

Introduction

The Heart of a Pioneer:

1. One who ventures into unknown or unclaimed territory to settle.
2. One who opens up new areas of thought, research, or development:
3. A soldier who performs construction and demolition work in the field to facilitate troop movements.

Leader: Zerubbabel- A Pioneer Leader

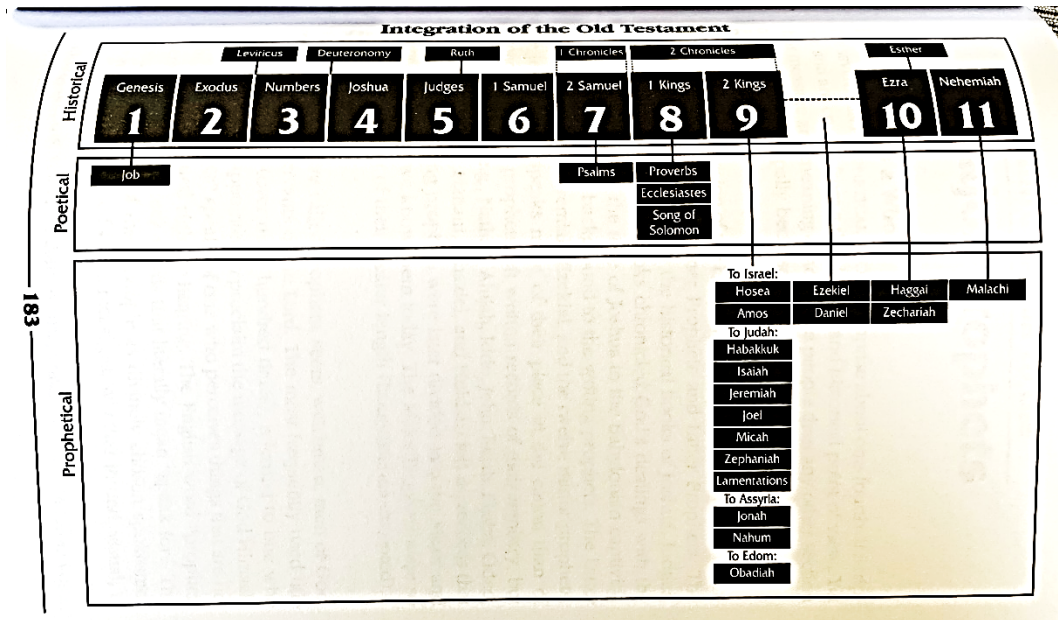
1. In the royal lineage and Character of King David; the grandson of Jehoiachin.
2. An ancestor of another pioneer leader: Jesus Christ, Matt. 1:12-13
3. The Lead the returnee pioneers (49,000 people) back while protecting everyone and all the wealth that returned with them.
4. Encouraged the Tribes of Benjamin, Judah, and the Levites to re-settle their cities, 2:70
5. Seventh Month they built the Altar; 2nd Year they laid the Foundation, 3:8-13

Author: Ezra- A Pioneer Priest

1. Priest in the direct line of Aaron, Eliazar, Phineas, Zadok.
2. Had access to the library of written documents gathered by Nehemiah. We have already seen his authorship of Israel's history possibly while still in Babylon.
3. Tradition holds that he was the founder of the Great Synagogue, collected the biblical books into a unit and originated the synagogue form of worship.

A contemporary of Buddha in India, Confucius in China, & Socrates in Greece

Where Ezra Fits in History and the OT



An Overview of the Book

Things to Notice:

The Number of returnees

The Key People:

Zerubbabel & Ezra

The Gap Between chs

6 & 7

58 years

EZRA	Restoration of the Temple		Reformation of the People					
	Focus	1:1	6:22	7:1	10:44			
Divisions	First Return to Jerusalem	2:70	3:1	6:22	7:1	8:36	9:1	10:44
Topics	Zerubbabel			Ezra				
Place	Persia to Jerusalem			Persia to Jerusalem				
Time	22 Years (538-516 B.C.)			1 Year (458-457 B.C.)				

Key Verses:

Cyrus' Decree:

Ezra 1:3, "Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem."

Ezra's Heart:

Ezra 7:9c-10 "...the good hand of his God was upon him. For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel."

Overview: Chapters 1-6

Ch. 1 – Cyrus' Decree & Articles of the Temple returned.

Ch. 2 – The List of Returnees: By Lineage, by Town, by Levitical service.

Ch. 3 – The Altar and Sacrifice started.

Offering and Materials Gathered.

The Foundation Laid: Rejoicing and Weeping.

