

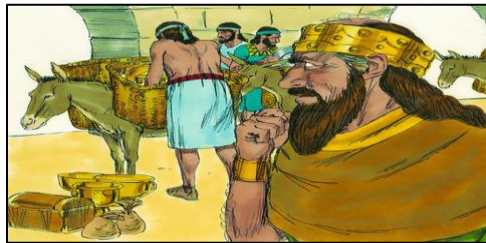
# Lesson 6

## Ezra, A Man of Faith Who Convicted Those in Sin

### Lesson Text: The Book of Ezra

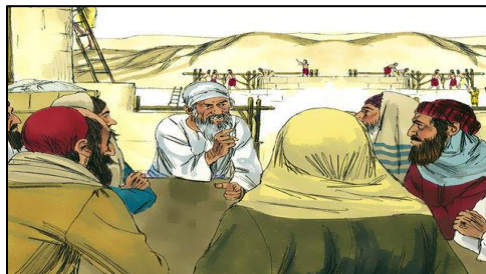


In the first year of the reign of King Cyrus over Babylon, he made a proclamation that the Lord God had charged him to build a house at Jerusalem and that any Jewish captives who wanted to, could go to Jerusalem to build the house (temple).



The Jews had been in captivity 70 years at this point (as the prophet, Jeremiah had told them many years before in Jeremiah 25:8-11 and Daniel 9:2). The book of Ezra gives the historical record of God's people returning to Jerusalem after their captivity.

He gave them goods, animals, vessels of silver and gold, among other things to help them on their journey and the building of the temple. So, thousands and thousands of Jews make their journey home to Jerusalem! (around 50,000)



They began their work rebuilding the temple and laid the foundation – and this is when they were forced to stop the rebuilding of the temple. The Samaritans accused them of being against the king and they wrote a letter telling the king that if he allowed them to build the temple, they would stop paying taxes and they would rise up against him. Ezra 4:23 tells us the Jews were made to cease by force and power.



Around 15 years go by, when God sends the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to motivate the people to finish building the temple. At this time, the new king was Darius. King Darius allowed them to finish the building of the temple. But they did not finish building the wall.

Almost 60 years had passed since the rebuilding of the temple. Darius had passed away and at this time his grandson was the king of Persia. He was given the name of his ancestor, King Artaxerxes.



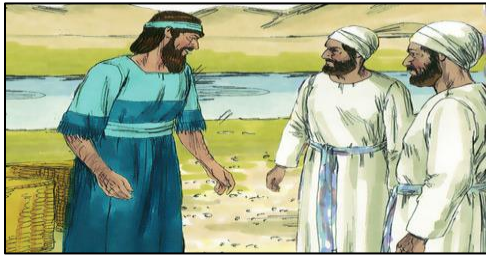
We are introduced to Ezra in chapter 7 which is during the reign of King Artaxerxes (the second). We are told he was a ready scribe and priest and had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach it.

With a letter of decree and support from the king, Ezra goes to Jerusalem to spiritually reform the people of God.



Ezra chapter 7:27-28 gives us a record of the beautiful prayer of thanksgiving that Ezra gives to God. He thanks God and gives Him the honor and glory for giving him the support of the Persian king.

Ezra is strengthened by God's care and begins to gather people to travel with him to Jerusalem.



As they traveled to Jerusalem, Ezra proclaimed a fast at the river Ahava. He did this to humble themselves before God, to seek direction from God, to keep them safe on their journey, and to be with them, and God was with them.

They remain at the river around 12 days fasting and praying for their journey. During this time, Ezra weighs all the gold, silver, brass and precious vessels given to him by the king and he distributes them to the priests of the Levites so they may be presented unto the house of God in Jerusalem.

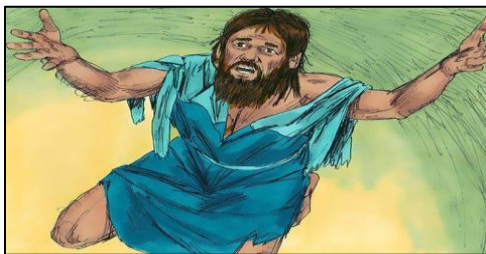


They arrived in Jerusalem and rested for 3 days then began their work on day 4. We are told they offered sacrifice to God which included 12 bullocks, 96 rams, 77 lambs, 12 he goats for a sin offering.



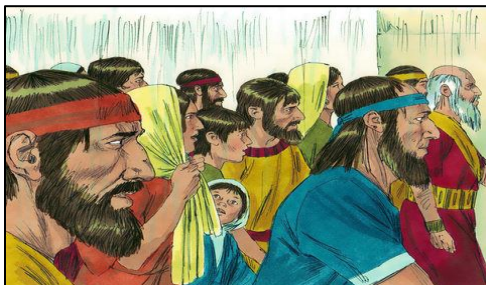
Chapter 9 begins with Ezra learning the people had violated God's marriage laws. We are told Ezra rent his garment and robe and plucked the hair off his head and his beard and sat down confounded.

We see Ezra fall on his knees, spread out his hands unto the Lord and pray the most heavy, heartfelt prayer he could have possibly pray under the circumstances. Read Ezra 9:5-15 to get the full prayer that Ezra poured out from his heart to his Heavenly Father.



