



EZRA-NEHEMIAH

Context

- Historical Context

Events occur between 538 and ca. 433 BC

Cyrus, the Persian king, allows Jews to return and rebuild

- Redemptive-Historical Context

God still committed to His plan of redemption

But the full kingdom of God is still not yet

Theme

God is renewing the covenant by restoring His people, the temple, true worship, and Jerusalem. But it's not the same, and it doesn't fulfill all the great prophecies. Thus His people still look to the future.

God Initiates and the People Respond – Ezra 1:5-6

The People Return and Rebuild – Ezra 1:7 – 6:22

The People Sin and Repent – Ezra 7 – 10

Nehemiah Returns and the People Rebuild – Nehemiah 1 – 7

The People Rejoice....and Relapse – Nehemiah 8 - 13

ESTHER

Historical Context

- Events occur between 483 and 473 BC
- A group of Jews remained in Persia, where enemies abound

Theme

God protects his people, even if we can't see how he is working.

God Will Judge

God Works Through Circumstances

God Will Save His People

Conclusion

A Study Outline for Ezra-Nehemiah

- I. God Initiates, People Respond – Ezra 1:1-6
- II. The People Return and Rebuild Ezra 1:7 – 6:22
- III. The People Sin and Repent – Ezra 7 – 10
- IV. Nehemiah Returns, People Rebuild the Walls – Nehemiah 1 – 7
- V. The People Rejoice....and Relapse Nehemiah 8-13

A Study Outline for Esther

- I. Esther 1-2 – Esther's Rise
- II. Esther 3-5 – Haman's Plot
- III. Esther 6-7 – Mordecai's Victory
- IV. Esther 8-10 – Jews' Celebration