

TTB2022-312 – Week 38 – September 18 to 24

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TTB2022-302, Week 28, July 10 to 16	TTB2022-309, Week 35, Aug 28 to Sept 3
TTB2022-303, Week 29, July 17 to 23	TTB2022-310, Week 36, Sept 4 to 10
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Day 261 – September 18 - Motivation to Rebuild the Temple Zech. 1-5; Hag. 2; Ezr. 5:2**Zechariah Chapter One**

1. Zechariah’s first message (Zech. 1:1-6) comes in between Haggai’s second and third messages. He calls upon the returnees to not repeat the mistakes that led to the captivity.
2. Three months later, and two months after Haggai’s final message, Zechariah receives a series of eight night-visions (Zech. 1:7ff.).
 - a. The rider on the red horse (Zech. 1:7-17).
 - b. The four horns & four craftsmen (Zech. 1:18-21).
 - c. The man with the measuring line (Zech. 2).
 - d. Joshua the High Priest (Zech. 3).
 - e. The golden lampstand & two olive trees (Zech. 4).
 - f. The flying scroll (Zech. 5:1-4).
 - g. The ephah and the women (Zech. 5:5-11).
 - h. The four chariots (Zech. 6:1-8).
3. The first night vision (Zech. 1:7-17).
 - a. Zechariah has an angelic narrator (Zech. 1:14) who accompanies him and offers explanation.
 - b. A man riding on a red horse. Behind him were three other horsemen—red, sorrel & white horses (Zech. 1:8).
 - 1) These are not to be identified with the chariots of the 8th vision (Zech. 6:1-8).

- 2) Nor are they the white, red, black & ashen horsemen of the apocalypse (Rev. 6:1-8).
- c. The horsemen patrol the earth and establish peace through Persia (Zech. 1:11).
- d. With the world at peace the Angel of the Lord cries out to the Lord and asks “how long?”
- e. The Lord of Hosts assures the Angel of the Lord that His perfect timing is bringing about blessing to Zion.
4. The second night-vision (Zech. 1:18-21).
 - a. Zechariah sees the four horns (rulers) responsible for the scattering of the Jews.
 - b. Zechariah sees four angelic craftsmen that are sent to throw down the Gentile powers that afflicted the Jews.

Zechariah Chapter Two

1. Chapter 2 contains the third of the eight night-visions that Zechariah received.
2. Zechariah sees another angel who is tasked with the rebuilding of Jerusalem (Zech. 2:1).
3. The Lord dispatches another angel to instruct Zechariah’s narrator to inform Zechariah of the circumstances of Millennial Israel (Zech. 2:2-13).

Zechariah Chapter Three

1. Night vision #4 is a view of Joshua the High Priest, and how he stands in heaven.
 - a. In the courtroom of heaven, the Angel of the Lord (Lord Jesus Christ) is our advocate (1st Jn. 2:1).
 - b. In the courtroom of heaven, Satan is our accuser (Rev. 12:10).
2. The Lord called upon the Lord to rebuke Satan (Zech. 3:2).
 - a. The (Angel of the) Lord Jesus Christ did not rebuke the Devil, but called upon the Lord (God the Father) to do so.
 - b. Joshua has no condemnation as he is a brand plucked from the fire (born-again believer).
3. Joshua’s eternal reward is seen, as his filthy garments are removed and he is clothed with festal robes.
 - a. The turban is a special blessing in eternity reward for Joshua’s faithful service.
 - b. Governance in eternity is a reward based upon faithfulness in time (Lk. 19:11-27)—as is free access to angelic realms of heaven (Rev. 3:4,5; cf. Rev. 3:12).
4. Just as Zerubbabel has Messianic Kingship promises given to him (Hag. 2:20-23), Joshua receives Messianic Priesthood promises given to him (Zech. 3:8-10). Branch is a title for Jesus Christ (Zech. 6:12; Isa. 4:2; 11:1; 53:2; Jer. 23:5,6).

Zechariah Chapter Four

1. Night vision #5: a golden lampstand and two olive trees (Zech. 4:1-14).
2. Zechariah is eager to learn the significance of this vision, and insistently asks for greater explanation (Zech. 4:4,5).
3. The angel does not answer Zechariah’s question, but delivers a Word of the Lord message (Zech. 4:6,7).
4. Zechariah likewise receives a Word of the Lord message (Zech. 4:8-10).

