

Ezra the SCRIBE ~ Ezra 7:1-28

➔ **Scripture Reading** - Ezra 7:1, 6-7, 9-10

INTRODUCTION

RETURNS (Ez. 1-6 1 st)					(Ez. 7-10 2 nd)	(Ne. 1-13 3 rd)		
Cyrus	ZERUBABEL	Haggai/Zechariah	ESTHER	EZRA	NEHEMIAH	Malachi		
538	536	Work Stops	520	515	479	458	444 430	432 B.C.
Decree	Start Temple	Work Resumes	Temple Finished				Jerusalem Wall	

Who What When Where? ~ Ezra 7:1-10

¹ After these things, during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra son of... ⁶...this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him. ⁷ Some of the Israelites, including priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers and temple servants, also came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. ⁸ Ezra ARRIVED in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. ⁹ He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰ For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. (NIV)

IMPLICATION

⁹...the Gracious hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰ This was because Ezra had determined to study and obey the Law of the LORD and to Teach those decrees and regulations to the people of Israel. NLT

Ezra Devoted Himself to... vs. 10

- STUDY - seek out the meaning
- OBEY - be Control by God's Word
- TEACH - help others understand

Colossians 3:16–17 (NIV) Let the Word of Christ DWELL in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it ALL in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The King's LETTER ~ Ezra 7:11-26

¹¹ This is a copy of the letter King Artaxerxes had given to Ezra the priest and teacher, a man learned in matters concerning the commands and decrees of the LORD for Israel: ¹² Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, a teacher of the Law of the God of heaven: Greetings. ¹³ Now I decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including priests and Levites, who wish to go to Jerusalem with you, may go. (NIV)

Artaxerxes Letter...

- Allowed the **RETURN** of More Exiles vs. 13
- Provided **GIFTS** for the Temple vs. 15-19
- Allowed Ezra to ask for **SUPPLIES** vs. 20-22
- Forbid the **TAXATION** of Temple Employees vs. 24
- Required Ezra to set up **JUDICIAL** System vs. 25-26

¹⁴ You are sent by the king and his seven advisers to inquire about Judah and Jerusalem with regard to the Law of your God, which is in your hand. ¹⁵ Moreover, you are to take with you the silver and gold that the king and his advisers have freely given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, ¹⁶ together with all the silver and gold you may obtain from the province of Babylon, as well as the freewill offerings of the people and priests for the temple of their God in Jerusalem. (NIV)

²⁴ I also decree that NO Priest, Levite, singer, gatekeeper, Temple servant, or other worker in this Temple of God will be required to PAY tribute, customs, or tolls of any kind. ²⁵ And you, Ezra, are to use the wisdom your God has given you to appoint magistrates and judges who know your God's laws to govern all the people in the province west of the Euphrates River. Teach the Law to anyone who does not know it. ²⁶ Anyone who refuses to obey the Law of your God and the law of the king will be punished immediately, either by death, banishment, confiscation of goods, or imprisonment. (NLT)

By endorsing the Mosaic Law as the Social and Religious Authority throughout Judea, Artaxerxes conferred upon it the same civil power as the Persian law. He pronounced the Law of your God and the law of the king as EQUAL. HOTC

Ezra PRAISES God and Starts to Plan ~ Ezra 7:27-28

²⁷ Praise be to the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has put it into the king's heart to bring honor to the House of the LORD in Jerusalem in this way ²⁸ and who has extended His good favor to me before the king and his advisers and all the king's powerful officials. Because the Hand of the LORD my God was on me, I took courage and gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.

Ezra Has the... BKC

- **Genealogy** of a **Priest** to satisfy the people of Israel
- **Approval** of the **King** to satisfy the Persians
- **Approval** of **God** which is why we see God's hand of Blessing on him

IMPLICATION

²⁷ Praise be to the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has put it into the king's heart to bring honor to the house of the LORD in Jerusalem in this way... NIV

Proverbs 21:1 (NET) The king's heart is IN the hand of the LORD like channels of water; HE turns it wherever HE wants.

God will change the Hearts of the Rulers -or- He will change Rulers

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NET) First of ALL, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be offered on behalf of ALL people,² even for kings and ALL who are in authority, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

TAKE AWAY ??

A Free will Offering...

...is an offering Freely given BY choice in Response to God's Blessing or Prompting

¹⁵ ...take with you the silver and gold that the king and his advisers have FREELY GIVEN to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, ¹⁶ ... as well as the freewill offerings of the people and priests for the temple of their God in Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, NOT reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

PRINCIPLES for Giving

- 1- Our Giving should be REGULAR
- 2- Our Giving should be based on HOW God has blessed us
- 3- Giving should always be OUR Personal Choice
- 4- Our Giving should be JOYFUL