Core Seminars—Old Testament
Class 25: Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther

EZRA-NEHEMIAH

Context

- Historical Context

  Events occur between 538 and ca. 433 BC

  Cyrus, the Persian king, allows Jews to return and rebuild

- Redemptive-Historical Context

  God still committed to His plan of redemption

  But the full kingdom of God is still not yet

Theme

God is renewing the covenant by restoring His people, the temple, true worship, and Jerusalem. But it’s not the same, and it doesn’t fulfill all the great prophesies. Thus His people still look to the future.

A Study Outline for Ezra-Nehemiah

I. God Initiates, People Respond – Ezra 1:1-6
II. The People Return and Rebuild Ezra 1:7 – 6:22
III. The People Sin and Repent – Ezra 7 – 10
IV. Nehemiah Returns, People Rebuild the Walls – Nehemiah 1 – 7
V. The People Rejoice….and Relapse Nehemiah 8-13

A Study Outline for Esther

I. Esther 1-2 – Esther’s Rise
II. Esther 3-5 – Haman’s Plot
III. Esther 6-7 – Mordecai’s Victory
IV. Esther 8-10 – Jews’ Celebration
God Initiates and the People Respond – Ezra 1:5-6

Nehemiah Returns and the People Rebuild – Nehemiah 1 – 7

The People Return and Rebuild – Ezra 1:7 – 6:22

The People Rejoice….and Relapse – Nehemiah 8 - 13

The People Sin and Repent – Ezra 7 – 10

ESTHER

Historical Context

• Events occur between 483 and 473 BC
• A group of Jews remained in Persia, where enemies abound

Theme

*God protects his people, even if we can’t see how he is working.*