

# The Prophecies of Ezra

**or How I Learned To Live With The Apocalypse**

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- Chapter 9 of both is a Prayer of Confession
  - Ezra is credited as their author



# **Common Historical Thought**

- **Nehemiah rebuilt the wall in Jerusalem**
  - **Ezra rebuilt the temple.**

# **A Little History**

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- **The Rest Of The People 586BC – Temple destroyed**



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- **The Promised Land Would Lay Empty For 70 Years**

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– Restore Religious Life**
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  - **Only A Small Number Of Jews Returned To Israel –  
Most Had A Better Life In Babylon**

# **A Little History**

**Unfortunately:**

**After Their Return, People  
Went Back To Their Evil Ways**

**Usually In The Bible:**

**In A Book With A Person's Name On The Title,**

**That Person Appears In The 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.**



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- **Chapter 6 – No**

**(The Temple Is Built But There Is No Ezra)**

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- **What Did Ezra Do, That In The Sight Of God,  
Was Greater Than Rebuilding The Temple?**

**Ezra 7:10 -**

**For Ezra had devoted himself to the study  
and observance of the Law of the LORD,  
and to teaching its decrees  
and laws in Israel.**

**With Only Four Chapters Of Ezra Left,  
Much That Was Written By Ezra  
Doesn't Appear In The Bible.**

- **Instead It Is Found In The Apocrypha –  
(Meaning Hidden Things).**

**The Apocrypha Was Found In The Catholic Bible  
And Is Part Of The Canon Of The Ethiopian Church.**

- **The Apocryphical Writings Of Ezra  
Become Known As  
The Book Of Esdras, Or The  
Jewish Apocalypse Of Ezra**

## **Ezra sets the stage in 2<sup>nd</sup> Esdras**

**I, Ezra, received on Mount Horeb a commission from the Lord to go to Israel; but when I came, they scorned me and rejected the Lord's commandment. Therefore I say to you Gentiles, you who hear and understand : "Look forward to the coming of your shepherd, and he will give you everlasting rest. For he who is to come at the end of the last Age..." 2 Esdras 2 : 33-34**

**Astronomical research tells us that the present age of Aquarius began on the 23rd of May in 1844.**

**It is referred to as the last age in the prophecy for the simple reason that God is about to make some drastic changes to our planet.**

## **2 Esdras**

**(Sometimes Called 4 Ezra)**

**Consists Of Seven Visions Of Ezra The Scribe**



# Seven Visions

**1. The first vision takes place as Ezra is still in Babylon. He asks God how Israel can be kept in misery if God is just.**

**The Archangel Uriel is sent to answer the question, responding that God's ways cannot be understood by the human mind. Soon, however, the end would come, and God's justice would be made manifest**

# **Seven Visions**

**2. Ezra asks why Israel was delivered up to the Babylonians, and is again told that man cannot understand this and that the end is near.**

# Seven Visions

**3. In the third vision, Ezra asks why Israel does not possess the world. Uriel responds that the current state is a period of transition.**

**Ezra asks whether the righteous may intercede for the unrighteous on Judgment Day, but is told that "Judgment Day is final"**

# **Seven Visions**

**The next three visions are more symbolic in nature.**

# **Seven Visions**

**4. The fourth is of a woman mourning for her only son, who is transformed into a city when she hears of the desolation of Zion.**

**Uriel says that the woman is a symbol of Zion.**

# **Seven Visions**

**5. The fifth vision concerns an eagle with three heads and twenty wings (twelve large wings and eight smaller wings).  
The eagle is rebuked by a lion and then burned.**

**The explanation of this vision is that the eagle refers to the fourth kingdom of the vision of Daniel, with the wings and heads as rulers.**

# Seven Visions

**6. The sixth vision is of a man, representing the Messiah, who breathes fire on a crowd that is attacking him. This man then turns to another peaceful multitude, which accepts him.**

# Seven Visions

**7. Finally, there is a vision of the restoration of scripture.**

**God appears to Ezra in a bush and commands him to restore the Law. Ezra gathers five scribes and begins to dictate. After forty days, he has produced ninety-four books: the twenty-four books of the Tanakh and seventy secret works:**



***Tanakh* is an acronym of the first Hebrew letter of each of the Masoretic Text's three traditional subdivisions: [Torah](#) ("Teaching", also known as the Five Books of Moses), [Nevi'im](#) ("Prophets") and [Ketuvim](#) ("Writings")—hence *TaNakh***

**Ezra was told to make public the twenty-four books that he wrote first, and let the worthy and the unworthy read them; but keep the seventy that were written last, in order to give them to the wise among your people." (2 Esdras 14:45–46 RSV; 4 Ezra 12:45–46)**

