

A diagram of the Thematic Narratives of Ezra-Nehemiah

“God's Good Hand Restores His Covenant Community”

“Good Hand of God” Ezra 1:1ff; 5; 32:11; 5:5; 7:9; 7:27-28; 6:18; 8:22-23; 8:31; 9:8-9; Nehemiah 2:8, 18; 6:16; Nehemiah 9:6-37

	<u>1st return: Zerubbabel</u> Ezra 1- 6	<u>2nd Return: Ezra</u> Ezra 7-8 . . . Neh 8-10	<u>Nehemiah's Return</u> Neh 1-7, 11-12
<i>Royal Commission</i>	Cyrus (538 BC) Ezra 1:1-4	Artaxerxes I (457 BC) Ezra 7:11-27	Artaxerxes I (445 BC) Neh 1-2:9
<i>Provisions made</i>	Ezra 1:6-11; 2:68-69; 3:7; 6:8-10;	Ezra 7:15-20; 21-23; 24; 8:24-30; 33-34; 9:12	Neh 2:8; 5:1-13; 14-18; 12:44-47; 13:4-5, 9; 10-13; 31
<i>Journey to Jerusalem</i>	Ezra 1:5-2:70 About 50,000 people	Ezra 7:1-10; 8:15-36 About 1500 People	Neh 2:11 Nehemiah and some Cavalry
<i>Arrival</i>	Ezra 3:1	Ezra 8:32-9:4	Neh 2:12-18
<i>Mission:</i>	Rebuilding the TEMPLE (Restoring Worship) (Ezra 1:5)	Reading the LAW (renewing Covenant) (Ezra 7:25)	WALLS of Separation (Restoring Community) (Neh 2:5)
<i>Work underway</i>	Ezra 3:1-13	(Narrative interrupted for Nehemiah's building of the walls)	Neh 3-6
<i>Overcoming Opposition and difficulties</i>	Local Samaritans Ezra 4:1-2; 2:24 (later ----- Tattenai – Gov Trans-Euphrates Ezra 5:3,6; 6:6,13; 8:36 Rehum and Shemshai – Govs of Trans-Euphrates Ezra 4:8-10; 17, 23 Decree by Darius commanding completion (6:1-12)	-----> <i>Complaints to Xerxes and) Artaxerxes I</i> <i>Ezra 4:6-23 (Neh1:3?)</i> Internal Problems: Intermarriages Ezra 9:1-17	Sanballat, Tobiah & Geshem Neh 2:10; 19; 4:1-3; 4:7-8; 6:1-2; 4; 5-9; 10-13; 14; 6:16-19; 13:4-10; 13:28 Internal issues: Usury and exploitation: Neh 5:1-19
<i>Completion & Celebration “joy”</i>	Foundation Ezra 3:10-13 . . . Temple Ezra 6: 13-18 (515 BC)	Reading the Law – Confessing – Covenant Commitment Neh 7:73b-10:39	Walls finished 6:15-7:3 City re-populated 11:1-36
<i>Feasts</i>	Passover Ezra 6:19-22	Feast of Booths Neh 8:13-18	Special Dedication Service Neh 12:27-47

Nehemiah 13: Final Reforms : 12 years later: Tobiah occupying the Temple (1-9); Levitical needs neglected (10-14); Commerce on the Sabbath (15-22); Intermarriages (23-31)
“Remember me with favor O my God”

“Gifting” the Temple and Priesthood: Ezra 1:6-11; 2:68-69; 3:7; 6:8-10; 7:15-20; 21-23; 24; 8:24-30; 33-34; 9:12 Neh 2:8; 5:1-13; 14-18; 12:44-47; 13:4-5, 9; 10-13; 31

A Lot of Lists:

The people of the captivity that returned with Zerubbabel : Ezra 2 & Nehemiah 7:6-75
The family heads who returned with Ezra Ezra 8:1-14
Those guilty of marrying foreign women: Ezra 10:18-44
Those who worked on the Walls and Gates Nehemiah 3:1-32

Those who reaffirmed the Covenant Nehemiah 10:1-28
Those appointed new residents of Jerusalem Nehemiah 11:3-19 and the towns around 20-36
The Levites who returned with Zerubbabel 12:1-26

Some Long Prayers of Confession: Ezra's Sorrow Ezra 9:3-15; Nehemiah's distress Neh 1:4-11; The People: Neh 9:1-37