

When you wait on God and follow Him, He will bring you home...

1. Ezra and Nehemiah—Israel Returned to Jerusalem to Rebuild the City of David. Ezra, Neh.

- a. God inspired King Cyrus of Persia to release the exiles and rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 1-2).
- b. Zerubbabel led the Temple rebuilding (3-6), and Ezra returned to teach the Law (7-9).
- c. Nehemiah returned to rebuild the wall (Neh. 1-6) and Ezra restored the Covenant (7-13).

“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem,” ...

“Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites. Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good,” Ezra 1:2-3 ... Neh. 13:29-31

2. Esther—God used Esther and Mordecai to Protect Jews still under Persian Exile. Esther

- a. Esther was picked as new Queen (1-2). Mordecai revealed Haman’s murder plot (3-6).
- b. King Ahasuerus ordered Haman’s death (7), and made Mordecai his new executive (8).
- c. The King made a new decree protecting Israel, converting Gentiles in celebration (9-10).

“On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.”... “And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.,” Esther 8:1-2 ... 17

3. Job—Subject to Sin, Trials and Troubles, Job Sought Only God for Answers. Job

- a. God allows suffering. We all sin, and Satan tempts even the righteous (Job 1, James 1).
- b. Job’s friends debate his innocence (4), wickedness (15), and God’s roles (5, 7, 12, 24).
- c. Job firmly trusted God (31, 40), confessed, repented, and God restored him twofold (42).

“Then Job answered the Lord and said: ‘I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.’... ‘therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes,’” Job 42:1-2 ... 6

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