Chapter 10 begins with the people weeping very sore. They witnessed Ezra pray, confess and cast himself down before the house of God and were moved to repentance.

Verses 2 and on, we see the people made a covenant with God to put away all the foreign wives and children. They did this according to the law, which ensured these women and children had provisions. God's people had to separate themselves from sin.



Ezra stood up to those in sin and convicted them. He prayed to God in earnest for them, and for himself. What about us today? Shouldn't we follow his example and help those in sin understand what they are doing is wrong? This can be done in love and kindness. When we show our love and care for others, they will be more open to moving away from sin.

# Thought Questions

Ezra stood up to those in sin and convicted them. He prayed to God in earnest for them, and for himself. What about us today? There are many who live in sin and have no care for coming out.

1. What can we learn from Ezra when it comes to prayer?
2. Read Philippians 4:6. How should we make our requests known to God?
3. What if we sin? What should we do?
4. Read Acts 2:21. What do we have to do to be saved?
5. Read Acts 22:16. What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord?

## Fill in the Blanks

1. Ezra was a \_\_\_\_\_ and priest of God.
2. In the \_\_\_\_\_ year of his reign over \_\_\_\_\_, King Cyrus made a proclamation to rebuild the house of God.
3. The Jews had been in captivity \_\_\_\_\_ years.

## True/False

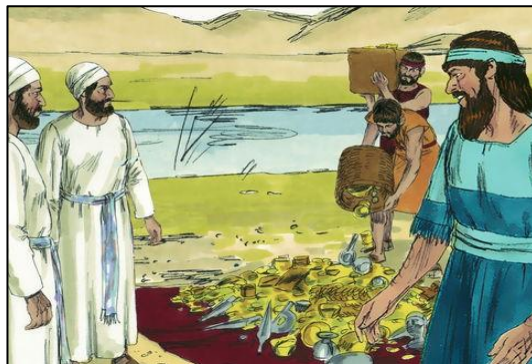
1. Around 200,000 journeyed to Jerusalem after Cyrus made the proclamation. \_\_\_\_
2. As they traveled, Ezra proclaimed a fast at the river Ahaseurus. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The people made sacrifice to God after they returned to Jerusalem. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Ezra didn't care that the people had violated God's laws around marriage. \_\_\_\_
5. The people repented and put away the strange women they had married. \_\_\_\_\_

# Ezra

Write the letter of the correct match next to each problem.

Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Match-up Maker

- |           |              |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| 1. _____  | The Jews     | a. This king allowed them to finish the building of the temple |
| 2. _____  | Ahava River  | b. Where Ezra proclaimed a fast                                |
| 3. _____  | Ezra         | c. He was a ready scribe and priest                            |
| 4. _____  | Haggai       | d. Accused the Jews of going against the king                  |
| 5. _____  | Zechariah    | e. Historical record of God's people returning to Jerusalem    |
| 6. _____  | King Darius  | f. The other prophet God sent to motivate the people           |
| 7. _____  | Samaritans   | g. How long they remained at the river fasting and praying     |
| 8. _____  | Twelve days  | h. Made a covenant with God to put away the foreign wives      |
| 9. _____  | King Cyrus   | i. Made a proclamation for God's house to be rebuilt           |
| 10. _____ | Book of Ezra | j. One of the prophets God sent to motivate the people         |



# Cryptogram: Ezra 7:10

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
6	10	25	1	17	7	15	2	12	8	11	14	20	26	24	4	21	9	13	5	19	23	22	16	3	18

7 24 9      17 18 9 6      2 6 1      4 9 17 4 6 9 17 1      2 12 13

2 17 6 9 5      5 24      13 17 17 11      5 2 17      14 6 22      24 7

5 2 17      14 24 9 1      6 26 1      5 24      1 24      12 5

6 26 1      5 24      5 17 6 25 2      12 26      12 13 9 6 17 14

13 5 6 5 19 5 17 13      6 26 1      8 19 1 15 20 17 26 5 13

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Cryptogram

# Ezra

I	T	L	F	L	B	C	H	S	O	E	U	C	S
H	F	S	E	O	E	M	P	C	Y	P	N	H	B
A	X	P	O	S	U	A	P	L	T	H	R	T	A
G	U	N	H	G	A	N	A	A	R	Z	E	N	B
G	C	H	X	L	I	R	D	D	H	A	Z	A	Y
A	Y	R	E	P	E	N	T	A	N	C	E	C	L
I	R	S	C	P	E	F	H	I	T	I	H	A	O
A	U	V	M	B	C	E	R	Y	L	I	P	O	N
T	S	C	A	P	T	I	V	I	T	Y	O	O	E
E	C	E	S	U	O	H	E	O	H	H	P	N	P
M	E	X	A	M	P	L	E	Y	G	N	A	A	H
P	E	E	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	S
L	U	A	A	T	I	M	S	A	E	T	A	N	N
E	I	R	A	V	A	A	C	D	A	R	I	U	S

REPENTANCE  
 FOUNDATION  
 EXAMPLE  
 CAPTIVITY  
 TEMPLE  
 DARIUS  
 BABYLON  
 CYRUS  
 HOUSE  
 ZECHARIAH  
 HAGGAI  
 EZRA

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1328226/>

