

Ezra was one of three key leaders to leave Babylon for the reconstruction of Jerusalem. Zerubbabel reconstructed the temple, Nehemiah rebuilt the walls, and Ezra restored the worship. Ezra was a scribe and priest sent with a passion for the Word of God and the author of 1 and 2 Chronicles as well as Ezra. Herbert Lockyer called Ezra “the man that honored scripture” what an honor to be known as such. While the reconstruction of the temple and the walls were important milestones for the restoration of Israel they would have been in vain apart from the return to God’s Word.

Ezra 7:6-10 (KJV) 6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him. 7 And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. 8 And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. 9 For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. 10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

I. The Heart of Ezra

10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

A. Heart was Prepared

Psalms 10:17 (KJV) 17 Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

HOW?

- Circumstances
- Opportunities

RESULT!

1. Hunger for
2. Priority for

B. Heart was set “seek”

1. Search

John 5:39 (KJV) 39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

- a. Passage (context)

b. Others scriptures

Isaiah 28:9-10 (KJV) 9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

2. Mediate

a. slowly digests with an open Heart

Joshua 1:8 (KJV) 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

C. Heart was to Obey “to do it”

Matthew 22:37-38 (KJV) 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment.

John 14:15 (KJV) 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

1. To do it immediately
2. To do it fully
3. To do it joyfully

D. Heart was to Share “teach others”

10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

1. Love those you are privileged to teach
2. Desire them to know the JOY of scripture
3. Patiently help them to find the truth (joib not to tell them the truth)

II. The Hand of God

6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, **according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him.**

9 For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the *good hand of his God upon him*.

A. God's Good Hand On

- the one he is drawing
- the one that has been drawn

B. GOD'S Good Hand may be Off one

"God does not change He is always GOOD!"

III. The Healing of Others

Nehemiah 8:5-6 (KJV) 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: 6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.