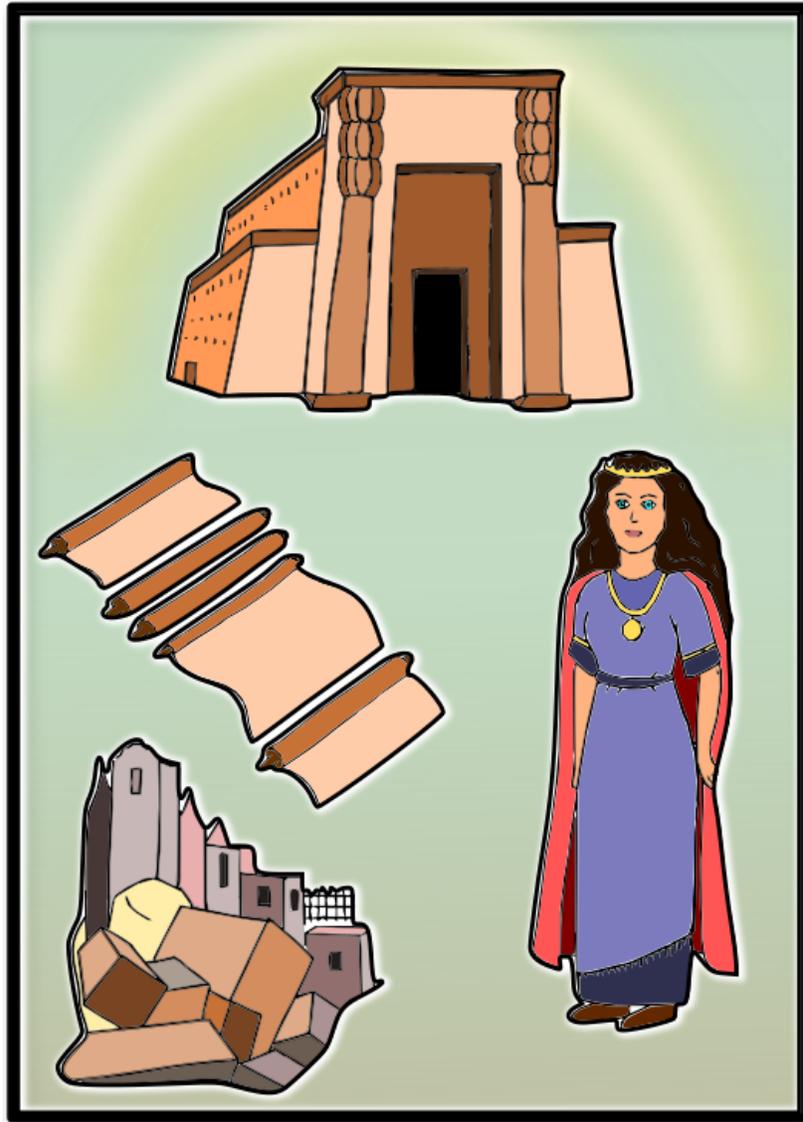


Return to The Land

Temple, Law and Wall



Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Lesson 17: Return To The Land

Temple, Law and Wall

BIBLE

Book	Chapters	Author	Date
Ezra	1 - 7	Ezra	450 - 444 B.C.
Nehemiah	1- 13	Nehemiah	445 - 425 B.C.
Esther	1 - 9	Uncertain	465 B.C

SUMMARY

Ezra and Nehemiah tell how the Jewish people returned home from exile, rebuilt the temple and walls, and tried to follow God again. Esther shows how God protected His people through a brave queen, even when His name isn't mentioned.

NOTES

Ezra

- King Cyrus of Persia issues a decree allowing the Israelites to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. Ezra 1:1-4
- A group of exiles led by Zerubbabel returns to Jerusalem. Ezra 2:1-70
- The altar is rebuilt, and the foundation of the Temple is laid Ezra 3:1-13
- Local adversaries oppose the rebuilding efforts, causing the work to halt. Ezra 4:1-24
- Under King Darius, the work on the Temple resumes and is completed Ezra 5:1-6:22
- Ezra, a scribe and priest, returns to Jerusalem and initiates religious reforms. Ezra 7:1-10:44

Nehemiah:

- Nehemiah, cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, receives permission to rebuild Jerusalem's walls. Neh. 1:1-2:20
- Despite opposition, Nehemiah leads the effort to rebuild Jerusalem's walls Neh. 3:1-6:19
- The people, led by Ezra and Nehemiah, renew their covenant with God. Neh. 8:1-10:39
- The walls of Jerusalem are dedicated with a joyful ceremony. Neh. 12:27-43
- Nehemiah enforces additional reforms regarding tithes, the Sabbath, and intermarriage. Neh. 13:1-31

Esther:

- Esther, a Jewish woman, becomes queen of Persia. Es. 2:1-18
- Haman, an official, plots to annihilate the Jews, obtaining a decree from King Ahasuerus. Es. 3:1-15
- Mordecai persuades Esther to appeal to the king on behalf of the Jews. Es. 4:1-17
- Esther courageously approaches the king and invites him and Haman to a banquet. Es. 5:1-8
- Esther reveals Haman's plot, and Haman is executed. Es. 7:1-10
- King Ahasuerus issues a new decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves, leading to their deliverance Es. 8:1-17
- The Jews institute the festival of Purim to celebrate their survival. Es.9:20-32

KEY POINTS

1. God restores His people and renews their worship after exile, showing that even after failure and judgment he remains faithful to his promises.
2. The story of Queen Esther reminds us that courage and obedience can make a lasting impact no matter where we find ourselves.