

July 29: Read **Ezra 4-7**, then Pray **Psalms 48**. From our perspective, knowing that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament, reading these chapters create mixed emotions for us! The return of the people combined with the goal of rebuilding the temple was *supposed* to mean restoration (Hebrew: SHALOM) but nothing was turning out quite right.

July 30: Read **Ezra 8-10** (skip the names!), then Pray **Psalms 49**. Ezra was seeking to be faithful to God's Word (specifically the first five books) but compare his actions with Galatians 4. Israel still wasn't getting the point.

July 31: Read **Nehemiah 1-3**, then Pray **Psalms 50**. Nehemiah joins Ezra in seeking to be faithful to God's Word. But this time it will be about getting those walls built.

August 1: Skim **Nehemiah 4-6**, then Pray **Psalms 51**. Not everyone agreed with Nehemiah's plan. But Nehemiah (who's name means: "Yahweh comforts") continued his mission, all while trying to do the right thing for each group he dealt with. The whole time, Nehemiah was driven by His faith, even unto completion of the wall!

August 2: Skim **Nehemiah 7-9** (skip the names!), then Pray **Psalms 52**. The celebration of their accomplishments was rooted in the reading of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Most of these people were unfamiliar with the Scriptures, only knowing bits and pieces from their time in exile.

August 3: Read **Nehemiah 10-13** (skip the names!), then Pray **Psalms 53**. The ending of Nehemiah shows us how much the Messiah was still needed. It shows us how powerless the law is, the people had promised again they would be faithful this time, and yet...

August 4: Available Video → [Esther](#). Read **Esther 1-5**, then Pray **Psalms 54**. This book is sort of a "Meanwhile, back in Babylon" (which is now the Persian Empire!) moment from the perspective of just having read Ezra and Nehemiah. This is an important perspective about how God is working everywhere, all the time, amidst all people!