I. The Connection and Continuance of The Prophetic Voice is seen in Ezra and Jeremiah.

A. Jeremiah’s teachings formed the core of Ezra’s spiritual life.

B. The effect of the prophetic voice upon an individual is exemplified in Ezra.

C. People who know the prophetic voice are empowered in the most difficult of times.

1. The connection between Daniel and Ezra is recognizable.

a. The Babylonians never made Babylonians out of them.

b. The Babylonians captured some of the Jews twice: Chapter 1:5, 6.

D. Whom do we quote in our difficult times as individuals and as a people of God?

II. The Presence of Opposition always has an effect upon the Prophetic Voice.

A. The Initial Enthusiasm was doused by the encounter of opposition: Chapter 4

1. Key Verse: 4:24, “Thus the work … came to a standstill.”

III. The Path to Progress is the Prophetic Voice clearing the way in the face of opposition.

A. The Prophetic Voice heeded is the path – not political influence: Chapter 5

B. The Prophets Haggai and Zechariah are introduced.

1. The amazing connection among Ezra, Zechariah and PALM SUNDAY is made.

IV. “Ezra+Opposition+Zechariah=Palm Sunday” is an unlikely plan, but it’s God’s plan.

A. The rebuilding of the temple is the prelude to the drama of Palm Sunday.

1. The depiction of Jesus’ life are seen 500 years before they happen.

a. The Theology of Hope is proclaimed here:

(1) Romans 8:25 – hope is always in the future

(2) 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 – why we do not lose heart/hope

(3) Hope is always the same – Your King is Coming!

V. Palm Sunday, 500 years before it happened, is proclaimed in **Zechariah 8 and 9**.

A. The people of Ezra’s day heard this message and rebooted in the face of the foe.

B. Key Verses in Chapter 8:

1. 8:3, “I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem.”

2. 8:6, “It may seem marvelous to you, but not to me,” says the Lord.

3. 8:9, “The words of the PROPHETS …were … the foundation … for the house.”

4. 8:17, “… I hate all this,” declares the Lord.

C. Key Verses in Chapter 9:

1. 9:9, “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! … See, your king comes to you on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

VI. Good Friday and Pentecost, 500 years before they happened, are proclaimed in 12:10

VII. The Second Coming, ???1000’s??? of years before it occurs, is proclaimed in Chapter 14.