

# Ezra & Nehemiah



## Background

- How are the books of Ezra and Nehemiah related to each other? How does this affect the way we should read them?
- What does the Lecture suggest about the author of these books?
- What part of the Old Testament history do these books cover? What does this tell us about the nature and contents of these books? What is the significance of this?

## Outline

- What are the three main sections of Ezra/Nehemiah? Who was the main leader in each section? What takes place in each section? What does this tell us about the overall content of these books? How does this help us to read, understand, and apply them?

## Content

- What are the key verses of Ezra & Nehemiah? What does each highlight? What does each tell us about the overall content and message of these books? What does each tell us about God's people at that time and His relationship with them?
- What do the key verses tell us about the rebuilding of the temple and reinstitution of worship in Jerusalem? Why does this matter? How does this apply?
- Describe the character and qualifications of Ezra. What does this tell us about God's standards for leadership in general? How should we respond?
- What do the key verses tell us about the character and lifestyle of Nehemiah? What does this tell us about God's standards for leadership? How should we respond?
- What do the key verses tell us about the revival that happened in that time? What was the cause and occasion? How did the people respond? How did the leaders respond? How should we imitate and apply what can be learned from this story?
- What was significant about Zerubbabel being the one leading the first return? How would that raise the hopes of God's people? How did that turn out? What is the significance of this disappointment for the overall Old Testament story?
- Describe the inconsistent nature of the rebuilding of the temple. How was that a result of the people's crushed hopes? How did that further contribute to the crushing of their hopes?
- What is the main thing that Ezra accomplished when he first arrived in Jerusalem? Why was this important? How does this apply today?
- How was Nehemiah able to rebuild the wall? Why was this important?
- What other main event happened in the book of Nehemiah? How did Ezra and Nehemiah contribute to this? How did this bring hope to the end of the story?

## Themes

- Explain each of the theological themes in your own words. What does each tell us about the content, message and significance of Ezra & Nehemiah? How should each idea be applied in current life?
- How are the first two themes the outward physical signs of the underlying spiritual realities signified by the final three themes? What is the significance of this? How does it apply?
- How do these themes represent the uneven success of the return, with both renewed hope and crushing of hope? What does this tell us about the incompleteness of the story at the end of the Old Testament? What difference does this make?

## Review

Review the organization of Ezra & Nehemiah and work toward committing this to memory.  
Review the key themes of Ezra & Nahemiah and work toward committing them to memory.