A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Ezra)

God always keeps His word: **Gen. 3:15** (1500 years earlier); **Is. 44:28**, **45:13** (150 years earlier); **Jer. 25:12** (70 years earlier); **29:10-14** (50 years earlier) ⟶ **Ezra 1:1-3**

I. General Introduction to Ezra

-Title: Ezra-Nehemiah (Hebrew); Second Esdras (Greek LXX); 'The First Book of Ezra' (Latin Vulgate); later separated from Nehemiah and simply called Ezra

-Author: Ezra? (cf. 2 Chronicles 36:22, 23 with Ezra 1:1-3a); Ezra writes in the first person 7:28, ch. 8, ch. 9; Ezra had access to the royal archives

-Structure and Date: completed sometime between 457 BC (chs. 7-10) and 447 BC (Nehemiah's arrival in Jerusalem)

I. The Restoration of the Temple (chs. 1-6)
II. The Reformation of the People (chs. 7-10)

-Purpose: to demonstrate God's unchanging faithfulness in the midst of the people's changing circumstances; God's promises were still intact. His purposes for Israel would continue. Messiah would come.

II. General Overview of Ezra

First Return (538 BC)	Second Return (458 BC)	Third Return (445 BC)
Zerubbabel (chs. 1, 2)	Ezra (chs. 7, 8)	Nehemiah
Rebuild the Temple (chs 3-6)	Reform the People (chs. 9, 10)	Rebuild Jerusalem (Book of Nehemiah)

-First Return to Jerusalem (chs. 1-6)

-Second Return to Jerusalem (chs. 7-10)

III. Prominent People and Themes in Ezra

-People: Ezra, Zerubbabel, Cyrus, Darius I, Artaxerxes, Zerubbabel, Haggai, Zechariah

-Themes: God's Sovereignty (Ezra 1:1, 5; 7:6, 9, 27, 28; 8:18, 22, 31; Neh. 2:8, 18; Prov. 21:1); God's Faithfulness

IV. Christ in Ezra

-Continuing fulfillment of God's promise to David; Zerubbabel; preservation of Israel, from whom Messiah would come

V. Practical Lessons in the Ezra

1) We must be about the work God has given us to do.

2) God's faithfulness to keep His word demands that we take heed to His threats and believe His promises.