



EZRA AND NEHEMIAH



RESTORING WORSHIP	
Ezra's Life	Ezra's Ministry
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Born during the Babylonian exile after an ancestor was taken into captivity (1 Chronicles 6:10-15; cf. Ezra 7:1-3)• Direct descendant of Aaron, the first high priest (Ezra 7:1-5)• As a scribe and priest, devoted himself to studying and teaching God's law (Ezra 7:10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led a waves of Israelites, including Levites and priests, to return to Judah (Ezra 7:6-9)• Grieved and encouraged the men and priests to put away foreign wives who did not follow God (Ezra 9-10)• Reinstated public reading of the book of the Law and encouraged faithful worship (Nehemiah 8)
REBUILDING THE WALL	
Nehemiah's Life	Nehemiah's Ministry
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Born during the exile and served as a cupbearer for King Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 1:1,11; 2:1)• Responded to his brother's report about Jerusalem with grief, prayer, and confession (Nehemiah 1:4-11)• As governor, was zealous for keeping the Sabbath and God's laws (Nehemiah 9:38-10:39; 13:6-31)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After a time dedicated to prayer and fasting, then being presented with the opportunity, asked the king to let him go and rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:4-2:8)• Reorganized the work of rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem for safety and productivity (Nehemiah 4:13-23)• Relieved financial burdens on the people and made social reforms (Nehemiah 5; 10)• Reinstated public worship, confession, and the Festival of Shelters (Nehemiah 8-9)• Cleansed the temple and reprimanded the people for neglecting God's house (Nehemiah 13)
REBUILDING THE PEOPLE	
Reverence for the Word	Reverence for True Worship
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The law, not the temple, became the focus of worship of the Lord• Ezra's dedication to Scripture points to Christ, who perfectly obeyed both the letter and spirit of the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prayerfully encouraged the people to remain faithful to the law and to worshipping God alone• Nehemiah's zeal for the temple points to Christ, who was zealous for His Father's house and who is Himself the true temple