



Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, July 12, 2026

Ezra-Nehemiah: Introduction

The historical context and theological significance of Ezra and Nehemiah help us understand the Lord's redemptive purpose amid grief, loss, and exile.

Israel's History:

- Before the exile
- During the exile
- After the exile

Four Primary Themes of Ezra & Nehemiah:

1. God's sovereignty and faithfulness
2. Worship and prayer as priority
3. God's Word as foundation for community health
4. Spiritual renewal through obedience and commitment

We respond and apply the Word of God we have heard by committing ourselves to the work of the Lord.

May you be led by the Spirit of God, as the children of God. May you observe what the Lord your God requires: May you walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Word of God. May you do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go. (Romans 8:14, 1 Kings 2:3)

Discussion Questions:

- Why did the Lord allow Israel's enemies to destroy Jerusalem and take the people captive?
- What can we learn from Israel's history before, during, and after the exile?
- How did the exile impact the children of Israel? How would a similar situation affect you?
- How do you understand God's sovereignty and faithfulness?
- What can you do to make worship and prayer a priority in your life?
- Why should God's Word be the foundation of our lives?
- How do obedience and commitment to God bring spiritual renewal?