



Textbook Reading

(Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)

Ch. 18

- ☐ Contents (Ezra/Nehemiah)

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 18

The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah

Contents

- What are the general contents of these books? How do these contribute to the overall history of God's people? What difference does this make?
- How did king Cyrus contribute to the history recorded in these books? Why was that important?
- Who led the first return? Why was this significant?
- What did the first wave of return accomplish? What difference did that make for the people of that time?
- Why were they unable to complete the temple at first? How did they overcome these obstacles?
- Who led the second return? How is he described?
- What does the textbook say is the "all-consuming question" for the people of that time? What challenges did they face in that day? How does this question apply today? What can we learn from these books to help us address these issues?
- How does the textbook define the term "syncretism"? Why was that an issue in that time? Is that still an issue today? Why or why not?
- Why was Ezra upset about intermarriage? What was the real issue, according to the textbook? How did the people respond? What can we learn from this?
- What was the reason Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem? Why does the textbook use the word "miraculous" in discussing how he was able to return?
- What did Nehemiah do when he first returned to Jerusalem? Who helped him? Why is this significant?
- What kind of opposition did Nehemiah face? How did he respond? What was the result? Why?
- What other issues did Nehemiah address? How did he deal with them? What can we learn from this?
- What point does the textbook make about the difference between "legal" and "right"? How should we respond?
- Describe the reforms done by Ezra and Nehemiah. Why were they necessary? What did they do?
- Why was the reading of the Law central to these reforms and renewal? How did the people respond? What can we learn from this?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter