

EZRA and NEHEMIAH

Ezra 7-8

Lesson 6

1. How many years have passed between the end of chapter 5 and the “now after these things” of 6:1?
2. How far does the text trace Ezra’s lineage?
3. Look at 7:6 in several translations. How is Ezra described? From 7:10, was this just a job for Ezra?
4. Compare 7:6 with 7:27. Discuss how God’s providence and man’s actions interact to accomplish God’s will. How large a role did God’s providence play in getting these people to Jerusalem (see 7:6, 9, 28, 8:18, 22, 31)?
5. Compare 7:6 with 7:28. How many people did Ezra have to convince to get approval for his mission? Compare 7:6 with Neh. 2:2. Do you think Ezra’s job was easy?
6. 7:7-10 is a brief summary of the expedition that Ezra led. How long did the journey take?
7. Outline the letter that Ezra received from Artaxerxes authorizing his trip:
 - A. v.13 –
 - B. v.14,25 –
 - C. v.15-18 –
 - D. v.19 –
 - E. v.21-23 –
 - F. v.24 –
 - G. v.25ff –
8. What duties did the seven counselors of 7:14 have (see Esther 1:14)?

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9. In 7:27-28 Ezra himself speaks. How would you characterize Ezra's attitude in these verses?

Note: In 8:2-14 in every case but one (Joab in v.9) the family names are the same as the people who are listed as returning from Babylon 80 years earlier (2:3-15).

10. What did Ezra discover during the three day wait at the river?

11. Why might he have chosen the men he did to deal with the problem? How detailed were his instructions? How successful was he in achieving his objective?

12. Before the people left the river, what did Ezra proclaim? Why did he proclaim this? Discuss how Ezra's faith was manifested in 8:21-23.

13. What responsibility did Ezra put on the priests? How much is listed?

14. Is there a contradiction between 7:9 and 8:31 on when the journey started? Explain.

15. How does Ezra describe the 1000 mile journey to Jerusalem?

16. After the silver and gold were delivered to the temple, what did the people do?