

March 2022



Reading Plan: Ezra and Psalm 138 - 150

Author: Probably Ezra

Theme: Exiles' Return to Jerusalem and Temple Reconstruction

Date: 538-457 B.C.

Key Words: Build, the Hand of the Lord, the Hand of God

Tue 1st	Wed 2nd	Thurs 3rd	Fri 4th	Sat 5th	Sun 6th	Mon 7th
Ezra 1	Ezra 2:1-6	Ezra 2:7-14	Ezra 2:15-21	Ezra 2:22-31	Ezra 2:32-40	Ezra 2:41-51
Psm 138: Title-4	Psm 138 :5-8	Psm 139: Title-6	Psm 139:7-11	Psm 139:12-17	Psm 139:18-24	Psm 140: Title-4
Tue 8th	Wed 9th	Thurs 10th	Fri 11th	Sat 12th	Sun 13th	Mon 14th
Ezra 2:52-59	Ezra 2:60-70	Ezra 3:1-7	Ezra 3:8-4:5	Ezra 4:6-13	Ezra 4:14-24	Ezra 5:1-7
Psm 140:5-8	Psm 140:9-13	Psm 141: Title-4	Psm 141:5-10	Psm 142	Psm 143: title-4	Psm 143:5-12
Tue 15th	Wed 16th	Thurs 17th	Fri 18th	Sat 19th	Sun 20th	Mon 21st
Ezra 5:8-17	Ezra 6:1-12	Ezra 6:13-18	Ezra 6:19-22	Ezra 7:1-10	Ezra 7:11-18	Ezra 7:19-28
Psm 144: Title-4	Psm 144:5-9	Psm 144:10-15	Psm 145: Title-4	Psm 145:5-9	Psm 145:10-15	Psm 145:16-21
Tue 22nd	Wed 23rd	Thurs 24th	Fri 25th	Sat 26th	Sun 27th	Mon 28th
Ezra 8:1-14	Ezra 8:15-23	Ezra 8:24-30	Ezra 8:31-36	Ezra 9	Ezra 10:1-7	Ezra 10:8-17
Psm 146:1-5	Psm 146:6-10	Psm 147:1-6	Psm 147:7-12	Psm 147:13-20	Psm 148:1-4	Psm 148:5-9
Tue 29th	Wed 30th	Thurs 31st				
Ezra 10:18-24	Ezra 10:25-33	Ezra 10:34-44				
Psm 148:10-14	Psm 149	Psm 150				

The Book of Ezra

Occasion and Date

The events in Ezra cover slightly more than 80 years and fall into 2 distinct segments. The first segment (chs. 1-6) covers some 23 years dealing with the first postexilic return under Zerubbabel and the reconstruction of the temple. Nearly 60 years later (458 B.C.) another group of exiles returns to Jerusalem under the leadership of Ezra (chs. 7-10). They are sent by the then reigning Persian King, Artaxerxes, with additional monies and valuables to enhance the temple worship. Ezra is also commissioned to appoint leaders in Jerusalem to oversee the people.

Personal Application

The messages of Ezra are a constant reminder of how easily God's people can lose heart and their distinctives that characterise "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people" (1 Pet 2:9). When this happens God's plans are delayed. Erring saints cannot totally thwart God's sovereign plans, but can delay or frustrate them. God is greater than we, and He does have ways of transcending our shortcomings. However, He wants us to walk in obedience so that His plans can be fulfilled as originally revealed.

Christ Revealed

Ezra himself foreshadows Christ by the life he lives and the roles he fulfils. Three particulars stand out:

1. As one who "had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and do it" (7:10). Ezra reminds us of Christ's description of Himself as the One who ardently obeys the Father (John 5:19).
2. As "the priest" (7:11), Ezra foreshadows Christ's role as the "great High Priest" (Hebrews 4:14).
3. As the great spiritual reformer who calls Israel to repentance (ch. 10), Ezra typifies Christ's messianic role as the reshaper of Israel's spiritual perspectives, including a call away from dead traditionalism and moral impurity (Matthew 11:20-24; 23).