

Ezra



Study Outline

Main Point: Picking up the story line right where 2 Chronicles left off (*with the Persian King Cyrus commanding the Jews to return and rebuild their temple*), the book of Ezra ultimately serves two important functions in the over-arching story of the Bible. First, Ezra, not only documents the children of Israel's return from exile, but this book also records the construction of the second temple under the leadership of Zerubbabel some 80 years earlier. Secondly, upon their arrival home, this book further documents the spiritual revitalization that occurred nationally, as Ezra the priest taught the people "The

Word of the Lord". The book of Ezra illustrates how the Word of God yields two critical element needed for true spiritual revival to take place nationally and individually.... the teaching of God's Word produces "Godly Restoration.... when we Act Upon God's Instructions" and "Spiritual Renewal.... when we Obey the Things God Requires".

Historical Time Line: In 538 BC, Cyrus the Great issued the command for the Jewish to return and build their temple. In 537 BC, Zerubbabel brings the first wave of exiles back to the land to rebuild the temple. 80 years later, in 458 BC, King Artaxerxes gives Ezra the Priest permission to bring another 2000 exiles back to the land to aid Nehemiah in the construction of the walls.

1. Gods Word Produces Godly Restoration: Ezra 1-6

a. When we.... Act Upon God's Instructions

...Zerubbabel leads 50,000 Jews back to Israel to rebuild the temple

- Repentance: Returning to that Place Ezra 1-2
- Restoration: Rebuilding what was Ruined Ezra 3-6
 - Getting to Work Ezra 3
 - Enduring Opposition Ezra 4
 - Showing Resilience Ezra 5
 - Enjoying Completion Ezra 6

2. Gods Word Produces Spiritual Renewal: Ezra 7-10

a. When we.... Obey the Things God Requires

...Ezra leads 2,000 Jews back to Israel and leads a spiritual awakening

- God Requires: Passionate Commitment Ezra 7
- God Requires: Bold Faith Ezra 8
- God Requires: Deep Conviction Ezra 9
- God Requires: Humble Confession Ezra 10:1-6
- God Requires: Constant Obedience Ezra 10:7-44

Important Verse: "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statues and ordinances in Israel."

- Ezra 7:10



Day 1: A Godly Persian.....

Ezra 1:1-11 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Though Cyrus was a pagan, gentile king, what do you learn concerning the sovereign power of God from this story? (2). If God could use Cyrus to accomplish His purpose in the children of Israel, who do you think he could use in your life? (3). This title for God used in verse 2 “the Lord God of Heaven” tells us what concerning Cyrus’ perspective & potential faith?

Day 2: Never to Soon.....

Ezra 3:1-7 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Though the plan was to rebuild the temple & restore the worship of God, did they wait for the construction to be completed before beginning their worship? (2). The only two necessary elements for worship were a sanctified altar & a qualified priest.... today, what constitutes as your altar & who is your priest? (3). What excuses are holding you back from revival?

Day 3: Its Foundational.....

Ezra 3:8-11 // THINKING POINTS: (1). In renewing their passion for God, what was the first thing needing to be rebuilt? (2). If revival is all about getting back to the foundations of your walk with God, what would you consider these foundations to be? (3). With these things in mind, what foundations do you need to work on rebuilding?

Day 4: Generational Gap.....

Ezra 3:12-13; Haggai 2:1-9 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Who would you consider to be in the “right”, the young men for praising or the old men for weeping? (2). What do you think is the key to the youth & the seniors doing the work of the Lord in unity? (3). How do you think having older men and women in your life can be a benefit?

Day 5: Man of the Word.....

Ezra 7:1-10 // THINKING POINTS: (1). We’re told “Ezra prepared his heart to seek the Lord”.... how do we prepare our heart? (2). Seeking the Lord was not enough, what else was essential to Ezra’s faith & relationship with the God? (3). In order to be a man or women of the word, what 3 things should we incorporate in our own lives?

Day 6: Sorrow & Action.....

Ezra 10:1-17 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What was Ezra so upset about? (2). When was the last time you humbled yourself and shed tears over your sin? (3). How do we know this was “Godly sorrow leading to repentance” and not just a pity party?

DEVOTIONS

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