Ch. 4 – Enemies Discourage and Falsely Accuse the Rebuilders;
Work is stopped...for 58 Years!

Ch. 5 – Haggai and Zechariah's Prophetic word Encourages the work to restart as they await word from Darius.

Ch. 6 – The Decree of Darius propels them to complete the Temple.

Great dedication and Observance of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Overview: Chapters 7-10

Ch. 7 – Ezra goes with priestly reinforcements by decree of Artaxerxes to Jerusalem

Ch. 8 – Geneological List of Second group of Returnees.
Fasting for safe passage while carrying a lot of wealth.
Stewardship assignments.

Ch. 9 – Defilement through intermarriage is reported to Ezra.

He breaks into grief, fasting, and confession of corporate sin

Ch. 10 – The people respond to Ezra’s brokenness in repentance and action.

The List of those who put away foreign wives.

Themes:

- **Moral Integrity:** The quality of their leaders; Observance of the Law and appointed feasts and holy days. (3:3-6; 6:19-22)
- **Spiritual Renewal:** The ministry of encouragement and exhortation of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, (chapter 5)
- **Social Order and Restoration:** People playing their roles; working together; sacrificially giving; putting away their foreign wives (chapter 9-10)
- **God’s Sovereign Direction over Worldly Kings:** Cyrus (1:2-4); Darius (6:1-12); Artaxerxes (7:12-26)

Christ in Ezra

- The Temple is Central –Christ called His Body the Temple (Jn. 2:19)
...His person is the Focus of Worship.
- The Tri-Part Ministries of King, Prophet, and Priest are typified by the godly
Leaders of the Book: Zerubbabel, Haggai & Zechariah, Ezra

Applications:

- Godly, courageous leadership makes a great deal of difference.
- Great Endeavors will be met with opposition...Persevere
- Pray for those in Authority over us, 1 Tim. 2:1-3
- There is power in EnCOURAGEment.
- The greatest impact is found in the process:

Set your heart...to Study to Practice to Teach

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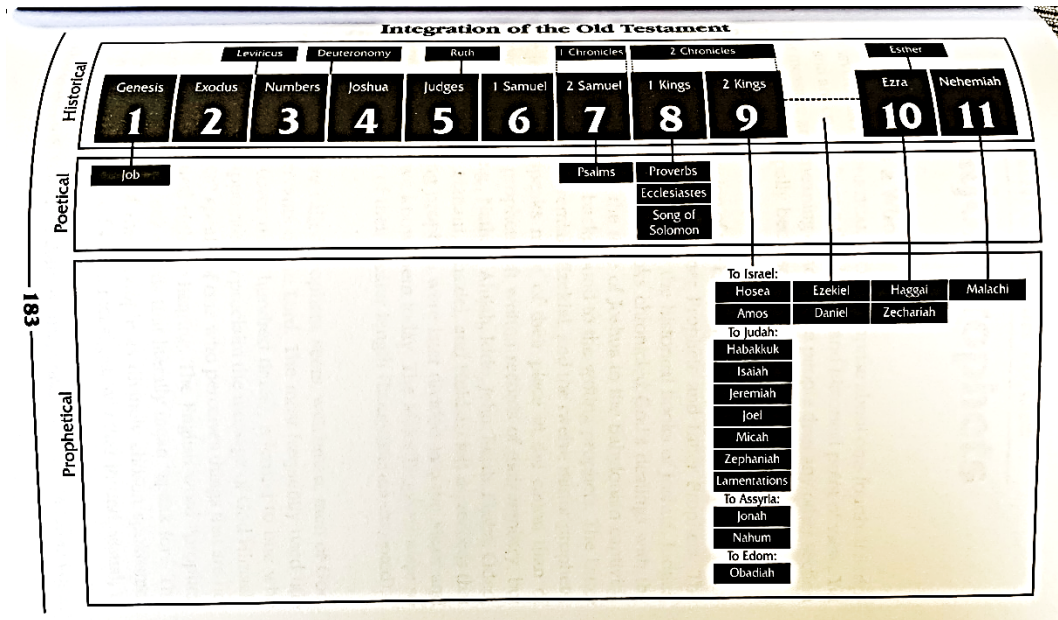
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Topics	Zerubbabel		Ezra		First Return of 49,897		Second Return of 1,754	
Place	Persia to Jerusalem		Persia to Jerusalem					
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- The Tri-Part Ministries of K_____, P_____, and P_____ are typified by the godly Leaders of the Book: Zerubbabel, Haggai & Zechariah, Ezra

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Set your heart...to S_____ to P_____ to
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