Ezra & Nehemiah: 7-Day Reading Plan

Day & Date	Chapters	Key Themes & Major Events
Sunday, November 1	Ezra 1–3	Cyrus decree allowing the Jews to return; list of exiles returning with Zerubbabel; rebuilding the altar and laying the foundation of the second Temple.
Monday, November 2	Ezra 4–6	Opposition stops Temple construction; prophets Haggai and Zechariah encourage the work; King Darius confirms Cyrus' decree; Temple completed and dedicated.
Tuesday, November 3	Ezra 7–10	Ezra the scribe leads the second wave of returnees; Ezra's grief over foreign intermarriage; prayer of confession and national spiritual renewal.
Wednesday, November 4	Nehemiah 1–3	Nehemiah hears about Jerusalem's broken walls and prays; King Artaxerxes grants permission to return; survey of the walls and assignments for rebuilding.
Thursday, November 5	Nehemiah 4–6	Opposition from Sanballat and Tobiah; Nehemiah sets guards while workers build; addressing internal economic injustice; the wall completed in 52 days.
Friday, November 6	Nehemiah 7–9	List of returned exiles; Ezra reads the Law to all the people; celebration of the Feast of Booths; corporate confession and prayer of God's faithfulness.
Saturday, November 7	Nehemiah 10–13	The people sign a covenant to follow God's law; dedication of the Jerusalem wall with joy and music; Nehemiah's final reforms regarding the Sabbath and Temple.

What to Watch For:

- **One Story in Two Books:** In the original Hebrew Bible, Ezra and Nehemiah formed a single continuous work tracking the three main waves of return from exile (Zerubbabel rebuilds the Temple, Ezra restores worship/law, Nehemiah rebuilds the walls).

- **Leadership Models:** Contrast Ezra (a scholarly priest focused on Scripture and spiritual renewal) with Nehemiah (a pragmatic governor and skilled manager focused on protection and administrative execution).
- **External & Internal Resistance:** Notice how opposition comes both from external enemies trying to intimidate the workers and internal issues like economic greed or spiritual compromise.