**Let's Look In More Detail At The Symbolic Visions:**

**Ezra asks the angel, "How long must we stay here? When will the harvest begin, the time when we get our reward?"**

**And the archangel Jeremiel gave them this answer :**

**"As soon as the number of those like yourselves is complete. For the Lord has weighed the world in a balance, he has measured and numbered the ages ; he will move nothing, alter nothing, until the appointed number is achieved."**

**“The time draws near when I shall come to judge those who live on the earth, the time when I shall inquire into the wickedness of wrong-doers, the time when Zion's humiliation will be over, the time when a seal will be set on the age about to pass away. Then I will perform these signs : the books shall be opened in the sight of heaven, and all shall see them at the same moment”.**

**At that time friends shall make war on friends as though they were enemies. And the earth and all its inhabitants shall be terrified. Running streams shall stand still ; for three hours they shall cease to flow...**

**2 Esdras 6 : 18-19-24**

**Then I asked: 'When souls (spirits) are separated from their bodies, will they be given the opportunity to see what you have described to me?' 'They will be allowed seven days,' he replied; 'for seven days they will be permitted to see the things I have told you, and after that they will join the other souls in their abodes.' ... 2 Esdras 7 : [100-101]**

**...The angel gave me this answer: 'The present world is not the end, and the Glory of God does not stay in it continually.**

**2 Esdras 7 : 42 [112]**

**...The angel said to me in reply : 'The Most High has made this world for many, but the next world for only a few...**

**2 Esdras 8 : 1-2**

**The angel answered : 'Keep a careful count yourself ; when you see that some of the signs predicted have already happened, then you will understand that the time has come when the Most High will judge the world he has created. When the world becomes the scene of earnest insurrections - plots among the nations, unstable government ; and panic among rulers, then you will recognize these as the events which the Most High has foretold since first the world began. Just as everything that is done on earth has its beginning and end clearly marked, so it is with the times which the Most High has determined : their beginning is marked by portents and miracles, their end by manifestations of power. 2 Esdras 9 : 1 to 9 : 6**



## The 7<sup>th</sup> Vision:

On the next day I heard a voice calling me, which said :  
**'Ezra, open your mouth and drink what I give you.'** So I  
opened my mouth, and was handed a cup full of what  
seemed like water, except that its color was the color of fire.  
I took it and drank, and as soon as I had done so my mind  
began to pour forth a flood of understanding, and wisdom  
grew greater and greater within me, for I retained my  
memory unimpaired : I opened my mouth to speak, and I  
continued to speak unceasingly.

**The Most High gave understanding to the five men, who took turns at writing down what was said, using characters which they had not known before. They remained at work through the forty days, writing all day, and taking food only at night. But as for me, I spoke all through the day; even at night I was not silent. In the forty days, ninety-four books were written.**

**At the end of the forty days the Most High spoke to me. 'Make public the books you wrote first,' he said, 'to be read by good and bad alike. But the last seventy books are to be kept back, and given to none but the wise among your people They contain a stream of understanding, a fountain of wisdom, a flood of knowledge.'** And I did so.

**2 Esdras 14 : 37 to 14 : 48**

Part of what was written serve as **PROPHECIES OF DOOM**

**Beware, says the Lord, I am letting loose terrible evils on the world, sword and famine, death and destruction, because wickedness has spread over the whole earth and there is no room for further deeds of violence. Therefore, the Lord says, I will not keep silence about their godless sins; I will not tolerate their wicked deeds. See how the blood of innocent victims cries to me for vengeance, and the souls of the just never cease to plea with me! I will most surely avenge them, says the Lord, and will hear the plea of all the innocent blood that has been shed.**

**2 Esdras 14 : 5 to 14 : 9**

# PROPHECIES OF DOOM

**Alas for the world and its inhabitants! The sword that will destroy them is not far away. Nation will draw sword against nation and go to war. Stable government will be at an end ; one faction will prevail over another, caring nothing in their day of power for king or leading man of rank. A man may want to visit a city, but will not be able to do so, for ambition and rivalry will have reduced cities to chaos, destroyed houses and plunder his goods; no pity will restrain him, when he is in the grip of famine and grinding misery.**

**2 Esdras 15 : 14 to 15 : 19**

# PROPHECIES OF DOOM

**Already disaster has fallen upon the world, and you will never escape it ; God will refuse to rescue you, because you have sinned against him.**

**2 Esdras 15 : 26-27**

# PROPHECIES OF DOOM

When the Lord God sends calamities, who can stop them? When his anger overflows in fire, who can put it out? When the lightning flashes, who will not tremble? When it thunders, who will not shake with dread? When it is the Lord who utters his threats, is there any man who will not be crushed to the ground at his approach? The earth is shaken to its very foundations, and the sea is churned up from its depths ; the waves and all the fish with them are in turmoil before the presence of the Lord and the majesty of his strength. For strong is his arm which bends the bow, and sharp the arrows which he shoots; once they are on their way, they will not stop before they reach the ends of the earth.