5. Zechariah still insists on understanding the symbolism of the vision (Zech. 4:11-14).
 - a. As with the Tabernacle, the lampstand is Christ.
 - b. Oil in Scripture is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. The olive trees are anointed believers in service to the Lord.
 - d. Zerubbabel and Joshua were the two olive trees of Zechariah's day. Two more will rise in the Tribulation (Rev. 11:4).

Zechariah Chapter Five

1. Night vision #6: a flying scroll (Zech. 5:1-4).
 - a. The Lord of Hosts is dispatching a curse upon the whole earth.
 - b. Thieves are going to come into account by the One Who sees in secret.
 - c. There are physical thieves and there are spiritual thieves (Mal. 3:8-10).
2. Night vision #7: the ephah and the women (Zech. 5:5-11).
 - a. Zechariah sees a traveling ephah (basket).
 - b. He is allowed to peek under the lead cover and sees a woman inside, named Wickedness.
 - c. Wickedness is sealed up and carried away. It has no place in Jerusalem, but will be removed to the source of its wickedness for judgment.
 - d. Shinar is a reference to the region of Babylon from its earliest time (Gen. 10:10), and looking ahead to the fall of Babylon in the end times.

Haggai Chapter Two

1. Chapter 2 contains messages two through four of Haggai's short ministry.
2. In message #2 Haggai asks the elders who remembered Solomon's temple to make comparisons (Hag. 2:1-9).
 - a. Ezra's temple cannot compare with Solomon's.
 - b. Neither temple can compare with the temple yet to come (Ezekiel's temple).
3. In message #3 Haggai uses the people's own knowledge of ritual purity and defilement to illustrate their need of an attitude adjustment (Hag. 2:10-19).
4. In message #4 Haggai speaks to Zerubbabel the Persian governor (Hag. 2:20-23).
 - a. He communicates the Lord's promise to replace the signet ring which he removed in the days of Coniah (Jehoiachin) (Jer. 22:24).
 - b. The eschatological theocratic kingdom blessings described here show how the son of Zerubbabel will rule to the glory of God (cf. Matt. 1:12-16).

Ezra Chapter Five

1. Zerubbabel & Jeshua responded to the tough messages of Haggai & Zechariah by resuming their work on the temple (Ezr. 5:1,2).

(Chapter Five continues tomorrow)

Day 262 – September 19 - No Empty Ritualism Zech. 6-8; Ezr. 5:3-6:14**Zechariah Chapter Six**

1. Night vision #8: four chariots (Zech. 6:1-8).
 - a. The four spirits of heaven are four mighty angels used by the Lord in directing world affairs (Jer. 49:36; Dan. 7:2; Rev. 7:1).
 - b. They are not just patrolling and reporting; they are the agents of the Lord's wrath upon the north country (prophetic Babylon).
2. Following the night-visions, Zechariah's next work-assignment is to manufacture a crown for High Priest Joshua (Zech. 6:9-15).
 - a. The promised Messiah is revealed as Branch (cf. 3:8; Jer. 23:5; 33:15).
 - b. Messiah will not only be a Davidic King, but also a temple-building Priest.

Zechariah Chapter Seven

1. On December 7th, 518BC a delegation from Bethel came to Zechariah and asked about their 5th month fasting tradition (Zech. 7:1-3). The 5th month had become a time for fasting and weeping over the destruction of Jerusalem.
2. The Lord doesn't precisely answer the Bethel delegation until chapter eight. His first word addressed the 5th month and 7th month fasts as being man-centered (Zech. 7:4-7).
3. The Lord reminded them how the man-centered ritual of past generations led to the captivity (Zech. 7:8-14).

Zechariah Chapter Eight

1. The Lord promised a return from world-wide dispersion, and peace in the land (Zech. 8:1-17).
2. The Lord finally provides an answer to the Bethel delegation's question on fasting by addressing a full spectrum of monthly fasts and prophesying that those very occasions would become occasions for joy (Zech. 8:18-23).
 - a. The 10th month marked the beginning of Nebuchadnezzar's siege.
 - b. The 4th month marked the fall of the city.
 - c. The 5th month marked its burning.
 - d. The 7th month marked the assassination of Gedaliah.

