
7. **Hebrews 4:14-16** - Jesus as our High Priest.

## **Concluding Thoughts:**

Ezra chapters 8 and 9 highlight the themes of preparation, reliance on God, faithfulness, and repentance. Ezra's journey to Jerusalem with the returning exiles and his subsequent reaction to the people's unfaithfulness illustrate the importance of spiritual leadership and the need for communal purity. These chapters remind us of the importance of seeking God's guidance through fasting and prayer, recognizing His protection and provision, and maintaining covenant faithfulness. As we study these passages, we are pointed to Jesus, who exemplifies perfect obedience and serves as our ultimate mediator. Let us trust in God's wisdom and seek His guidance in all areas of our lives, continually turning to Him in repentance and faith.

## ***Prayer Points***







## Biblical Theology and Salvation History Questions:

1. **Ezra 10:1-2** – Why do God's people repent and what happens when we do?
  - *Refer to 2 Chronicles 7:14 and 1 John 1:9*
  
2. **Ezra 10:3** - How does the drastic measure of putting away foreign wives compare to other instances in the Bible where radical steps were taken to maintain covenant faithfulness?
  - *Refer to Matthew 5:29-30 on radical measures to avoid sin.*
  
3. **Ezra 10:10-11** - How does Ezra's call for repentance and action highlight the seriousness of covenant obedience in God's plan of salvation?
  - *Refer to Nehemiah 9:2 and Matthew 3:8, Acts 3:19, Acts 26:20*





## **Additional Bible Passages for Context:**

1. **Deuteronomy 7:3-4** - Instructions against intermarriage with pagan nations.
2. **2 Chronicles 7:14** - The call for God's people to humble themselves and repent.
3. **1 John 1:9** - The promise of forgiveness if we confess our sins.
4. **Matthew 5:29-30** - Radical measures to avoid sin.
5. **Nehemiah 9:2** - Confession of sins by the Israelites.
6. **Acts 3:19** - The call to repentance and turning to God.
7. **Hebrews 10:10-14** - Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice for sin.
8. **1 John 1:7-9** - The cleansing power of Jesus' blood and the importance of confession.

## **Concluding Thoughts:**

Ezra chapter 10 presents a powerful example of communal repentance and radical obedience to God's covenant. The chapter underscores the importance of addressing sin within the community and taking decisive action to align with God's standards. This passage also points to the necessity of a savior who can ultimately cleanse us from all sin, which is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. As we reflect on this chapter, let us be encouraged to confess our sins, take corrective action, and support one another in our journey of faith.

## ***Prayer Points***