

A Return to Faithfulness

Parallels with the 3 movements in Ezra-Nehemiah and how Jesus fulfills them

	1st wave with Zerubbabel & Joshua Ezra 1-6	2nd wave with Ezra Ezra 7-10	Nehemiah	Jesus
COMMISSION	Cyrus decrees Israelites can return, sends Persian treasures. Later, Darius reconfirms Persia's commitment and sends more resources. Zerubbabel leads 1 st wave	Artaxerxes commissions Ezra and a 2 nd wave of Jewish exiles from Babylon to return. He sends them with resources for the journey and offering for the Temple.	Artaxerxes commissions Nehemiah to return in order to build the walls Artaxerxes at one point had ordered stopped by force.	The King of Heaven comes himself to redeem and save His people from their sin; yet he comes in great humility without great wealth.
CONFLICT	God sends Haggai and Zechariah to confront their apathy and to command the temple rebuilding to resume.	God sends Ezra to confront the people's apathetic rebellion in abandoning the covenant with God for other pagan women.	God sends Nehemiah to confront the people's fear of their neighbors, unethical financial practices, and to restore the walls of Jerusalem.	God sends Jesus to confront the people's true problem – their hearts are not capable of faithfully following God.
COMMITMENT	The returnees faithfully turn their actions to following God's command and rebuild the Temple. They celebrate the dedication of God's house being rebuilt.	The returnees confess and repent of their sin. They even take the drastic action of divorcing the pagan women and send them out of the land so they can be "holy"	The returnees faithfully work on the rebuilding of the walls and the repopulation of the holy city. Once again, there is a renewal of commitment to obey Yahweh.	Jesus fulfills the mission on his own. He sacrifices himself on behalf of those who would believe on Him and follow God's path of salvation.
CONCLUSION	God's glory doesn't return, Israel is not restored.	God's glory doesn't return, Israel is not restored.	God's glory doesn't return, Israel is not restored.	The Holy Spirit comes to actively dwell in all believers and is the down-payment of the promises still to come.
COMMUNITY	The community falls into disrepair (see Ezra 7-10)	The community falls into disrepair (see Nehemiah 5, 8-10)	The community falls into disrepair (see Nehemiah 13)	Although the believing community still sins, the eternal salvation and destruction of sin are promises that can be actively realized. The Holy Spirit now enables believers to obey and follow after God with a new heart.