

**God's Masterwork, Volume Two**  
**The Story of God's People — A Survey of Joshua – Esther**  
Ezra: True Man of the Word  
A SURVEY OF EZRA



### The Heart of the Matter

Some people stand out from the crowd—charismatic, confrontational, and colorful—while others tend to blend—quiet, contemplative, and studious. While the popular opinion might be that only the former group has the greatest spiritual impact on the world, Scripture is filled with people from both groups who have impacted the world positively for the Lord. Ezra, who falls into that latter group, is certainly no exception. Given the responsibility of leading a group of God's people back to Israel from Babylon to reestablish the proper way of worship, Ezra performed admirably—not because he was an electric personality but because he was a true man of the Word.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Let's Get a Little History under Our Belts

After generations of near continual sin, God's people in the southern kingdom of Judah were exiled to Babylon.

#### 2. Understanding the Flow of the Book

The book of Ezra begins by describing the first group of Israelites returning to their land from their Babylonian captivity and shifts in chapter seven to describe the second group of Israelites returning from Babylon.

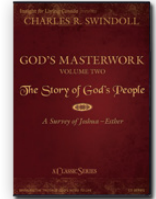


### Starting Your Journey

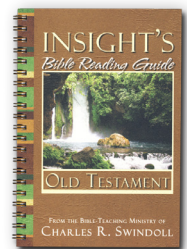
What is your objective? Do you wish to become a careful student of God's Word? If you pursue that goal, you will become one of those rare individuals who can open this book and give hope to the hurting.



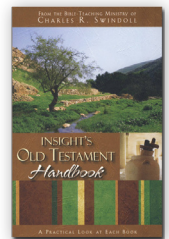
### Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork  
Volume Two  
The Story of God's People—A Survey  
of Joshua–Esther  
by Charles R. Swindoll



Insight's Bible Reading  
Guide: Old Testament  
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# God's Masterwork, Volume Two

## The Story of God's People — A Survey of Joshua - Esther

### EZRA

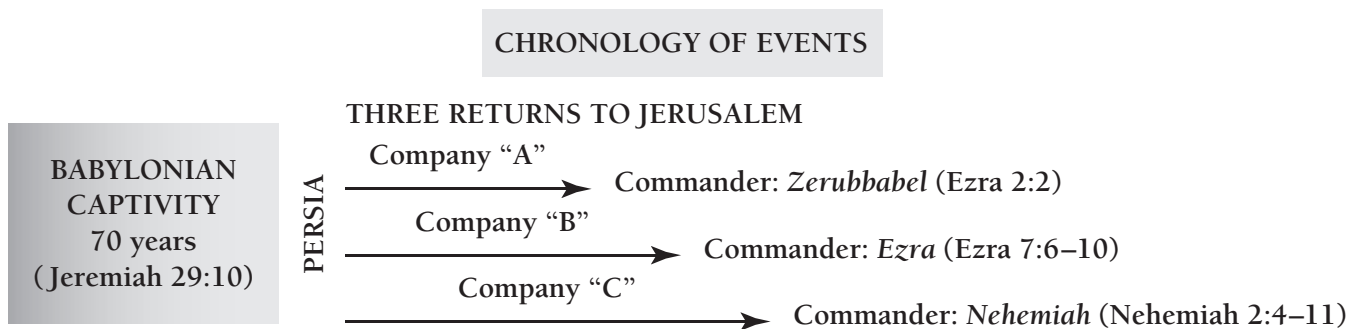
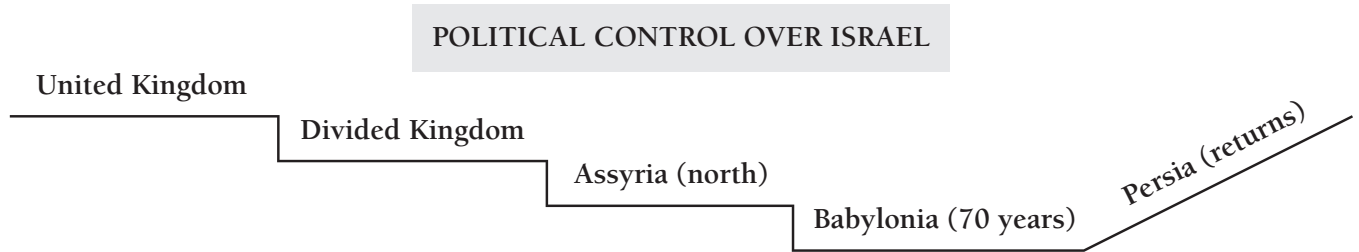
	<b>Construction</b> Leader: Zerubbabel		<b>Reformation</b> Leader: Ezra	
CHRONICLES	CENSUS AND JOURNEY  CHAPTERS 1-2	<u>Temple</u> <u>Foundation</u> <u>Opposition</u> <u>Determination</u> <u>Completion</u>  CHAPTERS 3-6	CENSUS AND JOURNEY  CHAPTERS 7-8	<u>Revival</u> <u>Condition</u> <u>Confession</u> <u>Covenant</u> <u>Cleansing</u>  CHAPTERS 9-10
<b>Emphasis</b>	Construction of the temple		Reformation of the people	
<b>Persian King</b>	Cyrus	Darius	Artaxerxes	
<b>Scope</b>	National	General	Personal	Specific
<b>Theme</b>	Revival and reformation			
<b>Key Verses</b>	1:1-4; 3:2; 7:10			
<b>Christ in Ezra</b>	His birth anticipated in the preservation of the Davidic line and the remnant's return to the Promised Land; His work as spiritual rebuilders and restorer pictured in Zerubbabel and Ezra; His mediating presence and glory pictured in the altar and the temple			

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### Helpful Facts Related to the Book of Ezra



**PERSIAN KINGS OF BIBLICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

KING	DATES BC	CHAPTERS IN EZRA	OTHER OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS
Cyrus	538-530	1-6	Haggai (520) Zechariah (520-515)
Cambyses	530-522		
Smerdis	522		
Darius I	521-486		
Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)	486-465		
Artaxerxes I	464-423	4:7-10:44	Malachi (450-400) Nehemiah (445-425)
Darius II	423-404		

**CONTRASTS BETWEEN TWO BOOKS**

EZRA	NEHEMIAH
Spiritual emphasis Temple and Scripture Commitment of a man Revival and reformation	Practical emphasis Wall and government Determination of a nation Motivation and accomplishment