

# Lesson 3: Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther<sup>1</sup>

Old Testament 102

## Old Testament in a Nutshell<sup>2</sup>

4 Events	4 Groups	2 Dates	2 Seasons
Creation Fall Flood Tower	Patriarchs Judges Kings Prophets	722 586	Return Silence

## Tonight's Books at a Glance

	Ezra	Nehemiah	Esther
<b>Authorship</b>	Ezra	Ezra, <i>but possibly from Nehemiah's records</i>	Anonymous, <i>possibly Mordecai or Ezra</i>
<b>Date</b>	539-450BC	445-410BC	483-474BC
<b>Recipients</b>	Israel, returning from Babylon	Israel after the 3 <sup>rd</sup> group of exiles return	Post-Exile Israel
<b>Purpose/ Events</b>	-Continues from 2 Chronicles -Documents the beginning of the return	-Continues from Ezra. -Documents the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem	-Documents the origin of the Jewish feast of Purim. -Documents God's delivery of the Jews from genocide.

## Introduction

### EZRA-NEHEMIAH

#### Context

Read **Ezra 1:1-4**.

<sup>1</sup> This lesson is adapted from Catalyst Missions' "Module 2, Lesson 19: The End Is Near: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther"

<sup>2</sup> From Old Testament survey lecture given by Dr. Kirk Kilpatrick, Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Mid America Baptist Theological Seminary

## Theme

*God is renewing the covenant by restoring His people, the temple, true worship, and Jerusalem. But it's not the end, and it doesn't fulfill all the great prophecies. Thus His people look still to the \_\_\_\_\_.*

## Theme Texts:

A. God Initiates and the People \_\_\_\_\_: Ezra 1:5-6

Read 1:5-6.

B. The People Return and \_\_\_\_\_: Ezra 1:7 – 6:22

Read 1:7-8.

Read 2:2.

Read 3:12.

C. The People Sin and \_\_\_\_\_: Ezra 7-10

Read 7:9-10.

Read 9:1-3.

Read 9:15.

Read 9:8.

D. Nehemiah Returns and the People Rebuild the \_\_\_\_\_: Nehemiah 1-7

Read 1:6-7, 10-11.

Read 2:20.

Read 7:73.

E. The People Rejoice—and \_\_\_\_\_: Nehemiah 8-13

Read 8:8.

Read 10:29.

## **ESTHER**

### **Context**

### **Theme**

*God protects his people, even if we can't \_\_\_\_\_ how He is working.*

## Outline

1. Esther 1-2 – Esther's Rise
2. Esther 3-5 – Haman's Plot
3. Esther 6-7 – Mordecai's Victory
4. Esther 8-10 – Jews' Celebration

## Summary

### 3 Theological Themes:

A. God will \_\_\_\_\_.

Read 9:2.

B. God works through \_\_\_\_\_.

Read 4:14.

C. God will save His \_\_\_\_\_.

Read 2:5.

Who is Mordecai a descendent of ?

Read 9:24.

Who is Haman a descendent of?