**Ezra**

Judah had been conquered roughly 70 years prior. It’s surviving people were carried off to other nations. A remnant will eventually return and Ezra records the first wave of remnants to return. If you have been reading from 2 Chronicles, you can see the transition taking place here. The end of Chronicles is the proclamation made by King Cyrus and here in Ezra we will see how that proclamation came to be.

The people returned to Jerusalem in different waves. Zerubbabel and Priest Joshua were part of wave one. Ezra was part of wave two and Nehemiah was part of the third wave to return about 13 years later.

**Chapter 1**

Verse 8: Sheshbazzar was going to be the first prince or governor of Judah. He was given the vessels of the Temple to bring back with him.

Chapter 2: Skip verses 2-58

Verses 2: There are two key names listed in this verse. The First, Zerubbabel. Sheshbazzar must have died soon after getting Jerusalem. Zerubbabel was the next governor of Judah. Zerubbabel was a descendant of David. The second name is Mordecai. He was the uncle of Esther and a key person in the book of Esther.

**KEY PERSON: ZERUBBABEL**

We skip the genealogies because they are tough to read. We don’t understand the significance of them so we dismiss them. However, just because we say skip them DOES NOT mean they are not significant. Case in point. When you read 1 Chronicles 3, there is a genealogy. It may just seem like names of a page, but, these names do point to something. In verse 17 we read the name Zerubbabel. We know from this chapter, this is a genealogy of those from the line of David. Zerubbabel will be part of the first wave of captives returned to Jerusalem and become the governor of Judah. In the New Testament there will be some more genealogies and within them you will see the name Zerubbabel. God has kept His promise to bring the Messiah from the line of David. Zerubbabel was part of that line and a key part of that line. Even after 70 years of captivity, God was still keeping His promise.

The name Zerubbabel means born at Babel (Babylon). This name may be why he faced opposition when he returned to Jerusalem (Ezra 4).

Zerubbabel was only able to lay the foundation of the temple. About 15 years later, the prophets Hagaii and Zechariah will convince him to finish the job. They accuse him and the people of caring more about their personal homes instead of the house of the Lord.

**Chapter 4:**

Opposition was from Israelites left in Jerusalem and surrounding areas and not carried into captivity.

**Chapter 7: About 60 years later**

Chapter 5:1 and 6:14: Haggai and Zechariah are the two that have bible books named after then.

**Chapter 9**

(9:1 Ezra says the people must divorce their wives of foreign ascent. He was reading back to Deuteronomy but God did not command Ezra to do this. On top of this, Malachi, who lived at the same general time wrote that God hates divorce are these 9 nations the one outlawed in Deut 7:2?)

Ezra 9:11-12: which you commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, ‘The land that you are entering, to take possession of it, is a land impure with the impurity of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations that have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness. **12**Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.’

**Chapter 10: Skip verses 18-43**