Outline: The Book of Ezra

I. Zerubbabel leads the return from Babylon (1-6)

A. The restoration of the temple by a decree from Cyrus (1)

B. Return under Zerubbabel (2)

C. The reconstruction of the temple (3)

D. Opposition to the reconstruction of the temple (4)

E. The reconstruction is renewed by decree of Darius (5-6)

II. Ezra leads the return from Babylon (7-10)

A. The return (7-8)

B. The reformation (9-10)

Discussion Questions: Ezra

1. How does Cyrus' decree demonstrate God's sovereignty (1), and how should this influence us today?

2. What can we learn about fear and obedience in chapter three?

3. What can we learn about opposition to the work of God from chapter four?

4. What emphasis does Ezra place on the word of God (7), and how should this influence us today?

5. What can we learn from Ezra's prayer and response to intermarriage with pagan cultures, and how does this apply to us today?

6. What can we learn from chapter ten about the importance of prayer and confession?