Ezra Chapter Five

(Outline continues from yesterday)

2. A group of Persian officials observe the temple work and investigate their building permit (Ezr. 5:3-5).
3. Tattenai & Shethat-bozenai drafted a letter to Darius I (Hystapes) (the Great) (522-486BC) reporting the matter and requesting guidance (Ezr. 5:6-17).

Ezra Chapter Six

1. King Darius ordered an internal investigation of Persian records to research Tattenai's report (Ezr. 6:1) and found the decree of Cyrus which authorized the temple building (Ezr. 6:2-5).

2. Darius orders Tattenai's full cooperation with the temple project (Ezr. 6:6-12).

(Chapter Six continues on Day 264)

Day 263 – September 20 - The Lord is My Shepherd Zech. 9-14

Zechariah Chapter Nine

1. Chapters 9-14 contain oracle revelations concerning Israel's future. As with other prophetic Books, the distinctions between 1st Advent and 2nd Advents are not always clear.
2. The coming invasion by Alexander the Great is described (Zech. 9:1-8).
3. An even greater King's arrival is described (Zech. 9:9,10; Matt. 21:1-11; Jn. 12:12-15).
4. The King of Peace ensures that peace through the destruction of His enemies (Zech. 9:11-17).

Zechariah Chapter Ten

1. In anticipation of the coming glory, Israel is commanded to seek the Lord and reject the false messages of idolatry (Zech. 10:1,2).
2. The Lord will do away with the false shepherds when He comes to shepherd His people and when He transforms them into the mightiest army on earth (Zech. 10:3-11:3).
3. The Cornerstone, Tent Peg, & Battle Bow are metaphors for Jesus Christ (Zech. 10:4). He will come in battle with every resurrected King of Judah from David to Jehoiachin.
4. This is the time-frame for the future promised Global Regathering of Israel—not the Z/E/N Returnings under Zerubbabel, Ezra & Nehemiah.

Zechariah Chapter Eleven

1. Zechariah hears the Lord's instructions to a Faithful Shepherd of a doomed flock (Zech. 11:4-14).
 - a. This is a prophetic description of the 1st Advent of Jesus Christ.
 - b. The spiritual shepherds are more interested in economic activity (buying and selling) and political activity (power and kings) than they are in pursuing the things of the Lord.
 - c. The wages paid to this Faithful Shepherd were thirty pieces of silver, thrown to the potter (Zech. 11:12,13; Matt. 26:14-16; 27:1-10).
2. Zechariah also receives a prophetic message that highlights a coming Worthless Shepherd (antichrist) (Zech. 11:15-17).
 - a. His coming is in accord with the activity of Satan (2nd Thess. 2:9).
 - b. His coming is in accord with the purpose of the LORD (Zech. 11:16).

Zechariah Chapter Twelve

1. In the context of the Worthless Shepherd (antichrist) comes a message of world war against Jerusalem (Zech. 12:1-9).
 - a. The cup of God's wrath will be consumed by the nations of the earth hostile to Jerusalem (Isa. 51:22,23).
 - b. The flaming torch likewise consumes the nations of the earth hostile to Jerusalem (Isa. 10:17,18).

2. The Great Tribulation of Israel will produce a true spirit of repentance (Zech. 12:10-14).
 - a. The return of the Crucified Christ will be a time of mourning and shame (Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:29-31).
 - b. The mourning is national—spanning the tribes and clans, but also personal—dividing even husbands and wives (Matt. 24:40,41; Lk. 17:33-35).

Zechariah Chapter Thirteen

1. The national mourning and repentance of Israel will be accompanied by a Divine removal of demonic influences (Zech. 13:1-6; cf. 12:10).
2. False prophets will do everything they can to conceal their involvement with demonism.
3. God's Shepherd is struck by the will of God (Zech. 13:7; Acts 2:23; Isa. 53:4; Rev. 13:8).
4. God's people are struck by the will of God (Zech. 13:8,9), refined and prepared for Millennial glory.

