

# CONTENTS

<i>Abbreviations</i>	ix
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PART I</b>	
<b>Literary Analysis</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2 Ezra in the Hebrew Bible</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Analysis of the Text</i>	11
<i>Ezra 1</i>	11
<i>Ezra 2</i>	13
<i>Ezra 3</i>	16
<i>Ezra 4</i>	17
<i>Ezra 5</i>	22
<i>Ezra 6</i>	23
<i>Ezra 7</i>	26
<i>Ezra 8</i>	29
<i>Ezra 9</i>	32
<i>Ezra 10</i>	34
<i>Summary and conclusions</i>	36
<b>3 Nehemiah in the Hebrew Bible</b>	<b>39</b>
<i>Analysis of the Text</i>	39
<i>Nehemiah 1</i>	39
<i>Nehemiah 2</i>	40
<i>Nehemiah 3</i>	43
<i>Nehemiah 4</i>	44

	<i>Nehemiah 5</i>	46
	<i>Nehemiah 6</i>	48
	<i>Nehemiah 7</i>	50
	<i>Nehemiah 8</i>	52
	<i>Nehemiah 9</i>	55
	<i>Nehemiah 10</i>	56
	<i>Nehemiah 11</i>	59
	<i>Nehemiah 12</i>	60
	<i>Nehemiah 13</i>	64
	<i>Summary and conclusions</i>	67
4	<b>1 Esdras and other Ezra and Nehemiah traditions</b>	<b>69</b>
	<i>1 Esdras</i>	69
	<i>1 Esdras 1</i>	70
	<i>1 Esdras 2</i>	71
	<i>1 Esdras 3–4</i>	72
	<i>1 Esdras 5</i>	74
	<i>1 Esdras 6</i>	75
	<i>1 Esdras 7</i>	76
	<i>1 Esdras 8</i>	77
	<i>1 Esdras 9</i>	79
	<i>Summary regarding 1 Esdras</i>	80
	<i>Josephus on Ezra and Nehemiah</i>	81
	<i>The initial return</i>	81
	<i>Ezra</i>	83
	<i>Nehemiah</i>	84
	<i>Summary on Josephus</i>	85
	<i>Ben Sira 49:11–13</i>	86
	<i>2 Maccabees 1:18–2:15</i>	88
	<i>Apocalypse of Ezra (4 Ezra or 2 Esdras)</i>	90
	<i>Summary and conclusions</i>	91
5	<b>The traditions from a literary point of view</b>	<b>93</b>
	<i>Structure of the Hebrew Ezra and Nehemiah</i>	94
	<i>Arguments for the unity of the canonical Ezra and     Nehemiah</i>	94
	<i>Structure of Ezra-Nehemiah</i>	96
	<i>Theological themes and message</i>	99
	<i>Ezra and Nehemiah as separate books</i>	102
	<i>The traditions in the book of Ezra</i>	107

## CONTENTS

<i>Relationship of 1 Esdras to the Hebrew Ezra-Nehemiah</i>	109
<i>Place of other Ezra and Nehemiah traditions</i>	115
<i>Summary and conclusions</i>	118
<b>PART II</b>	
<b>The historical question</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>6 Ezra and history</b>	<b>125</b>
<i>The problem of sources and ideological intent</i>	125
<i>Edict of Cyrus (1:1–4)</i>	126
<i>Lists of returnees</i>	128
<i>Aramaic Persian documents</i>	128
<i>Prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah</i>	132
<i>An Ezra memoir?</i>	133
<i>Narrative passages of Ezra 1–6</i>	133
<i>Sheshbazzar</i>	135
<i>Original peoples versus returnees</i>	136
<i>The Ezra story (Ezra 7–10)</i>	138
<i>Ezra and the law</i>	143
<i>Conclusions about the Gestalt of Ezra the Scribe</i>	150
<i>Summary and conclusions</i>	152
<b>7 Nehemiah and history</b>	<b>154</b>
<i>Sources for the book of Nehemiah</i>	154
<i>The ‘Nehemiah memorial’ (NM)</i>	154
<i>Various lists</i>	156
<i>The Nehemiah story</i>	159
<i>Nehemiah’s commission</i>	159
<i>Opposition to Nehemiah</i>	161
<i>Completion of the wall</i>	167
<i>The nobles, priests, and Levites</i>	169
<i>The rest of the Nehemiah tradition</i>	171
<i>Nehemiah as reformer</i>	173
<i>The issue of mixed marriages</i>	177
<i>Summary and conclusions</i>	179
<b>8 Summary and conclusions</b>	<b>183</b>
<i>The consequences of a close reading</i>	183
<i>Three independent ‘founder legends’</i>	187

## CONTENTS

<i>The Nehemiah account</i>	189
<i>The Ezra story</i>	192
<i>'The end of the matter'</i>	195
<i>Bibliography</i>	198
<i>Index</i>	204