

ESDRAS 2

*** There are two books of Esdras-
Esdras 1 and Esdras 2**

*** Written around 500 BCE**

***Written by the Prophet Ezra.**

**Ezra is Latin for Esdras which
means help or aid**

***Ezra was a Levite**

***The numbering of the books of Esdras is speculative making it difficult to track history.**

***Esdras 1 contains the books of Ezra and Nehemiah**

*** Esdras 2 contains 16 chapters**

***Esdras 2 was included in the Apocrypha
and can be found in the
1611 King James Bible**

***Esdras 2 is accepted as cannon by the
Ethiopian Church and in some
Greek Orthodox texts.**

*** The Roman Catholic Council of Trent
in 1546 recognized the books of
Esdras 1 and 2 as biblical cannon.**

***Esdras 2 is often referred to as the Jewish Apocalypse of Ezra and the book was said to be known by Josephus.**

*** There are 6 references to the Messiah in Esdras 2**

*** Ezra consists of 7 visions of Ezra the Scribe**

Vision 1

(In Babylon)

Q) Ezra asks Yahovah how Israel can be kept in misery if Yahovah is just.

A) Uriel answers that Yahovah's ways cannot be understood by the human mind. "Soon however the end of the world come."

Vision 2

Q) Ezra asks why Israel was delivered to the Babylonians

A) Again Ezra is told that man cannot understand this and that the end is near.

Vision 3

Q) Ezra asks why Israel does not possess the world and whether the righteous may intercede for the unrighteous on Judgement Day.

A) Uriel responds that the current state is a period of transition and a description of the fate of evil-doers and the righteous is given.

Vision 4

(Symbolic in nature)

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

**(Response) Uriel states the woman is a
symbol of Zion**

Vision 5

(Symbolic in nature)

An eagle with three heads and 20 wings (12 large wings and eight smaller wings “over against them”). The eagle is rebuked by a lion and then burned.

(Response) this vision is that the eagle refers to the fourth kingdom of the vision Daniel with the wings and head as rulers. The final scene is the triumph of the Messiah over the empire.

Vision 6

(Symbolic in nature)

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

(Response) No response is given.

Vision 7

(Restoration of Scripture)

Yahovah appears to Ezra in a bush and commands him to restore the Law. Ezra gathers five scribes and begins to dictate. After 40 days, the 24 books of the Tanach and 70 secret works.

“Make public the 24 books that you wrote first, and let the worthy and the unworthy read them, but keep the 70 that were written last, in order to give them to the wise among your people”

2 Esdras 14:45-46/ 2 Ezra 12:45-46

- *The seventy books might refer to the Septuagint, most of the apocrypha, or the lost books that are described in the Bible.**
- * Most Latin editions of the text have a large lacuna (70 missing verses)**
- *In 1875 Robert Bensly published the lost 70 verses**
- *In 1895 M.R. James oversaw a critical edition from Bensly's notes restoring the lost verses from the complete text found in the Codex Colbertinus**
 - * The restored verses are 7:75-7:140**

***2 Esdras details a radical conversion of the Prophet Ezra in a vision where he stops to comfort a sobbing woman who turns instantly into a great city. (10:25-27)**

***Chapter 10 is the comforting of Ezra:**

“And therefore fear not, let not thine heart be affrighted, but go thy way in, and see the beauty and greatness of the building, as much as thine eyes be able to see; and then shalt thou hear as much as thine ears may comprehend. For thou art blessed above many others and art called with the Highest and so are but few.”

**But tomorrow at night thou shalt
remain here and so shall the Highest
show thee visions of the high things
which the Most High will do unto them
that dwell upon earth in the last days.
So I slept that night and another like as
he commanded me.**

2 Esdras 10:55-59

**What do the missing
verses say?**

2 Esdras 7:75-101

https://ebible.org/pdf/eng-web/eng-web_2ES.pdf