Zechariah Chapter Fourteen

1. Zechariah closes his Book with a summary of the Lord's coming victory over the nations, and His rule over them with His rod of iron.
2. Jerusalem will be plundered and defiled during the Great Tribulation (Zech. 14:1,2; Lk. 20:20-24).
3. The Lord of Hosts Personally battles the assembled enemies (Zech. 14:3,12-15).
4. The Lord will stand upon the Mount of Olives, providing a way of escape for the faithful remnant to flee through (Zech. 14:4,5).
5. Topographical changes are then indicated for the Millennial reign (Zech. 14:7,8,10).
6. The Lord's world rule is stated (Zech. 14:9) and described (Zech. 14:16-21). Note the Gentile rebellion against the reign of Jesus Christ (vv.17-19 cf. Ps. 2:1-3,9; 18:44; 66:3; 81:15).

Day 264 – September 21 - Esther Interceded for Her People Est. 1-4; Ezz. 6:14-22; 4:6

Esther Chapter One

1. The drama of Esther begins with the Persian King Ahasuerus and his self-manifested glory (Est. 1:1-9).
 - a. Ahasuerus is better known by his Greek name: Xerxes (486-465BC).
 - b. Xerxes' assembly of princes in the 3rd year of his reign is attested in secular history (Herodotus vii.8).
 - c. The geographic description of 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia is likewise confirmed by secular history.
2. Queen Vashti's refusal to be displayed before the Persian princes is not explained in this passage (Est. 1:10-12). If we correctly identify her with the historical Queen Amestris, then at this time she is pregnant with Artaxerxes.
3. Ahasuerus' advisors warned him about a pending rebellion by Persian noblewomen everywhere if Vashti is not punished (Est. 1:13-22).

Esther Chapter Two

1. Ahasuerus' advisors recommend a New Queen Audition Contest (Est. 2:1-4).

2. The beautiful virgin selected from Susa to compete in the NQAC was an orphaned Jewish girl named Hadassah (Est. 2:5-11).
 - a. She had been raised by her uncle Mordecai after her parents death.
 - b. She has hidden her racial background all her life, taking the Persian name “Esther.”
 - c. Mordecai was a Benjamite and apparently a eunuch in the Persian court.
 - d. Esther found favor in the eyes of the chief Eunuch in charge of virgins—Hegai.
3. Esther’s audition goes very well, and Ahasuerus gives her the Queen’s crown (Est. 3:12-20).
4. Mordecai discovers a plot against Ahasuerus, and through Esther saves the King’s life (Est. 2:21-23).

Esther Chapter Three

1. Rather than reward Mordecai for his service (Est. 2:21-23 cf. 6:1-3), Ahasuerus promoted Haman to a position of authority second only to his own (Est. 3:1,2a).
2. Mordecai’s daily refusal to pay homage became a source of anger to Haman (Est. 3:2b-5).
3. Haman’s rage motivated him to murder not only Mordecai, but his entire race (Est. 3:6).
4. Haman followed the Persian soothsaying practice of throwing the Pur (stone) in order to determine fortunate timing for a planned event (Est. 3:7).
 - a. In the Sovereignty of God, the casting of lots provided for nearly an entire year of warning to the Jews of the coming genocide.
 - b. The King’s edict cannot be changed (Est. 1:19 cf. Dan. 6:8).

Esther Chapter Four

1. In response to Haman’s edict, Mordecai undertook a public ministry of humble repentance (Est. 4:1,2). Mordecai’s response was typical of the mourning of Jews throughout the Persian empire (Est. 4:3).
2. Hathach the Queen’s Eunuch became the go-between for Esther and Mordecai (Est. 4:5ff).
3. Esther offers clothing (and likely sanctuary) to Mordecai (Est. 4:4), but he refuses, and orders Esther to plead their case before the King (Est. 4:8).
4. Esther fears the danger of approaching the King uninvited (Est. 4:11), but Mordecai advises her that she is in danger regardless (Est. 4:13,14).
 - a. She is in danger of Haman’s decree.
 - b. She is in danger of refusing her work-assignment of deliverance.
 - c. Although God is not mentioned here by name it is clear that Mordecai views Esther’s royal office as the Lord’s provision for this very moment.
5. Esther accepts Mordecai’s rebuke, and asks for a national three day prayer meeting and fast before she approaches the King (Est. 4:15-17).

