



HIS STORY – HIS PEOPLE “Ezra, Nehemiah: The Return”

No. 3073

Stuart Briscoe

I. Introduction to Ezra, Nehemiah

- A. The significance of the Covenant, the Promised Land, Jerusalem and the Temple.
- B. God’s judgment on His people—70 years in Exile. Jeremiah 25:8-1
- C. The decree of Cyrus, rebuild the Temple (538 B.C.). Ezra 1:1f, Isaiah 45:13
- D. The exiles return led by Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel, Temple rebuilt. Ezra 6:13-18
- E. Ezra returns to Jerusalem for a teaching ministry (458 B.C.). Ezra 7:1f
- F. Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city (445 B.C.). Nehemiah 1:8f

II. Rebuilding the Temple. Ezra 1:1-6:22

- A. “The Lord moved the heart of Cyrus, king of Persia.” Ezra 1:1; Jeremiah 29:10-14
- B. “Everyone whose heart God had moved prepared to go...” Ezra 1:5
- C. Altar built, offerings made, foundation laid and the people praise God. Ezra 3:1-13
- D. Enemies successfully halt the work of rebuilding for 17 years.
- E. Haggai and Zechariah brings messages of challenge and encouragement (520 B.C.).
- F. Temple completed and dedicated (515 B.C.). Ezra 6:13-22

III. Restoring the Worship. Ezra 7:1-10:44

- A. Ezra the priest committed to studying, doing and teaching the Word. Ezra 7:9-10
- B. Returns under instructions from Artaxerxes to further the worship of Jehovah.
- C. Discovers the spiritual condition of the people is appalling.
- D. Calls “everyone who trembles at the words” of God to repentance. Ezra 9:4

IV. Reviving the People.

- A. Nehemiah, broken-hearted about the state of Jerusalem, returns. Nehemiah 1:4
- B. He deals spiritually and practically with all kinds of opposition. Nehemiah 4:1-23
- C. Wall completed, Word proclaimed, worship restored. Nehemiah 8:1-18
- D. Consciences pricked, confession made, conclusions reached.
 - 1. Conclusions about separatism. Nehemiah 13:1-9
 - 2. Conclusions about selfism. Nehemiah 13:10-13
 - 3. Conclusions about secularism. Nehemiah 13:15-22
 - 4. Conclusions about syncretism. Nehemiah 13:23-31

Points to Ponder: What impact do the attitudes and actions of these men have on me?