

INTRODUCTION TO EZRA (Ezra 1:1)

I. Context

A. Influences on the Jewish _____

1. They have been _____ in communities and engaging in normal _____ or _____
2. They were _____, had _____ as citizens of the empire(s), and a high degree of _____
3. Their principal spoken _____ became Aramaic
4. Jeremiah's messages were critical for the _____ of the Jewish _____
5. Ezekiel's emphasis on Israel's _____, _____, and their being _____ people shaped the messages of Ezra and Nehemiah

B. The Jews who _____

1. _____ were glad, but _____ returned (2:64-65)
2. They settled _____ and its _____

C. The _____

1. Ezra was of the _____ line of Hilkiyah (7:1)
2. He was a "scribe _____ in the _____ of Moses" (7:6-21)
3. He was a _____ man

II. Theology

- A. The continuity of God's _____ and _____
1. God had _____ them in their captivity
 2. They would _____ their _____
 3. God had used _____ rulers to fulfill His _____
 4. God was now _____ them to fulfill His _____
- B. The need for _____ from defilement or syncretism
- C. The absolute _____ of _____
1. They assume it provided the historic revelation of _____
 2. They demonstrate the _____ of God through _____ texts
- D. The centrality of _____
1. The returning exiles first _____ an _____
 2. They _____ the _____
 3. _____ worship required _____ to be in a right relation to God
- E. The importance of _____
- F. The nature and significance of _____
1. Ezra and Nehemiah present a _____
 2. They record that which demonstrates God's _____
 3. They stressed that the exile was God's _____ for _____
 4. God's blessings come from His _____ and _____
 5. They recognize the _____ fulfillment of the remnant prophecy, but that there would be _____ fulfillment in the future