

EZRA

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To record Yahweh's faithfulness and the way He kept his promise to restore His people to their Promised Land.

Author

Ezra

Date

Ezra was written c.450 BC. It was possibly begun earlier in Babylon and completed in Jerusalem.

Audience

The people of Judah after the exile.

Setting

Ezra follows 2 Chronicles as a history of the Jewish people, recording their return to Judah after the Babylonian Captivity.

Special Features

Ezra and Nehemiah were one book in the Hebrew Scriptures, and, along with Esther, they comprise the post-captivity historical books. The post-captivity prophetic books are Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Haggai and Zechariah should be studied with Ezra because they prophesied during the period of the reconstruction.



Key Verses

[The Passover Lamb] "was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile, and also by every one who had joined them and separated himself from the uncleanness of the peoples of the land to worship the LORD, the God of Israel. And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel." (6:21-22 ESV)

Key People

Cyrus, Zerubbabel, Haggai, Zechariah, Darius, Artaxerxes I, Ezra.

Key Places

Babylon, Jerusalem.