

Ezra 7:1, 6-7, 9-10 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> Many years later, during the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia, there was a man named Ezra... <sup>6</sup> This Ezra was a scribe who was well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given to the people of Israel...

<sup>6</sup>...He came up to Jerusalem from Babylon,  
and the king gave him everything he asked  
for, because the gracious hand of the  
LORD his God was on him.

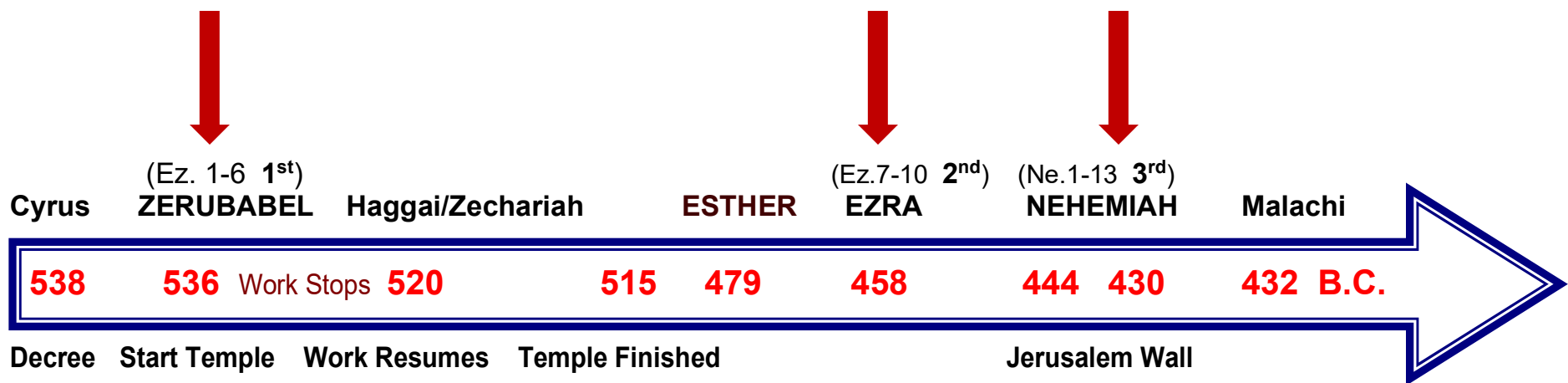
<sup>7</sup> Some of the people of Israel, as well as some of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, and Temple servants, traveled up to Jerusalem with him in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes' reign.

<sup>9</sup> He had arranged to leave Babylon on April 8, the first day of the new year, and he arrived at Jerusalem on August 4, for the gracious hand of his God was on him.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

# **Ezra the SCRIBE**

**Ezra 7:1-28**



<sup>9</sup>...the Gracious hand of his God was on him.

<sup>10</sup> 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...

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

**Colossians 3:16–17** (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

## Artaxerxes Letter...

- Allowed the **RETURN** of More Exiles
- Provided **GIFTS** for the Temple
- Allowed Ezra to ask for **SUPPLIES**
- Forbid the **TAXATION** of Temple Employees
- Required Ezra to set up **JUDICIAL** System

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 Has the...

- **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

<sup>27</sup> **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,<sup>2</sup> even **for kings and ALL who**  
**are in authority**, that we may lead a peaceful and  
quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

## **A Free Will Offering...**

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

<sup>15</sup> ...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,  
<sup>16</sup> ... 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**