# PROPHECIES OF DOOM

**Calamities are let loose, and will not turn back before they strike the earth. The fire (of fiery asteroids) is alight and will not be put out until it has burnt up earth's foundations. An arrow shot by a powerful archer does not turn back ; no more will the calamities be recalled which are let loose against the earth.**

**2 Esdras 16 : 8 to 16 : 16**



# PROPHECIES OF DOOM

**Alas, alas for me ! Who will rescue me on that day? When troubles come, many will groan; when famine strikes, many will die; when wars break out, empires will tremble; when the calamities come, all will be filled with terror. What will men do then, in the face of calamity? Famine and plague, suffering and hardship, are scourges sent to teach men better ways. But even so they will not abandon their crimes, nor keep in mind their scourging.**

# PROPHECIES OF DOOM

A time will come when food grows cheap, so cheap that they will imagine they have been sent peace and prosperity. But at that very moment the earth will become a hotbed of disasters -- sword, famine, and anarchy. Most of its inhabitants will die in the famine ; and those who survive the famine will be destroyed by the sword. The dead will be tossed out like dung, and there will be no one to offer any comfort. For the earth will be left empty and its cities a ruin. None will be left to till the ground and sow it. The trees will bear their fruits, but who will pick them? The grapes will ripen, but who will tread them? There will be vast desolation everywhere.

# PROPHECIES OF DOOM

**A man will long to see a human face or hear a human voice. For out of a whole city, only ten will survive; in the countryside, only two will be left, hiding in the forest or in holes in the rocks (underground shelters). Just as in an olive-grove three or four olives might be left on each tree, or as a few grapes in a vineyard might be overlooked by the sharp-eyed pickers, so also in those days three or four will be overlooked by those who search the houses to kill.**

# PROPHECIES OF DOOM

The earth will be left a desert, and the fields will be overrun with briars ; thorns will grow over all the roads and paths, because there will be no sheep to tread them. Girls will live in mourning with none to marry them, women will mourn because they have no husbands, their daughters will mourn because they have no one to support them. The young men who should have married them will be killed in the war, and the husbands wiped out by the famine.

**2 Esdras 16 : 17 to 17 : 34**

# PROPHECIES OF DOOM

**But listen to me, you who are the Lord's servants, and take my words to heart. This is the word of the Lord. Receive it, and do not disbelieve what he says. Calamities are here, close at hand, and will not delay. When a pregnant woman is in the ninth month, and the moment of her child's birth is drawing near, there will be two or three hours in which her womb will suffer pangs of agony, and then the child will come from the womb without a moment's delay ; in the same way calamities will come on the earth without delay, and the world will groan under the pangs that grip it.**

**2 Esdras 16 : 35 to 16 : 39**

# PROPHECIES OF DOOM

Fierce flames are being kindled to burn you. A great horde will descend on you; they will seize some of you and make you eat pagan sacrifices. Those who give in to them will be derided, taunted, and trampled on. In place after place and in all the neighborhood there will be a violent attack on those who fear the Lord. Their enemies will be like madmen, plundering and destroying without mercy all who still fear the Lord. They will destroy and plunder their property, and throw them out of their homes. Then it will be seen that my chosen people have stood the test like gold in the assayer's fire. 2 Esdras 16 : 68 to 16 : 73

# All Is Not Lost

" Listen, you whom I have chosen, says the Lord; the days of harsh suffering are close at hand, but I will rescue you from them. Away with your fears and doubts! For God is your leader. Those who follow my commandments and instructions, says the Lord God, must not let your sins weigh you down, nor your wicked deeds get the better of you. Alas for those who are entangled in their sins, and overrun with their wicked deeds! They are like a field overrun by bushes, with brambles across the path and no way through, completely shut off and doomed to destruction by fire." 2 Esdras 16 : 74 to 16 : 78

# All Is Not Lost

You yourself are about to be taken away (raptured) from the world of men, and thereafter you will remain with My Son, and with those like you, until the End of Time. The world has lost its youth and time is growing old. For the whole of time is in twelve divisions; nine divisions and half the tenth have already passed, and only two and a half still remain.

Therefore, set your house in order. Give warnings to your nation, and [give] comfort to those in need of it; Take your leave of mortal life.



# **All Is Not Lost**

**Put away your earthly cares, lay down your human burdens, strip off your weak nature, set aside the anxieties that vex you, and be ready to depart quickly from this life. However great the evils you have witnessed, there are worse to come. As this ageing world grows weaker and weaker, so will evils increase for its inhabitants. Truth will move farther away and falsehood will come nearer.**