Ezra Chapter Six

(Outline continues from Day 262)

3. The temple is completed on the 3rd of Adar, in the 6th year of King Darius (515BC) (Ezr. 6:13-22).

Ezra Chapter Four

(Outline continues from Day 259)

2. They engaged in legal/political slander to halt the wall building project (Ezr. 4:6). They file a **סִטְנָה** *sitnāh*^{#7855}: legal accusation (from **שָׂטָן** *sātan*^{#7853}: adversary, accuser).
 - a. There is no recorded response by Ahasuerus to their indictment (Ezr. 4:6). He is known in secular history as Xerxes I (485–465BC).
 - b. He is the King of Persia featured in the Book of Esther. It is perhaps her influence, and/or Mordecai's influence that keeps Ahasuerus from responding to the Ezra 4:6 accusation.

(Chapter Four continues on Day 266)

Day 265 – September 22 - The Jews Are Providentially Rescued Est. 5-10**Esther Chapter Five**

1. Esther walked by faith and was received in grace (Est. 5:1–4).
 - a. She is offered to name anything her heart desires (v.3).
 - b. She invites Ahasuerus & Haman to a prepared banquet (v.4).
 - 1) The first letters of the phrase “Let the King and Haman come today” spell the divine name YHWH.
 - 2) The only book of the Old Testament to not name the name of God quite specifically highlights it here. In a few codices the letters for YHWH are written in an extra-large fashion to highlight them.
2. At Esther's banquet, Ahasuerus again offers Esther to request anything of him (Est. 5:5,6). Esther asks the King to return with Haman for a second banquet the next day, at which time she will voice her request (Est. 5:7,8).
3. Haman's proud heart was angered by the sight of Mordecai, and he decides to not wait until the decreed execution date (Est. 5:9–14).

Esther Chapter Six

1. The Lord prevented Ahasuerus from sleeping, and sovereignly determined the reading material the King would “just happen” to read (Est. 6:1,2).
2. When Ahasuerus realized that Mordecai was unrewarded for his service, he determines to reward him (Est. 6:3).
3. The Divine humor of God (Psa. 2:4) sovereignly determined for Haman to become the planner of Mordecai's exaltation (Est. 6:4–9).
4. Haman was forced to honor Mordecai in an ironic twist that left him humiliated (Est. 6:10–14).

Esther Chapter Seven

1. At Esther's second banquet, she makes her request of the King—save her and her people from wicked Haman's great evil (Est. 7:1–6).
2. Ahasuerus stormed into the garden in his anger perhaps considering how to undo Haman's edict (Est. 7:7).

3. Ahasuerus returns and observes Haman's prostration before the Queen; and orders Haman's execution (Est. 7:8-10).

Esther Chapter Eight

1. Mordecai was exalted to Haman's office, and given the house of Haman for a possession (Est. 8:1,2).
2. Esther made a second faith approach to the King, and begged for a revocation of Haman's edict (Est. 8:3-6).
3. Ahasuerus permits Mordecai to write any edict he desires in the King's name (Est. 8:7,8).
4. Mordecai cannot undo Haman's edict, so he issues an edict arming the Jews and permitting them to defend themselves against the pending massacre (Est. 8:9-14).
5. Mordecai's salt & light in Persia blessed both Jews and Gentiles (Est. 8:15-17).

Esther Chapter Nine

1. When the execution day arrived, as determined by the Pur, the Jews defended themselves spectacularly (Est. 9:1-10).
 - a. The Jews killed their enemies.
 - b. The Jews did not plunder their enemies.
2. The Jews needed a second day of battle to finish destroying the agents of Haman in Susa (Est. 9:11-19).
 - a. The 14th of Adar became a Jewish holiday outside of Susa.
 - b. The 15th of Adar became a Jewish holiday in Susa.
3. The death 75,800 throughout Persia seems high at first until the total populations are taken into account. The Jews numbered approximately 3,000,000 (3%) of a total Persian population of 100,000,000.
4. These two days were established by Mordecai and Esther as the Feast of Purim (Est. 9:20-32).

Esther Chapter Ten

1. The epilogue to the Book of Esther highlights the glory of Ahasuerus and the greater glory of Mordecai as recorded in the chronicles of the Medes & Persians (Est. 10:1-3).
2. Mordecai is attested in secular history: [WBE]
 - a. An undated cuneiform document found at Borsippa (near Babylon), mentions a Mardukâ who was a high official at Susa in the court of Xerxes I; his title, *sipir*, indicates he was an influential counselor.
 - b. Ctesias (xiii. 51) writes about Matakas who "was the most influential of the eunuchs."

