



**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

Week 4

Ezra 7-8

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Day 1- Ezra 7-8

Read Ezra 7-8 in your Bible.

- Pray as you read, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in understanding, praise, confession, thanksgiving, and petition in light of the truth you are reading.
- Underline/highlight key words, phrases, and verses that stand out to you.

Day 2- Ezra 7:1-10

Almost sixty years has passed since the end of chapter 6 and the completion of the temple. Now we finally meet Ezra, who led the 2nd group of exiles back, 80 years after Zerubbabel led the first group.

1. Describe Ezra from the information given in verses 1-6.

Digging Deeper: Describe who some of the ancestors are in Ezra's genealogy.

Aaron, Exodus 6:26-27, 28:1-

Zadok, 1 Kings 1:38-39-

Hilkiah, 2 Chronicles 34:14-15-

2. Why was Ezra successful according to verses 6-9?

Scholar's Note: "The hand of the LORD his God was on him" is a striking expression of God's favor. The full phrase "the gracious hand of his God was on him" ...denotes God's permanent help and grace that rest on a person or a congregation." -Expositor's Commentary

3. Verse 10 gives some insight as to why Ezra was "skilled in the law of Moses" (v. 6). What is the explanation?

Scholar's Note: The Law of Moses (v.6) and the Law of the LORD (v.10) both refer to the Pentateuch- the first 5 books of the Bible, written by Moses through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

4. How does verse 10 indicate that Ezra was not just an academic acquiring knowledge?



Ezra set his heart to study God's Word, to live out God's Word, and to help others understand God's Word. Living in the middle of a pagan country, serving a pagan king, Ezra, by his example, shows us the best strategy to bring about God's kingdom. Leave out any one of these three ways of relating to God's Word and we will be missing a vital link.

You don't have to be a teacher to help others understand what God's Word says. We all have many opportunities to help our friends and acquaintances grasp some of the truths we have learned from the Bible and our relationship with God. In order to do that though, we must study and learn as best we can what God's Word actually says and means. And if we don't live it out wholeheartedly, our words will have little impact on others. None of this will happen by chance, we must set our hearts to seek God.

Psalm 119 is a song written by Ezra extolling the Word of God. Read and meditate on verses 1- 48 making it a prayer of adoration, thanksgiving, confession and petition. Write out all the petitions in these verses (ie: let me not wander from your commandments). Use them in your prayers to help you know what to ask God for regarding your spiritual life.



Continue reading in Psalm 119, verses 49-96. Write down from these verses all that you can praise God for. Then spend some time in prayer praising him!

Day 4- Ezra 8:1-20

9. In verse 15, as Ezra assembles the exiles, who does he discover is not among the group?

Scholar's Note: God chose the tribe of Levi for special service to him. Out of the twelve tribes of Israel the tribe of Levi was set apart to serve God in the Tabernacle and Temple. Once the Temple was built and the Tabernacle was no longer in use, the duties of the Levites included assisting the priests, and serving as teachers, musicians, judges and officers.

10. The sole purpose of the Levites was to serve God in worship. Why do you think after 70 years in Babylon none of the Levites responded to the decree to return to Jerusalem?



How does remembering your identity help you to accomplish your purpose?

Read and meditate on the following passages: Ephesians 1:3-14 and Colossians 3:12-17 then answer:

As a believer, what is your identity in Christ? What is your purpose?

11. How does Ezra respond to this problem of no Levites and what is the outcome (verses 16-20)?

Picture and Ponder: “Ezra loves the people of God, loves God’s kingdom, and is seeking to advance God’s kingdom. Sometimes that means confronting people with their sin and calling them to repent and believe and obey. Do you love God and your brothers and sisters in Christ enough to address their sin? Do you care enough to confront? It is not loving to let Levites linger in lethargy. It is not loving to let Christians wallow in sin.” –James M. Hamilton Jr.

12. What does Ezra attribute the resolution of this problem to in verse 18?

Day 5- Ezra 8:21-36

13. In 2 Chronicles we saw that God wants his people to trust in him and his power to deliver instead of trusting in earthly rulers, human power and false gods. How does Ezra exemplify this and display what seeking God looks like in verses 21-23?

For Discussion: How are fasting and humbling yourself connected?

14. What truth did God etch into their hearts through the judgment of exile? (22:b)?

15. In verse 28, how does Ezra motivate the priests and Levites to be good stewards of what is entrusted to them on the journey?

(To be holy is to be consecrated and set apart for the use of God.)

- What has God entrusted you with?
- What are some specific ways you can be a good steward of what God has given you?
- How does understanding that you are set apart for God's purposes help you to be a good steward?



Read the rest of Psalm 119, verses 97-176 Write out all the benefits we receive from keeping and cherishing God's Word. Use these for a time of thanksgiving and confession.

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?