

## BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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## Ezra-Nehemiah

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### Introduction to Ezra-Nehemiah

#### Title

- ✓ Hebrew = *Ezra, Nibhenyab* (עֶזְרָא, נְחֵמְיָא; Ezra = "Help"; Nehemiah = "Yahweh Comforts")
  - ❖ Originally one book; two books began during the time of the Reformation
- ✓ Greek = *Esdras Beta* (ΕΣΔΡΑΣ Β; "Ezra B")

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## Introduction to Ezra-Nehemiah

### WHO—Authorship

- ✓ Most likely Ezra, the scribe, the son of Seriah, son of Azariah, ... , son of Aaron, the high priest

### WHO—Audience

- ✓ To the Jewish remnant who have returned to Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon

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## Introduction to Ezra-Nehemiah

### WHEN

- ✓ Dates of the Events—Decree of Cyrus (538 BC) to the second governorship of Nehemiah (430 BC)
- ✓ ~430 BC, after the walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt

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## Introduction to Ezra-Nehemiah

### WHERE

- ✓ Jerusalem
- ✓ Temple is already built
- ✓ Walls needs to be established
- ✓ Walls become a physical representation for the people whose hearts need to be established

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Introduction to Ezra-Nehemiah

WHY

To recount God’s faithfulness to His promise to cause His people to return from exile to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple and restore the city walls, but also to highlight Israel’s lack of heart and effort in these tasks, signifying the need for a national, spiritual rebuilding and restoration of the people.

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Introduction to Ezra-Nehemiah

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Return (Returning, Restore; Ezra 2:1; 5:5, 11; 6:5, 21; 9:14; 10:14; Neh 1:9; 2:6, 15, 20; 4:4, 12, 15, 5:11, 12; 6:4; 7:6; 8:17; 9:17, 26, 28, 29, 35; 13:9)
- ✓ Covenant (Ezra 10:3; Neh 1:5; 9:8, 32; 13:29)
- ✓ Heart (Ezra 7:10; Neh 9:8)
- ✓ Law (Ezra 3:2; 7:6, 10; 10:3; Neh 8:1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18; 9:3, 13, 14, 26, 29, 34; 10:28, 29, 34, 36; 12:44; 13:3)
- ✓ Build (Ezra 1:2, 3, 5; 3:2, 10; 4:1, 2, 3 (2x), 4, 12, 13, 16, 21; 5:2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11 (3x), 13, 15, 16, 17; 6:3, 7, 8, 14 (2x); Neh 2:5, 17, 18, 20; 3:1, 2 (2x), 3, 13, 14, 15; 4:1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 17, 18; 6:1, 6; 7:1, 4; 12:29)

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Introduction to Ezra-Nehemiah

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Temple/House of God (Ezra 1:2, 3, 4, 5, 7 (2x); 2:68; 3:6, 8 (2x), 9, 10, 11, 12 (2x); 4:1, 3, 24; 5:2, 3, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 (2x), 15, 16, 17; 5:14 (3x); 5:15; 6:3 (2x), 4, 5 (4x), 7 (2x), 8, etc.)
- ✓ Walls (Ezra 4:12, 13, 16; Neh 1:3; 2:8, 13, 15, 17; 3:8, 13, 15, 27; 4:1, 3, 6 (2x); 4:7, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19; 5:16; 6:1, 6, 15; 7:1; 12:27, 30, 31 (2x), 37, 38 (2x); 13:21)
- ✓ “According to the good hand (or wisdom) of God” (Ezra 7:6, 9, 25, 28; 8:22, 31; Neh 2:18)
- ✓ “Remember, my God” (Neh 5:19; 6:14; 13:14, 22, 13:29, 31)

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## Introduction to Ezra-Nehemiah

### HOW—Themes

- ✓ Aramaic (Ezra 4:8 – 6:18; 7:12–26)
- ✓ God
  - ❖ “The God of Heaven” (12x)
  - ❖ The Sovereign God
- ✓ Prayer
- ✓ Covenant Renewal to Post-Exile Israel—Temple, Law, Levites, Sin, Confession
- ✓ Nehemiah 9

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## Introduction to Ezra-Nehemiah

### HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ Return from Exile and Hope for the Present (Ezra 1:1 – 2:70)
  - ✓ Rebuilding the Temple (3:1 – 6:22)
    - ✓ Restoring the Hearts (7:1 – 10:44)
  - ✓ Rebuilding the City Walls (Neh 1:1 – 7:73)
- ✓ Reforms and Hope for the Future (8:1 – 13:31)

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