EXPLORE THE BIBLE
BIOGRAPHICALLY

EXPLORE THE BIBLE connect

Part 2

WHO IS OUR SUBJECT?

EXPLORE THE BIBLE connect

- THE LAST TIME WE FOCUSED ON THE NEW TESTAMENT, USING JOHN MARK, THE WRITER OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK, AS OUR SUBJECT
- HE IS FOUND IN LESS THAN A DOZEN PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE
- NOW WE WILL GO TO THE OLD TESTAMENT, USING AS OUR SUBJECT A MAN CALLED EZRA.
- HE IS FOUND IN TWO BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.

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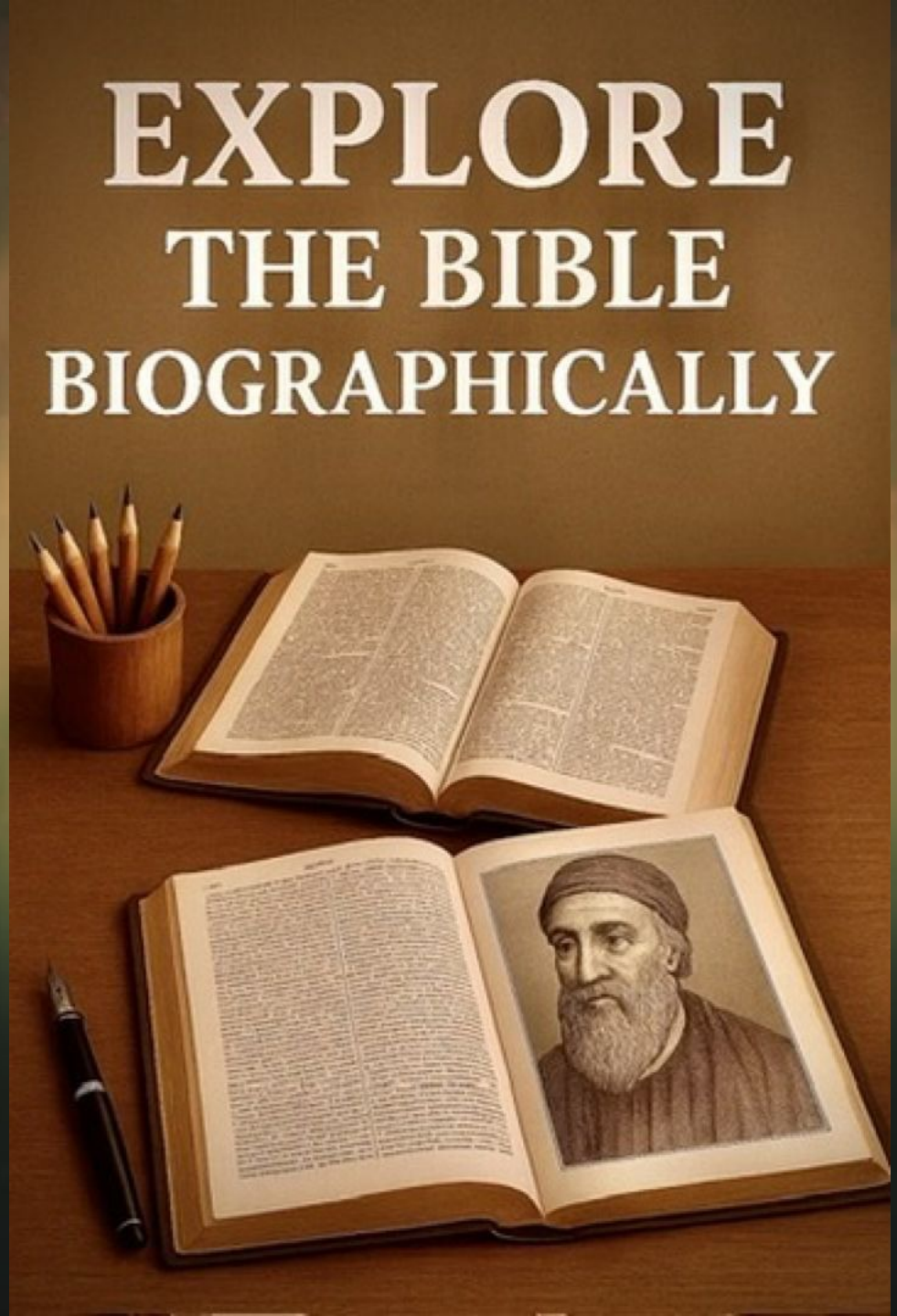
EZRA THE PRIEST



