



Outline of the Book of Ezra by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Ezra = Restoration Movement **[God Is Predominator]** **Redemption** **Blueprint for**

I. **Freeing Edict** **Ezra 1:1-2:70**

A. Babylon Succeeded By Medo-Persia In 536 B.C.

B. However No Change In God's Decree

1. Motivation for Cyrus **Ezra 1:-4** (**Jeremiah 25:11-12**)

a. **2 Chronicles 36:15-23**- Jews' sins punished 70 yrs.

b. **Jeremiah 29:10-14** (**Daniel 9:1-2**)-70 yrs. in Babylon

c. **Jeremiah 30:1-4**-God promises Israel & Judah's return to "the land" (NOT at "end of the world" or for a "millennium!")

d. **Jeremiah 50:17-19**-Return after Assyria and Babylon

e. **Jeremiah 51:5-11, 24**-Medes punish Babylon

f. **Isaiah 44:24-45:13**

(1 Prophecy made 150 yrs. before Cyrus' birth!)

(2 Pagan king rebuilds "holy city" **Isaiah 44:28; 45:13**)

2. Movement of "Jews" **Ezra 1:5-2:70**

3. People "stirred" **Ezra 1:5-6** Cf **Exodus 36:2; Haggai 1:14**

a. Cyrus returned sacred vessels of Jews **Ezra 1:7-11**

b. Sheshbazzar (Persian) for Zerubbabel (?) **Ezra 1:8,11; 2:2**

a. Those who returned "to his own city" (**2:1; 8:1-20**) included:

1) Israelites **Ezra 2:1-35,**

2) Priests **Ezra 2:36-39,**

3) Levites **Ezra 2:40,**

4) Singers **Ezra 2:41,**

5) Gatekeepers **Ezra 2:42,**

(6 Nethinim **Ezra 2:43-54** (Cf **8:20; Nehemiah 3:26; Ezekiel 44:6-8**),

(7 Sons of Solomon's servants **Ezra 2:55-58**)

(8 Unsure of Jewish genealogy **Ezra 2:59-63**)

thus "non-priests" not able to be purified as priests

(9 Total of 42,360 + 7337 servants + 200 singers **Ezra 2:64-65**)

(10 Livestock and donations tallied **Ezra 2:68-70**)

II. Facing Enemies Ezra 3:1-6:22

A. Burnt Offering "Burn-out" Ezra 3:1-6

- 1. Burnt Offering Altar Ezra 3:1-5; Leviticus 6:8-13**
- 2. United and built according to Moses Exodus 27:1-8; 38:1-7**
- 3. Used it though fearing non-Jewish peoples Ezra 3:3**
 - a. Feast of Tabernacles Ezra 3:4; Leviticus 23:33-36**
 - b. Daily burnt offerings Ezra 3:4; Exodus 29:38-42; Numbers 28:1-8**
 - c. Regular burnt offerings Ezra 3:5; Leviticus 1:1-17**
 - d. New Moons Ezra 3:5; Number 28:11-15; 29:6**
 - e. Set feasts Ezra 3:5; Exodus 23:14-19; 34:18-24; Leviticus 23:1-44**

B. Temperamental Temple "Timeouts" Ezra 3:6-6:23

- 1. No foundation laid, but materials gathered Ezra 3:6-7**
- 2. Overseers arose and foundation laid Ezra 3:8-11**
- 3. Shouts for success, Weeping for comparison Ezra 3:12-13**
- 4. Enemies offer "help" Ezra 4:1-24**
 - a. No "extra" hands accepted Ezra 4:2-3**
 - b. Try to organize a "strike" Ezra 4:4-5**
 - c. O.K., so "sue us" in Aramaic Ezra 4:6-24**
 - (1 "I'm telling the king on you" Ezra 4:6-16**
 - (2 Tell the Jews "King's X" Ezra 4:17-22**
 - (3 Big Brother reigns Ezra 4:23-24**
- 5. They stopped what? Ezra 5:1-6:13**
 - a. In 520 B. C. God gives Jews a "one-two" prophetic punch: Haggai and Zechariah Ezra 5:1-2**
 - b. Governor Tattenai asked for their authority Ezra 5:3-13**
 - (1 Persian King Darius is told Ezra 5:3-17**
 - (2 Median King Cyrus' Decree found in Ecbatana Ezra 6:1-5**
 - (3 Tattenai told "hands off" Ezra 6:6-13**
- 6. "Through at last" (years later) Ezra 6:14-22**
 - a. God prospers His work Ezra 6:14-15**
 - b. Celebrate & dedicate Ezra 6:16-22**
 - (1 Abundant sacrifices Ezra 6:17**
 - (2 Priest and Levites organized according to Moses Ezra 6:18 Cf Exodus 29; Leviticus 8; Numbers 3; 4; 8; "swing shifts" by David 1 Chronicles 23-26**
 - c. Passover remembered Ezra 6:19-21; Exodus 12:1-51; Josiah's memorable Passover 2 Chronicles 35:1-19**
 - c. Feast of Unleavened Bread Ezra 6:22; Leviticus 23:6-8**

III. Finishing Entirely Ezra 7:1-10:44

- A. Enter Ezra **Ezra 7:1-8:14**
 - 1. Direct descendant of Aaron **Ezra 7:1-6**
 - 2. Some Israelites took 4 month journey with him **Ezra 7:7-9**
 - 3. His authority came from:
 - a. God's Word **Ezra 7:10**
 - b. King Artaxerxes **Ezra 7:11-28**
 - 4. Jewish genealogy of those with him **Ezra 8:1-14**
 - 5. Camp Ahava **8:15-31**
 - a. Must have Levites **Ezra 8:15-20**
 - b. Travelling "fast" and sure **Ezra 8:21-23**
 - c. Treasures secured by trusted servants **Ezra 8:24-31**
 - d. "Reinforcements" for God's House **Ezra 8:32-36**

- B. Cleansing The People **Ezra 9:1-10:44**
 - 1. Problem stated: Mixed marriages = mixed seed **Ezra 9:1-2**
 - 2. Horrified Ezra prays **Ezra 9:3-10:1**
 - 3. Shechaniah confesses and proposes solution **Ezra 10:2-4**
 - 4. Ezra calls for "church" in 3 days **Ezra 10:5-13**
 - a. Makes leaders swear to come **Ezra 10:5-9**
 - b. Makes confession and repentance essential **Ezra 10:10-13**
 - c. Makes "personal work" essential **Ezra 10:13-17**
 - d. Makes it so! **Ezra 10:18-44**