

EZRA

VI. Analysis of the Contents of the Book.

I. THE RETURN OF THE JEWS FROM BABYLON TO JERUSALEM UNDER ZERUBBABEL, AND THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE (chaps. 1–6).

- i. *The return of the Jews from Babylon to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel* (chaps. 1 and 2).
 1. The edict of Cyrus granting permission to the Jews to return and rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem (chap. [Ezr 1:1-4](#)).
 2. The preparations of the Jews for returning (vers. 5 and 6).
 3. The restoration of the sacred vessels of the Temple to Zerubbabel prince of Judah (vers. 7–11).
 4. The list of the names and the number of the people who returned (chap. [Ezr 2:1-64](#)).
 5. The possessions of those who returned and their offerings for building the Temple (vers. 65–70).
- ii. *The erection of the altar, the restoration of worship, and the commencement of the rebuilding of the Temple* (chap. 3).
- iii. *The hindrance of the work by the Samaritans* (chap. 4).
 1. The request of the Samaritans to co-operate in the rebuilding of the Temple, and its refusal by the Jewish authorities (chap. [Ezr 4:1-3](#)).
 2. The opposition of the Samaritans in consequence of this refusal (vers. 4–6).
 3. The letter of the hostile Samaritans to Artaxerxes the king (vers. 7–16).
 4. The reply of the king to this letter, in consequence of which the work was arrested (vers. 17–24).
- iv. *The renewal and the completion of the rebuilding of the Temple* (chaps. 5 and 6).
 1. The renewal of the work in consequence of the prophesying of Haggai and Zechariah (chap. [Ezr 5:1-2](#)).
 2. The inquiries of the Persian officers concerning the work, and their report to Darius the king, which includes the reply of the Jews to their inquiries (vers. 3–17).

3. The reply of Darius to the letter of his officers, including the discovery of the edict of Cyrus, and the commands of Darius to his officers to allow and to promote the rebuilding of the Temple (chap. [Ezr 6:1-12](#)).
4. The completion of the Temple (vers. 13–15).
5. The dedication of the Temple (vers. 16–18).
6. The celebration of the feast of the Passover (vers. 19–22).

II. THE RETURN OF THE JEWS FROM BABYLON TO JERUSALEM UNDER EZRA, AND THE REFORMATION WHICH HE ACCOMPLISHED AMONGST THE PEOPLE (chaps. 7–10).

i. *The return of Ezra and his company from Babylon to Jerusalem* (chaps. 7 and 8).

1. The genealogy of Ezra, and a statement concerning his going with others to Jerusalem (chap. [Ezr 7:1-10](#)).
2. The letter of Artaxerxes the king, authorising Ezra to do certain things (vers. 11–26).
3. Ezra's praise to God for the kindness of the king (vers. 27 and 28).
4. The list of the names and the number of those who accompanied Ezra (chap. [Ezr 8:1-14](#)).
5. Their encampment by "the river that runneth to Ahava," from whence Ezra sent for ministers for the Temple, and prepared for the journey by fasting and prayer, and by the delivery of the precious things of the Temple into the hands of twelve priests and an equal number of Levites (vers. 15–30).
6. The journey "from the river Ahava" to Jerusalem (vers. 31 and 32).
7. The giving up of the precious things to certain priests and Levites in the Temple, and the presentation of offerings unto the Lord (vers. 33–35).
8. The deliverance of the king's decree to the Persian satraps and governors west of the Euphrates (ver. 36).

ii. *The social and religious reformation effected by Ezra* (chaps. 9 and 10).

1. The evil to be remedied, viz., the marriages of the Jews with heathen women (chap. [Ezr 9:1-2](#)).

2. The sorrow and prayer of Ezra in consequence of this evil (vers. 3–15).
3. The proposal of Shechaniah for the removal of the evil, and its acceptance by Ezra (chap. [Ezr 10:1-5](#)).
4. The accomplishment of the reformation (vers. 6–17).
5. The names of those who had married heathen wives and put them away (vers. 18–44).

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