
The Inhabitants Before the Resettlement:

- Jewish Citizens Who Resided Outside the Cities
- Canaanite People who Took Advantage of the Exile
- Assyrian Settlers (Ref. 2 Kgs. 17:24-41)

Zerubbabel (Ezra Ch. 1-6):

Sheshbazzar: (Per) “Worshipper of Fire”

Zerubbabel: “Sown in Babylon”

- Close Associates with Joshua (Priest of the 2nd Temple)
- From the Davidic Line
- Appointed Governor of Judah by Cyrus the Great
- Led the First Resettlement in 536BC with 49,670
- Entrusted to Return the Temple Treasury
- Obtained Financial Assistance for the Rebuilding of the Temple
 - o Held Sacrifices of Dedication & Began Construction
 - o Reintroduces the Levitical Feasts
 - o The Young Settlers Rejoice
 - o The Old Settlers Cry Out in Remembrance
 - o The Shekinah Does Not Appear
- Inhabitants of the Land (Enemies) Who Identify Themselves as God Worshipers Offer Help
 - o Zerubbabel Declines
 - o The Inhabitants (Assyrian Descendants) Try to Halt Construction
 - Harassment
 - Political Intrigue

Ezra the Priest (Ezra 7-10):

Ezra: “Help”

- Torah Scholar & Rabbi (Priestly Line)
- Appointed by Artaxerxes I to Revive the Jewish Culture in Jerusalem
- Arrived with 2K Settlers from Babylon
- Reintroduced Torah Study & Reading in Jerusalem
 - o Began a Tradition of Strict Torah Enforcement
- Hears Report of Intermarrying Between Jewish Believers & Pagans
 - o Tears Garments in Shame
 - o Confessed Israel’s Sin Before God

- o Insists on the Annulment of the Marriages
 - God’s Voice is Not Heard

- Restores Proper Temple Leadership
- Restored Sabbath Observance

Ezra the Priest (Cont.):

- Many Jewish Men Agree & Divorce Their Foreign Wives
 - Offer a Guilt Sacrifice
 - Wives & Children Are Sent Away
 - Beginnings of the Samaritans (Jn. 4:19-26)
 - Culturally Joins with the Other Inhabitants

Nehemiah the Governor:

Nehemiah: "God Comforts"

- Long-Standing Cup Bearer of Artaxerxes I
- Learns of the Lingering Damage of Jerusalem
- Mourns the Indignity of His People
- The King Inquires About Nehemiah's Downcast Face
 - Possible Court Offense
 - Nehemiah Prays & Answers Boldly
 - Artaxerxes Grants Permission to Rebuild the City (Cf. Daniel 9)
 - Grants Notes of Safe Conduct
 - Allows Timbering of the King's Forest
- Other Provinces of the Persian Empire Restrict the Rebuilding
 - Physical Altercations
 - Political Intrigues
 - The Workers are Drafted into Military Service
 - The King Maintains His Support
- The Wall is Completed in 52 Days
- Institutes Debt Reduction Policies
 - Fellow Jews Were Charging Each Other Interest in a Time of Famine
 - Debts Forgiven/Interest Restricted
 - Assisted Ezra in Enforcing Torah
 - Joins in Ezra's Revival
- Retires to Susa After 12 Years
 - Returns to Jerusalem to Find More Corruption
 - Levitical Provision Not Paid
 - Foreign Merchants Selling on the Sabbath
 - Priests Marrying Pagan Women (Again)
- Restores Torah Enforcement
 - Cleans the Temple & Pays the Levites

