EZRA 7-10

THE SECOND RETURN

Chapter 7 Ezra Prepares For The Return

Summary: In 458 B.C. [57 years after the temple is finished], Ezra the scribe prepares for a 4 month journey from Babylon to Jerusalem. His purpose is to care for the temple and reform the people **(1-10)**. He carries a letter from Persian King Artaxerxes for all necessary provisions **(11-28)**.
Lesson: *God provides leaders to build up His people spiritually.*

Chapter 8 Ezra Arrives In Jerusalem

Summary: The returnees include 1,514 men **(1-14)**, plus 258 temple servants **(15-20)**, totaling 1,772 [perhaps 5,000 with women and children]. {The first return had 49,897.} They fast and pray for protection **(21-23)**, carry gifts for the temple **(24-30)**, and arrive safely in Jerusalem **(31-36)**.
Lesson: *Here are people and provisions: when God guides, God provides!*

Chapter 9 Reform Is Necessary

Summary: Ezra hears of the people's intermarriage with the pagan peoples of the land **(1-4)**. He prays to God, confessing these sins **(5-15)**.
Lesson: *"Do not be unequally yoked…with unbelievers" (2 Cor. 6:14).*

Chapter 10 Reform Is Carried Out

Summary: Ezra calls for them to confess their sin and dissolve their pagan marriages **(1-17)**. They put away both wives and children **(18-44)**.
Lesson: *"Come out from among them and be separate" (2 Cor. 6:17).*