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WHY SELECT EZRA AS OUR SUBJECT?

1. BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT HE HAD ON ISRAEL DURING A MAJOR TRANSITION IN THEIR HISTORY
2. BECAUSE HE BRINGS INTO HIS STORY OTHER PROPHETS & KINGS
3. BECAUSE HE RECOGNIZES THE “HAND OF GOD” GUIDING EVERYTHING

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WHEN DID THIS OCCUR IN THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL & WHERE DOES IT TAKE PLACE?

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- THE STORY OCCURS DURING THE RETURN OF BOTH ZERUBBABEL (538 BC) AND EZRA RETURN FROM BABYLON TO JERUSALEM
- (458 BC)
- 80 YEARS

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WHAT IS THE STORY ABOUT ZERUBBABEL ?

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THREE RETURNS FROM BABYLON TO JERUSALEM

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THE BOOK OF EZRA BEGINS WITH:

- CYRUS, KING OF PERSIA (v.1)
- PREDICTED BY ISAIAH AND JEREMIAH (Isaiah 44-45, Jeremiah 29 AND Ezra 1:1)
- KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR (v.7)
- BETWEEN ISAIAH'S PREDICTION AND ZERUBBABEL'S RETURN, THERE ARE ABOUT 270 YEARS

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SIX MAJOR EVENTS (EZRA 1-6)

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1. THE CYRUS DECREE (Ezra 1:1; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23)
2. THE PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH (Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10)
3. REBUILDING THE ALTAR (Ezra 3:1-6)
4. LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF THE TEMPLE (Ezra 3:7-13; Haggai 2)
5. BUILDING THE TEMPLE (Ezra 4-6)
6. CELEBRATING THE PASSOVER & THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

EXPLORE THE BIBLE connect

1. WHO DO YOU WANT TO STUDY?
2. WHY DO YOU WANT TO STUDY THAT PERSON?
3. WHEN DID THAT PERSON LIVE (HISTORICAL SETTING)
4. WHERE DID THAT PERSON LIVE?
5. WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT THAT PERSON?

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FREE TOOLS

1. www.blueletterbible.org
2. www.biblehub.com
3. www.youversion.org
4. www.biblegateway.org
5. AI PROGRAMS
    a. ChatGPT
    b. Gemini
    c. Co-Pilot
    d. Claude

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TOOLS FOR PURCHASE

1. STUDY BIBLES (NET STUDY BIBLE, THE TONY EVANS STUDY BIBLE, THE CHARLES C. RYRIE STUDY BIBLE, THE CHUCK SWINDOLL STUDY BIBLE, THE DAVID JEREMIAH STUDY BIBLE.
2. BIBLE DICTIONARIES & ENCYCLOPEDIAS
3. RELIABLE COMMENTARIES
4. CULTURAL STUDY BIBLES
5. BIBLE ATLASES & MAPS
6. www.logos.com

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ASSIGNMENTS

- DO SOME RESEARCH ON THE KEY NAMES IN EZRA & WHAT THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE STORY
- FOR NEXT PODCAST, READ EZRA 7-10 AND TAKE NOTES
- LOOK FOR EZRA'S QUALIFICATIONS, CHALLENGES, & SUCCESSES

EXPLORE THE BIBLE connect