

The Spiritual Restoration of Israel



Message Outline

- Ezra, who was trained in the Mosaic Covenant, trains his core group over 12 years
- A preview of the First Temple Revival
- The Second Temple or Ezra Revival



Ezra the Priest and Decendant of Aaron Sent in 457 BC

Ezra 7:1–8 KJV Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah,... (5)... the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest:..



Ezra Trained in the Mosaic Covenant

Ezra 7:1–8 KJV ... (6) This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him...



Ezra's Core Group Came with Him

Ezra 7:1–8 KJV ...(7) And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. (8) And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.



Ezra's Commission

Ezra 7:10–26 KJV For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. (11) Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest,...



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The Decree of 457 BC

Ezra 7:10–26 KJV ...(12) Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. (13) I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee...



Ezra Possessed Preserved Manuscripts

Ezra 7:10–26 KJV ...(14) Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand;...



Artaxerxes Financially Supports the Work

Ezra 7:10–26 KJV...(21) And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,..



Artaxerxes Financially Supports the Work

Ezra 7:10–26 KJV ...(23) Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons? (24) Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.



Ezra Was Given Ecclesiastical Police Power

Ezra 7:10–26 KJV ...(25) And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not....



Ezra Was Given Ecclesiastical Police Power

Ezra 7:10–26 KJV ...(26) And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.



Ezra Prepared 12 Years

- Ezra arrived in 457 BC
- Revival occurred in 445 BC



Ezra Starts National Revival

Nehemiah 8:1–2 NKJV Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. (2) So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month.



Revival of First and Second Temple Compared

- Worship played a larger role in the First Temple
- Second Temple emphasized Teaching
- Ethnicity a heuristic shortcut for spiritual categories during the First Temple
- The House of David became sidelined, with the Levites ruling.
- Ethnicity became essential in the Second Temple



Worship Triggered Revival in the First Temple

2 Chronicles 5:3–14 NKJV Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with the king at the feast, which was in the seventh month... (13) indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD,...



Worship Triggered Revival in the First Temple

2 Chronicles 5:3–14 NKJV ...(13)... and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, (14) so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.



First Temple Revival on Tabernacles

2 Chronicles 7:8–10 NKJV At that time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt. (9) And on the eighth day they held a sacred assembly, for they observed the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days...



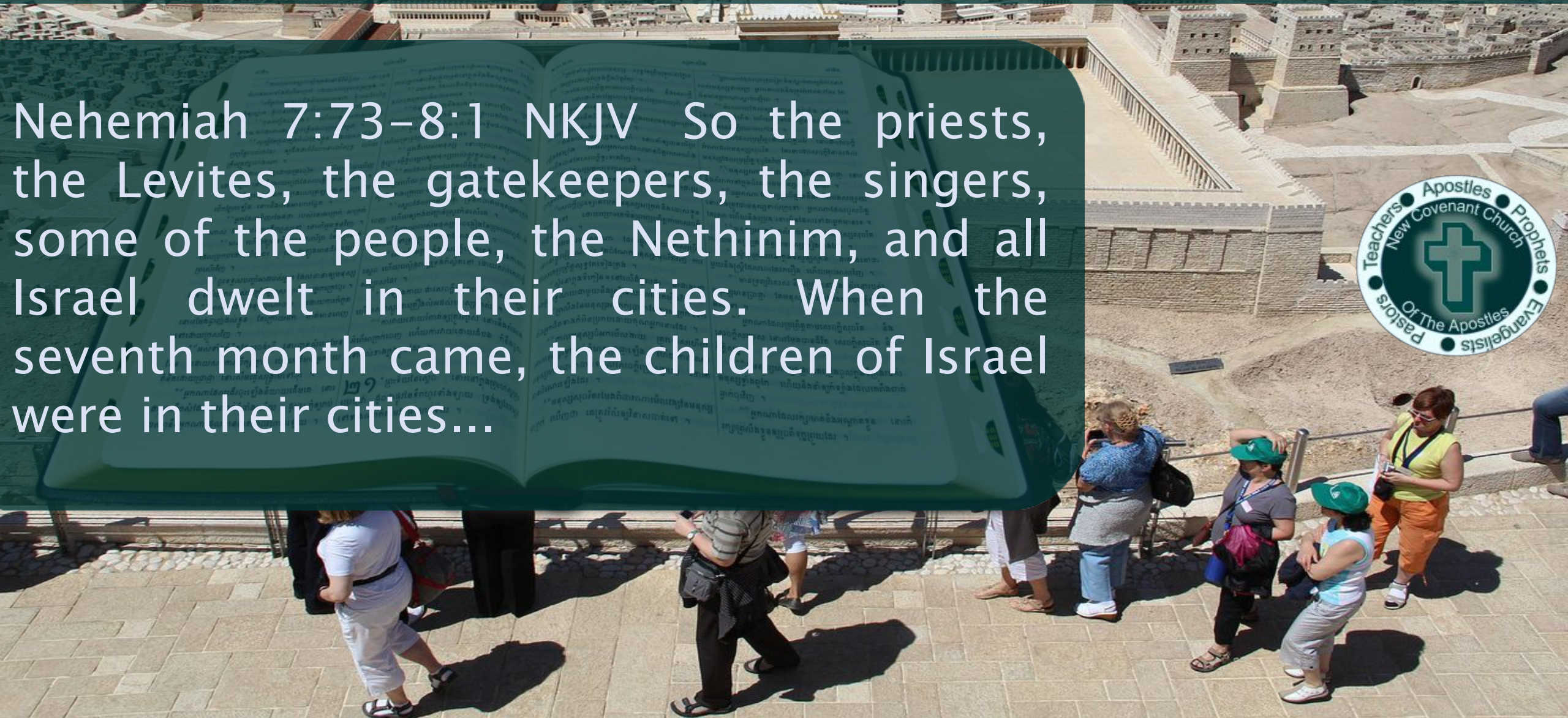
First Temple Revival on Tabernacles

2 Chronicles 7:8–10 NKJV ...(10) On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the good that the LORD had done for David, for Solomon, and for His people Israel.



Worship Team was Assembled Before the Ezra Revival

Nehemiah 7:73–8:1 NKJV So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the Nethinim, and all Israel dwelt in their cities. When the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities...



Worship Took a Back Place to Preaching and Teaching

Nehemiah 7:73–8:1 NKJV ...(8:1) Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel.



Worship Took a Back Place to Preaching and Teaching

Nehemiah 8:5–6 NKJV And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. (6) And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.



Exigesis Taught

Nehemiah 8:7–8 NKJV Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place. (8) So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.



The People Repent

Ezra 10:1 NKJV Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly.



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Scripture References

Nehemiah 8:1–2,

Ezra 7:1–8, Ezra 7:10–26,

2 Chronicles 5:3–14, 2 Chronicles 7:8–10,

Nehemiah 7:73–8:1, Nehemiah 8:5–8, Ezra 10:1,

