

GODLY LEADERSHIP EZRA

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

**Questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 15 • Ezra 7 • January 26, 2011

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Esther 9-10** has helped you?

SECTION I: READ Ezra 7:1-10

2. In **V1**, to what do you think "after these things" refers, and who was the King of Persia when Ezra 7 begins?
3. **V1-5** lists some of Ezra's ancestors.
 - a) What do you learn about Phinehas? Read Numbers 25:7-13 and 31:6.
 - b) What do you learn about Aaron? Read Exodus 7:1-2 and 1 Chronicles 6:48-53.
4. a) In **V6** and **V10**, what did you find significant about the description of Ezra in light of what you know about his ancestors?
 - b) Name some things others would say you are devoted to based on how you spend your time.
5. In **V8-9**, what was the starting and ending point of Ezra's journey, and how long did it take?
6. Why do you think Ezra didn't come up with the first group of returning exiles? (See WBS Timeline).

7. a) In **V6** and **V9**, what phrase is repeated, and what do you think it means?
- b) Describe how you have recently seen the hand of God on you or someone you love.

SECTION II: READ EZRA 7:11-27

8. a) What title does Artaxeres give himself in **V12**, and what do you think it indicates about him?
- b) For whom is that title reserved? Read 1 Timothy 6:14-16.
9. a.) In **V14**, what did the King send Ezra to do?
- b.) What was interesting to you about Ezra's assignment?
10. a) In **V15-21**, describe the provisions the King made as well as his attitude.
11. a) How do you explain a pagan king who provides for the needs of the God of Jerusalem?
- b) Share a time when you have experienced provision or favor from an unexpected source.
12. What motives were behind the king's thinking in **V23**?

13. What added stipulation did the King make in **V24**?

14. a) What authority or power did the king give to Ezra in **V25-26**?

b) What do you know about Ezra that uniquely qualified him to hold this power?

15. a) List the things for which Ezra praised God in **V27-28**.

b) What attributes of God are most apparent to you from Ezra's praise?

16. Write a prayer of praise for God's favor and hand on your life.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. As you consider Ezra's prayer of praise in V27-28, in each of the following prayers of praise from other Godly leaders look for meaningful phrases that you want to weave into your prayer life:

DAVID (1 Chronicles 29:11-13)_____

SOLOMON (1 Kings 8:56-61)_____

PAUL (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)_____

PAUL (Ephesians 1:3-14)_____

2. Ezra referenced the "hand of God" three times in ch.7. Give the specific, practical outcome from His hand in each verse:

V6_____

V9_____

V28_____

