



Group Discussion & Application

1. In what ways does introductory/background information inform our study of a Scripture text.
2. Explain the following statement (attributed to D.A. Carson's father, Tom): "A text without a context is a pretext for a proof text."
3. What are the results of failing to understand the background to a Bible passage before studying it? Give an example.
4. What kinds of resources are helpful for doing background study?
5. What are some advantages to studying thru a book of the Bible?
6. What new information did you learn from our introductory study?
7. What questions did this background study raise in your mind?
8. Looking ahead: Ezra 1:1 says, "The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus." What does this mean? How do you think the Lord stirred him?



Personal Reflection & Response

1. Review the Babylonian captivity from Jeremiah 39-44.
2. Do your own background study on the book of Ezra.
3. Read thru the book of Ezra. Write down your observations and questions. List key themes.

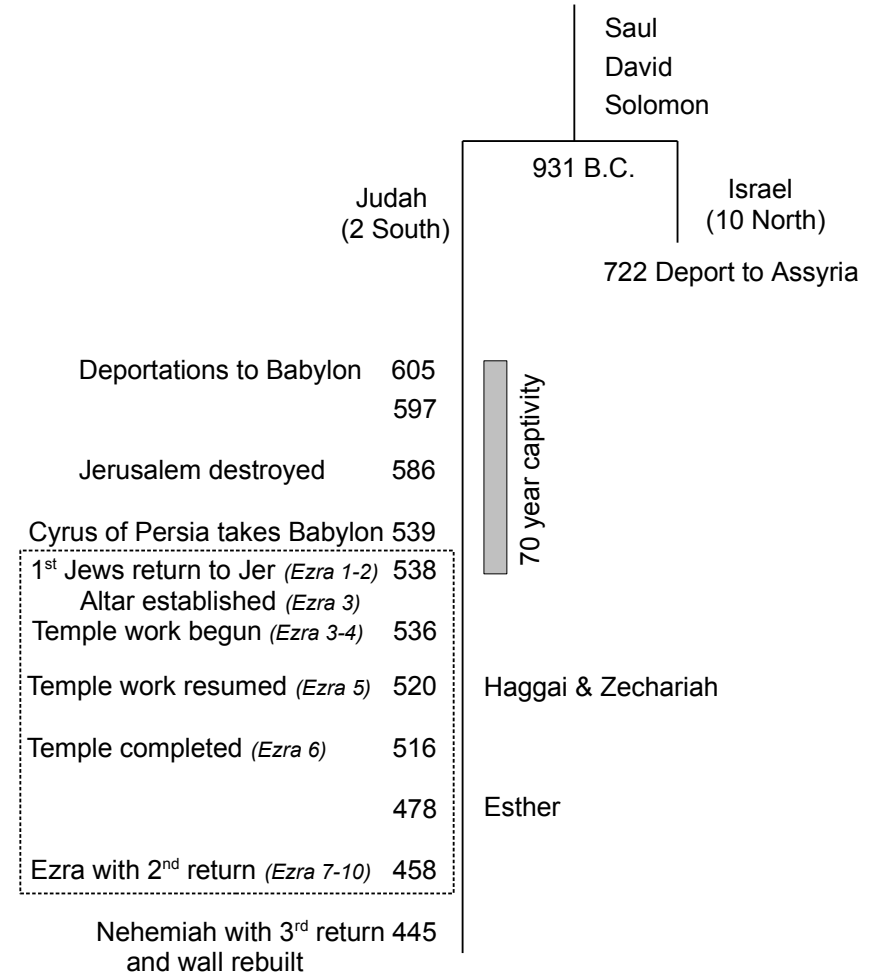


Family Homework

1. Locate a time-line of Bible events and review it. Note where Ezra fits in.
2. Using a Bible dictionary look up the following: *Ezra*; *scribe*
3. Read Nehemiah 8:1-8. What does Ezra do on this occasion? What does this tell us about Ezra?
4. At mealtime, begin reading thru the book of Ezra.



Examining Ezra An Introduction



Outline

Ezra 1-6	Rebuilding the Temple	1 st Return
Esther	Rescuing the people	
Ezra 7-10	Reforming the People	2 nd Return
Nehemiah 1-6	Rebuilding the walls	3 rd Return
Nehemiah 7-13	Restoring the people	