

Old Testament PowerPoint presentation

Ezra

Suggested Bible Reading: Ezra 9: 1-15

Slide1



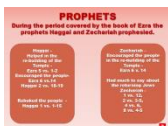
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Slide 2



– The books of Ezra ‡ and Nehemiah were once bound together as one book. ‡ Ezra deals with the return of the people of Judah (Southern Kingdom) particularly to Jerusalem, under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Ezra. ‡ We remember that Judah had been in captivity in Babylon for 70 years. See Jeremiah 25 : 8-14. ‡ The Babylonian empire had been crushed – Cyrus now reigns. See chapter 1: 1. ‡ to open →

Slide 3



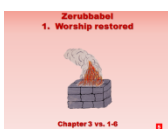
– During the period ‡ covered by the book, the prophets Haggai and Zechariah prophesied. ‡ Haggai helped in the re-building of the Temple (ch.5: 1-2). He encouraged the people (ch. 6: 14, Haggai 2:18-19). He also rebuked the people (Haggai 1: 1-15). ‡ Zechariah encouraged the people in the re-building of the Temple (Ezra 6~: 14), and had much to say about the returning Jews in the book of Zechariah chapter 1: 12, 2, 3-5; 4: 6, 8: 4-5. ‡ to open →

Slide 4



– The return of God's people, from Babylon to Jerusalem. ‡ Shows the possible journey. ‡ The 1st party under the leadership of Zerubbabel was in c. B.C. 536 – 48,987 people, not including servants – chapters 1 – 6. ‡ The 2nd party was under the leadership of Ezra in c. B.C. 458 – chapters 7 – 10. The exact number of people is not given but chapter 8 gives some idea. Note that when Nehemiah came to Jerusalem in the 20th year of King Artaxerxes, only a small company came with him. ‡ to open →

Slide 5



– What did Zerubbabel do? ‡ 1st he restored the burnt sacrifices ‡ – in other words – worship of God was restored. The importance of the centrality of the

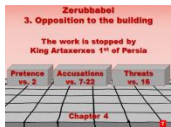
cross and true Biblical worship in the life of individuals and churches today. ‡ Read about this in chapter 3: 1 – 6. ‡ to open →

Slide 6



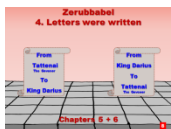
– Zerubbabel begins ‡ the restoration of the temple. ‡ The foundations of the Temple are laid. ‡ Chapter 3: 8 – 13. ‡ A lot of work involved. Some of the people remembered the first Temple and wept for joy (v.12) Note the joy of the people on completion of this part of the work.. ‡ to open →

Slide 7



– Zerubbabel encounters ‡ opposition to the work. ‡ Chapter 4. ‡ King Artaxerxes 1st (465-425 BC) brings the building to a halt; it did not re-commence for some years. ‡ There was **pretence** (v.2) – where the adversaries pretended to “seek your God as you do”. ‡ There was **accusations** (vs. 7-22) – where the enemy accused the Jews of being rebellious, and refusing to pay taxes. ‡ There were **threats** (v.16) that if the building of the temple and city walls was not stopped then the King would lose his dominion. In any true work of God among His people, Satan is always active, and will do his best to disrupt and even stop the work. Quote: A church that ceases to be Evangelistic will cease to Evangelical. ‡ to open →

Slide 8



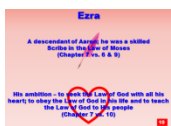
– The false accusations ‡ made about the Jews in Jerusalem are challenged. ‡ Chapters 5 and 6. ‡ Tattenai, the Governor in Jerusalem, writes to King Darius 2nd (424-404 BC), requesting that the original decree of King Cyrus allowing the Jews to re-build is confirmed. “The Law of the Medes and Persians that changeth not”. ‡ King Darius replies to Tattenai, that the decree still stands and that the work should continue unhindered. The King even gave financial assistance. (v.4) See also Haggai 1: 4 and Zechariah 4: 6 – 10. ‡ to open →

Slide 9



– Zerubbabel - ‡ the building of the Temple resumed. ‡ The Temple is completed. (ch. 6: 15) and ‡ the Passover celebrated. ‡ to open →

Slide 10



– Who was Ezra? ‡ 1. He was a descendent of Aaron; he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses i.e the Pentateuch. (chapter 7: 6 & 9) ‡ 2. His ambition? To seek the Law of God with all his heart; to obey the Law of God in his life and to teach the Law of God to his people (chapter 7: 10) How important for a Christian to

know the Word of God before they seek to teach the Word of God. Note: the return of the people of Judah to their homeland was led, not by a King but by a Priest. ‡ to open →

Slide 11



– Ezra - ‡ The Basis of all that he taught was the Ten Commandments. ‡ King Artaxerxes 2nd (404-359 BC) encourages Ezra in his letter to ‡ 1. To live according to the Law of God (chapter 7:23) and to ‡ apply the teaching of God's Law (chapter 7: 26). Life was to be lived according to God's Law. This is true for Christians of all ages. ‡ to open →

Slide 12



– We remember that in Ezra's time, ‡ sacrifices had been restored, ‡ the Temple had been built, and ‡ the Word of God taught. However ‡ Ezra discovers sin among the people. (ch. 9: 1-2) - ‡ Intermarriage with the pagan nations roundabout – something God expressly forbade. ‡ Sin blotted out all the good work that had been accomplished. His reaction - ‡ he was astonished (ch. 9: 3), ‡ he made confession (ch.9: 6-7), ‡ he expresses the peoples' ingratitude (ch.9: 8-10) ‡ to open →

Slide 13



– But on a ‡ happier note, there is ‡ repentance (ch.10: 1) and ‡ sin is dealt with (chapter 10). and ‡ removed. Sin is completely cover and dealt with at the Cross – restoring the sinner to worship and fellowship.

‡ → End of slide show (black screen)