Day 266 – September 23 - Rebuilding Spiritual Lives Ezra 4:7-23; 7-8

Ezra Chapter Four

(Outline continues from Day 264)

3. Artaxerxes responded to the letter of Bishlam, Mithredath & Tabeel by ordering a total halt to all building projects in Jerusalem (Ezr. 4:7-23).
 - a. The son of Xerxes I, Artaxerxes I (Longimanus) reigned from 464-423BC.

- b. Dispatched Ezra to Jerusalem in 458BC (Ezr. 7).
- c. Allowed his cupbearer Nehemiah to rebuild the city walls in 445BC (Neh. 2:1-8).

Ezra Chapter Seven

1. Chapter 7 describes the mission of Ezra the priest-scribe from Babylon to Jerusalem.
2. Artaxerxes, King of Persia reigned from 464-423BC.
3. Ezra's priestly lineage is firmly established (Ezr. 7:1-5).
4. Ezra was a mature believer in grace and knowledge (Ezr. 7:6a).
 - a. He was blessed with favor in temporal-life politics (Ezr. 7:6b).
 - b. He inspired others to follow his leadership (Ezr. 7:7).
 - c. The Lord blessed his travels, and guided his path to Jerusalem (Ezr. 7:8,9).
 - d. Ezra's intention was to establish a school of Mosaic Law instruction in Israel (Ezr. 7:10).
5. Artaxerxes commissioned Ezra to start his school, and to place his graduates in political office (Ezr. 7:11-26).
 - a. He gives permission for any who desire to go to accompany him (v.13).
 - b. He sends a freewill offering from his own treasury & authorizes additional offerings from the Jewish people (vv.14-20).
 - c. He authorizes Ezra to draw from the Treasuries in the Provinces beyond the River (vv.21-24).
 - d. He instructs Ezra to appoint his graduates as magistrates and judges over civil affairs (vv.25,26).
6. Ezra praised the Lord for the grace He extended and the blessings He provided for his journey (Ezr. 7:27,28).

Ezra Chapter Eight

1. Chapter 8 details the people and wealth that Ezra brought with him to Jerusalem.
2. Ezra took a census of all those with him, recording their lineage (tribal inheritance) (Ezr. 8:2-14).
3. Ezra observed a shortage of Levites, and appealed to Iddo at the "place" (school) of Casiphia (Ezr. 8:15-20).
4. Ezra began the journey by leading a prayer meeting (Ezr. 8:21-23).
5. They divided the wealth between their various groups, and arrived in Jerusalem safely (Ezr. 8:24-32).
6. They successfully delivered their offerings to the temple, and issued King Artaxerxes' decree to the satraps and governors (Ezr. 8:33-36).

Day 267 – September 24 - Jerusalem's City Walls Rebuilt Neh. 1-2; Ezr. 9-10

Nehemiah Chapter One

1. The Book begins in Chislev (Nov/Dec) of Artaxerxes' 20th year (444BC). It has been nearly 14 years since Ezra led over 4,000 Jews back to Jerusalem.
2. In Nehemiah's way of thinking, those who returned to Jerusalem from Persia "escaped" and "survived" the captivity (Neh. 1:2,3).

- a. This is the spiritual escape from the devil who keeps believers from pursuing the will of God (2nd Tim. 2:25,26).
- b. This is the spiritual escape from the corruption and defilement of the world system (2nd Pet. 1:4; 2:20).
3. Nehemiah is informed that the Jews in Jerusalem are being afflicted and unable to successfully build city walls for their own self-defense (Neh. 1:3; Ezz. 4:12).
4. The struggles of his people motivated Nehemiah to engage in a fervent effective intercessory prayer ministry (Neh. 1:4-11).
 - a. He calls upon the Lord to hear His prayer.
 - b. He confesses the sins of his people.
 - c. He calls upon the Lord to be faithful to His promises.
 - d. He calls upon the Lord to provide grace in his upcoming petition before King Artaxerxes.

