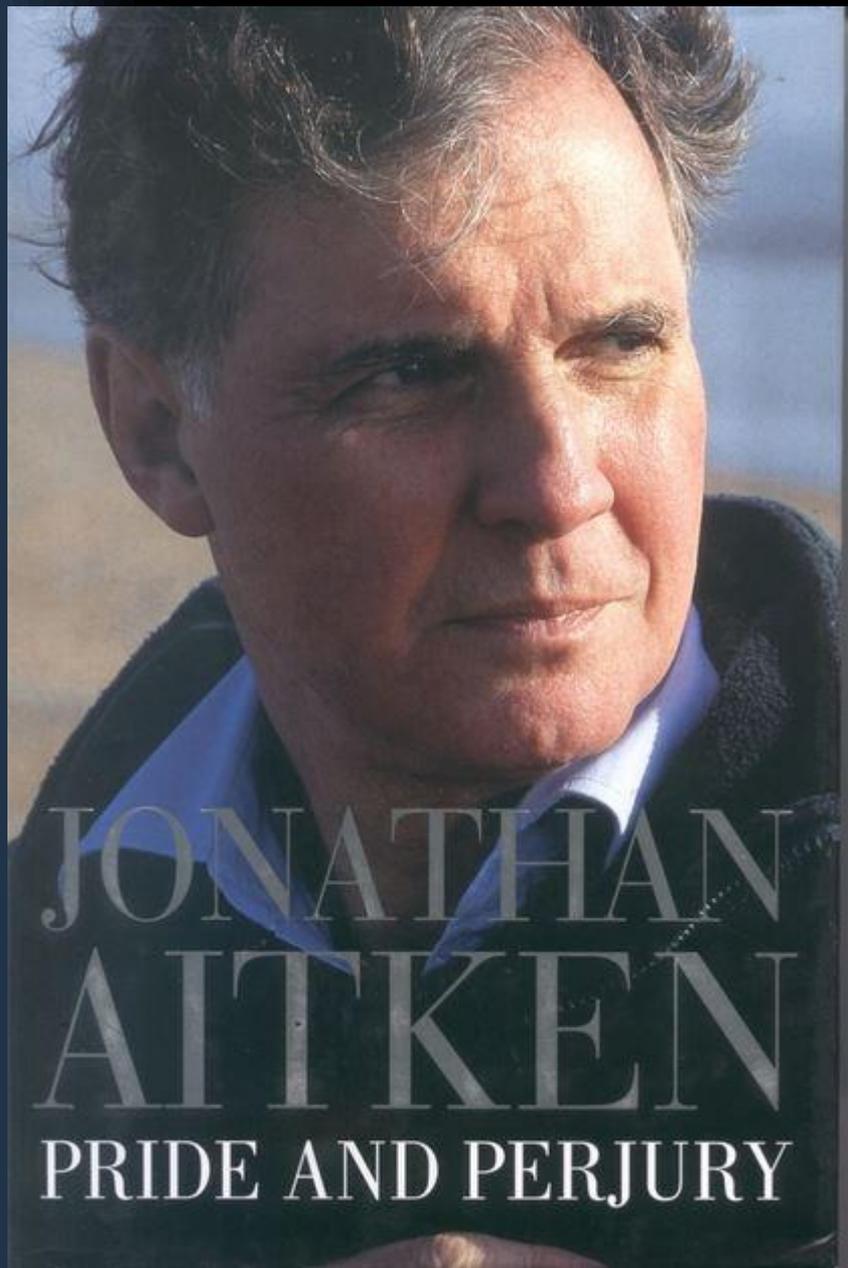


Ezra 1-2

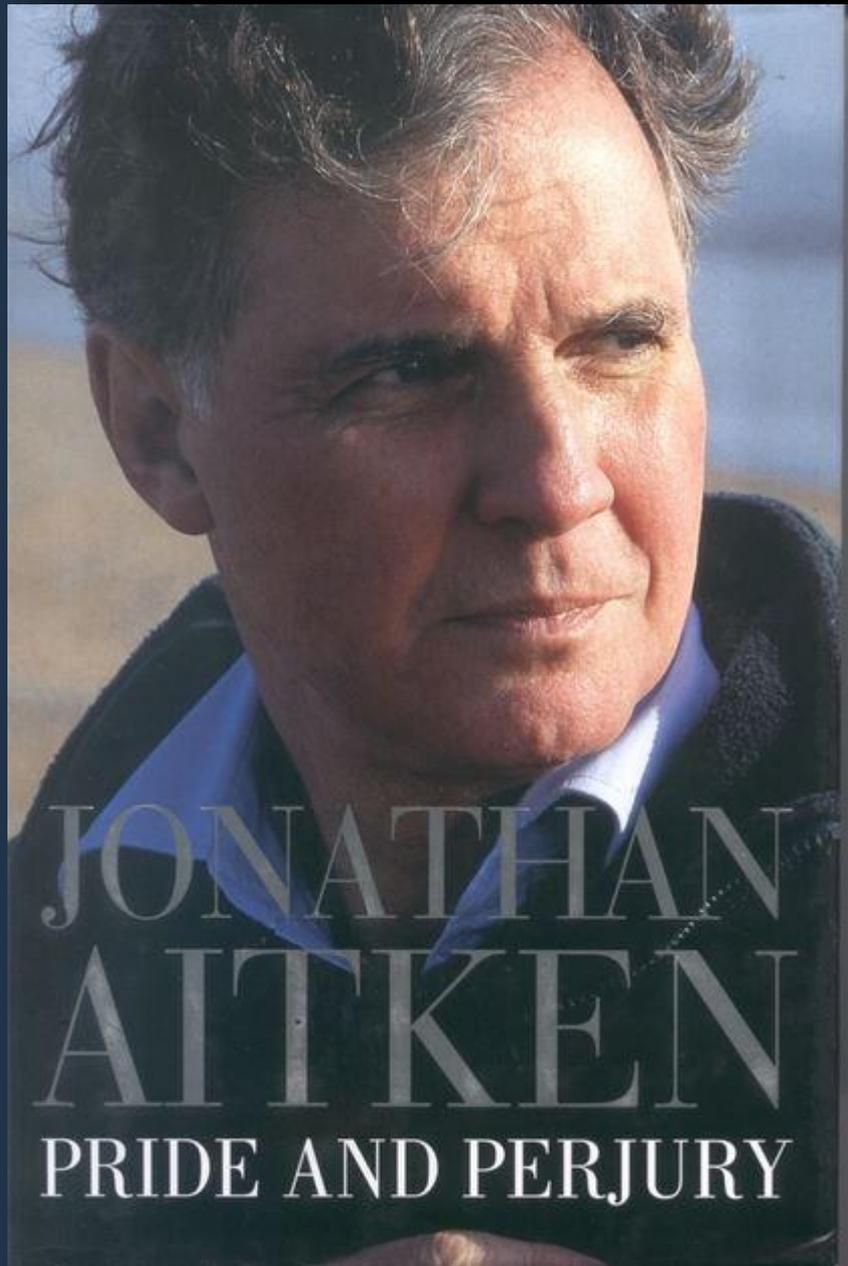
THE RETURN

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JONATHAN
AITKEN

PRIDE AND PERJURY



Ezra – A Restoration Story



1) God on the move for his people

V1: In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm...

1) God on the move for his people

V5: Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites – everyone whose heart God had moved – prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem.

1) God on the move for his people

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1) God on the move for his people

- God is Faithful

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1) God on the move for his people

- God is Faithful

Jeremiah 29v10-11: This is what the LORD says: ‘When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my good promise to bring you back...

1) God on the move for his people

- God is Faithful
- God is Sovereign

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1) God on the move for his people

- God is Faithful
- God is Sovereign

Proverbs 21v1: The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

1) God on the move for his people

- God is Faithful
- God is Sovereign

Luke 2v1: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

1) God on the move for his people

- God is Faithful
- God is Sovereign

Acts 4v27: Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

1) God on the move for his people

- God is Faithful
- God is Sovereign

Acts 4v28: They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

1) God on the move for his people

- God is Faithful
- God is Sovereign
- God is Generous

V4: And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock...

1) God on the move for his people

- God is Faithful
- God is Sovereign
- God is Generous

John 3v16: For God so loved the world that he gave...

2) People on the move for their God

2v1: Now these are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive to Babylon (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to their own town...

2) People on the move for their God

2v1: Now these are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles...

- Leaders (v2)
- People (v3-35)
- Temple Workers (v36-58)

2) People on the move for their God

- Committed to Worship

2) People on the move for their God

- Committed to Worship
- Committed to Purity

V62: These searched for their family records, but they could not find them and so were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.

God on the move for his people

- Faithful...
- Sovereign...
- Generous...

People on the move for their God

- Committed to Worship
- Committed to Purity

