

THE RESTORATION, THE RETURN OF THE NATION'S REMENT TO ITS LAND

Ezra, Nehemiah

Even though the people of God's chosen nation had sinned so greatly, God still had a purpose for them to fulfill. Read the following to see how God worked in them and for them to make it possible for them to fulfill that purpose:

A. The End of Judah's Captivity:

1. How long had God said Judah's captivity would last? Jeremiah 25:11

2. What was God going to do with His people at the end of this time? Jeremiah 29:10

3. What had God said the people would have to do before this? Deuteronomy 30:1-5

4. What had been the main sin for which Israel and Judah were punished? 2 Kings 21:11-14

5. What other sins had this led to? 2 Kings 21:6, 16

B. The First Return Under Zerubbabel and Jeshua, 536 B.C.: Ezra 1 - 6

1. What happened to the kingdom of Babylon in 536 B.C.? Daniel 5:28

2. What were the names of the first two kings of the new kingdom? Daniel 5:31, 6:28

3. How did God begin to fulfill His promise made to the Jews through Jeremiah? Ezra 1:1

4. What two things did the new king want the people of Judah to do? Ezra 1:2, 3

5. How many of the people went back? Ezra 2:1, 64-45

6. How did the king say those who did not go back were to help? Ezra 1:4

7. What special vessels did the king give them to take back to Jerusalem? Ezra 1:7-11

8. How did the people feel when they had completed the building? Ezra 6:16, 22

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C. The Second Return Under Ezra, 457 B.C.: Ezra 7 - 10

1. Who was Ezra? Ezra 7:6

2. From whom was he descended? Ezra 7:5

3. What did Ezra want to do in Judah? Ezra 7:10

4. Who returned to Jerusalem with Ezra? Ezra 7:7, 13, 28

5. When Ezra arrived in Jerusalem, what great sin did he discover that the people had committed? Ezra 9:1-2

6. What did Ezra say they should do to correct this? Ezra 10:3

D. The Third Return Under Nehemiah, 444 B.C.: Nehemiah 1 - 15

1. Why did Nehemiah ask the king to let him go to Judah? Nehemiah 2:5

2. What special part of the city did Nehemiah want to rebuild? Nehemiah 2:17

3. Describe the city after Nehemiah had finished his task. Nehemiah 7:4

4. What did all the people in Judah pledge themselves to do? Nehemiah 10:29

5. This is the end of the Old Testament story. Does it seem to you that it is finished, or should something else be added?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did God work so greatly in behalf of His people?

2. Why does God bless me, even after I have sinned greatly against Him?