Nehemiah Chapter Two

1. Nehemiah was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes (Neh. 1:11b). מִשְׁקֵהּ mashqeh ^{#4945}: butler, cupbearer (cf. Gen. 40:1ff.).
2. Artaxerxes has the capacity to recognize Nehemiah's spiritual heaviness of heart (Neh. 2:1,2).
3. Nehemiah explains his spiritual burden for Jerusalem, and realizes that the Lord has answered his prayers (Neh. 2:3,4).
4. Nehemiah requests the king's permission to head up a wall-building project in Jerusalem (Neh. 2:5). After determining the length of time until Nehemiah's return, Artaxerxes gives permission (Neh. 2:6) and issues a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (Neh. 2:7,8 cf. Dan. 9:25).
5. Nehemiah encounters opposition by the local Persian officials, but presses forward anyway (Neh. 2:9,10).
 - a. Sanballat the Horonite.
 - b. Tobiah the Ammonite servant.
 - c. Geshem the Arab.
6. He conducts three days of nightly inspections (Neh. 2:11-16), and then encourages the Jews of Jerusalem to build their walls (Neh. 2:17-20).

Ezra Chapter Nine

1. The leaders of Israel approached Ezra the Bible teacher with a serious Biblical issue (Ezr. 9:1-4).
 - a. The returnees had been inter-marrying with the idolatrous gentiles in the land of Canaan (Ezr. 9:1b,2).
 - b. This was strictly prohibited under Mosaic Law (Deut. 7:1-4).
2. Ezra sat down appalled, and explained the Law to the returned exiles (Ezr. 9:3,4).
3. Ezra enters into an intercessory prayer ministry on behalf of his sinful nation (Ezr. 9:5-15).
 - a. Ezra practiced "intercessory confession."

- b. Ezra praised the Lord for the grace He extended in preserving a remnant through the captivity.
- c. Ezra praised the Lord for the grace He extended in returning a remnant to rebuild His temple.
- d. Ezra is left to wonder what the Lord's judgment will be upon the returnees who continue to defy His Word.

Ezra Chapter Ten

1. Ezra's prayer ministry towards God prompted a repentance among the guilty parties involved (Ezr. 10:1ff.).
2. Shecaniah represents the people, and encourages Ezra to take the leadership in this national revival (Ezr. 10:2-4).
 - a. The Lord lifts up His servants for His purposes.
 - b. Humble believers will recognize God's calling of others, and appreciate the Godly leadership that is exercised.
 - c. This national revival was not led by a prophet, priest, or king, but by the greatest recognized Bible teacher of that generation.
3. Ezra secured the cooperation of the Levitical priesthood, and fasted before the Lord for the three days it took for Israel to be assembled (Ezr. 10:5-8).
4. Ezra bluntly taught Israel's guilt and the need for confession & separation from the paganism of their mixed marriages (Ezr. 10:9-12).
5. The people understood the seriousness of their evil, and accepted the consequences of their actions (Ezr. 10:13-17).
 - a. Rather than the fervor of mob action, the people determined to handle the issue city by city under the delegated authority of the elders and judges.
 - b. Each marriage was "investigated" before a divorce was decreed.
6. In a tradition quite like the Chronicles, the Book of Ezra concludes with a roster of identified significance (Ezr. 10:18-44).
7. Is this truly the end of the Book? Was Ezra-Nehemiah originally one book?

Answers to TTB2022-311 Exercises

1. A bear. Daniel 7:5
2. God the Father
3. Susa
4. Ahasuerus (Xerxes), king of Persia
5. Medes; Persians
6. Darius the Mede
7. Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, Gad.
8. Jehoiachin
9. He funded their operations from the plunder Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem. Ezra 1:7-11
10. The seventh month

TTB2022-312 Exercises

1. From the statement in Zechariah 1:1 regarding when the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, and from the description in Wikipedia of Darius's reign, try to establish the year God first spoke to Zechariah.

Answer:

2. Messiah will be a Davidic king. [True/False]

Answer:

3. What king's decree was found which was the original authorization to build the temple?

Answer:

4. The Great Tribulation of Israel will produce a true spirit of repentance in the nation. [True/False]

Answer:

5. What is the better known name of King Ahasuerus?

Answer:

6. What was Esther's Jewish name?

Answer:

7. How often is the name of God mentioned in the book of Esther?

Answer:

8. After Haman was executed, who was elevated to his position in the kingdom of Persia?

Answer:

9. Who was the king of Persia when they were defeated by the Greeks at the naval Battle of Salamis (BC 480)?

Answer:

10. Nehemiah was the cup-bearer to King _____.

Answer:
