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Ezra's Return to Jerusalem
Ezra 7:1 to 8:36



The Chronicler had **his** own ideas about chronology. For **him**, the maximum, "first things first" meant organizing the book *in order of importance*. The building of **the Temple** must come first with **Zerubbabel** (**to see link click Ag – The First Return**); then the purifying of **the people** by the reading of **His** Word by **Ezra the priest** came next (see **Bf – The Second Return**); then, came the building of the outer **walls** of **the City** by **Nehemiah** would finish the narrative (see **Bt – The Third Return**). Therefore, **Nehemiah 7:73b-9:37**, compiled by **the Chronicler**, but written in the memoirs of **Nehemiah**, is included here. I am convinced that **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** wanted future readers to see the events of **Nehemiah 9** as following upon the narrative of **Nehemiah 8**. **The LXX (The Greek translation of the TaNaKh) underlines the continuity between Nehemiah 8 and 9 by adding the words: and Ezra said** in **Nehemiah 9:6.** Therefore, after **Ezra** returned from Babylon and read **the book of the Torah** to **the Israelites**, **the people** confessed **their** sin of mixed marriage and took an oath to repent of it.[125]