



OLD TESTAMENT • HISTORY

Ezra

Return, rebuilding, and renewed obedience

AUTHORSHIP · Traditionally associated with Ezra; includes earlier records

DATE & CONTEXT · Persian period, sixth–fifth centuries BC

The big picture

Exiles return to Jerusalem, rebuild the altar and temple, and face resistance and discouragement. Ezra later arrives as a teacher devoted to God’s law. The community must consider what covenant faithfulness means after displacement. The book’s difficult decisions about identity and marriage need historical care; its central invitation is to let restoration include both public worship and a teachable life.

Words to carry

“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”

Ezra 7:10 · KJV

Live it

01 Begin rebuilding one neglected spiritual habit with a small, steady step.

02 Let what you learn shape your conduct before you teach it.

03 Encourage a community doing patient work without immediate results.

Pause & reflect

What needs rebuilding in the way I listen to God’s Word?

Original SELAH37 introduction. Read the text in context; historical dates and attributions are approximate.

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