

Ezra #1

Chapter 1

- 1) Who was ruling in Persia when this story begins?
- 2) Israel had been conquered by Nebuchadnezzar and taken as captives to Babylon. Babylon was later conquered by the Medes and the Persians. (Daniel 5) Which prophet had predicted that Israel would return home after 70 years captivity? (see Jeremiah 20:10 &11)
- 3) Look at Isaiah 44:28. What ruler does Isaiah refer to by name in this verse 200 years before his birth?
- 4) When Isaiah wrote this, the temple and the city of Jerusalem had not been destroyed. What does Isaiah say, Cyrus will declare?
- 5) Isn't that amazing?
- 6) Read verses 3 & 4. Did Cyrus keep the Jews from returning to Israel?
- 7) What characterized those who decided to return?
- 8) What did the Jews who did not return do to support the endeavor?
- 9) What happened to the things that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the Temple 70 years before?
- 10) "All the articles of gold and silver numbered _____."

Chapter 2

- 1) Where had the people in this passage spent their captivity?
- 2) Read verse 2-35. What famous names do you recognize there?
- 3) How many priests that returned were descended from Immer?
- 4) How many returning Levites were descended from Hodaviah?
- 5) What was special about the sons of Asaph? (hint-Asaph is listed as the writer of 12 of the Psalms)
- 6) What group was not listed? (choose one)
a) Gatekeepers b) Mighty men c) Temple servants d) The sons of Solomon's servants
- 7) What was different about the people who returned from, "Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer"?
- 8) Were they allowed to serve in the priesthood?
- 9) This verse refers to what special device, used to receive decisions from God, which was apparently located on the breastplate worn by the high priest? (see Exodus 28:30)
- 10) So how do you think they were going to resolve the question of ancestry since only descendants of Aaron could be priests?
- 11) Were the people required to give gifts when they arrived at the house of the Lord?
- 12) Read II Corinthians 9:7. What attitude does God want us to have as we give?
- 13) Did everyone stay in Jerusalem?

Chapter 3

- 1) Where did all the people gather together?
- 2) What did Jeshua, Zerubbabel and their brothers do?
- 3) What was one of the things mentioned in verse 3 that motivated them to get the alter built?
- 4) What was the name of the first celebration?
- 5) In this celebration everyone stayed in tents and hand built shelters. What did this signify? (see Leviticus 23:42-43)
- 6) Which came first? a) They laid the foundation of the temple b) They began offering the sacrifices
- 7) What came from Tyre and Sidon that was used in the temple construction?
- 8) How old did you have to be to be an overseer in the work of rebuilding the temple?
- 9) What did they do when they had laid the foundation for the temple?
- 10) Do we often forget to thank and praise the Lord helping us to accomplish things?
- 11) How did the people respond?
- 12) Most people shouted for joy. What was the response of some of the old men?
- 13) According to Haggai 2:2, why were some old men weeping?
- 14) Is it often hard to accept changing circumstances in our lives?

Ezra #2

Chapter 4

- 1) Did the Israelites (Judah and Benjamin) have any enemies?
- 2) What did these enemies offer to do?
- 3) These people were not Israelites but had been brought to Israel after the Israelites had been taken to into captivity. Read II Kings 17:24-29. Did they really worship the Lord like they were supposed to?
- 4) What did Zerubbabel and Jeshua say that sounds a lot like II Corinthians 6:15?
- 5) Should we allow everyone who wants to be involved in our activities to be involved?
- 6) "Then the people of the land _____ the people of Judah, and _____ them from building."
- 7) How did these enemies frustrate the people of Israel?
- 8) Were they able to build the temple in the reign of Cyrus?
- 9) What did these enemies do in the beginning of the reign of Ahasuerus?
- 10) What kind of treatment can we sometimes expect according to Matthew 5:11?
- 11) Later, they wrote a letter to Artaxerxes, the next ruler of Persia. What language did they use?
- 12) Read verse 9&10. As they write their letter, did every important person in the area seem to be in agreement with their point of view?
- 13) How did they describe Jerusalem in verse 12?
- 14) What did they claim would happen if Jerusalem allowed to be rebuilt?
- 15) What research did they advise the king to do to back up their claims?
- 16) What was Artaxerxes' response?
- 17) How did the enemies stop them from building according to verse 23?
- 18) "Then work on the house of God in Jerusalem ceased, and it was _____ until the _____ year of the reign of _____ king of Persia."

Chapter 5

- 1) What two prophets encouraged Israel to start building again?
- 2) Did the prophets just prophesy and leave or did they stick around and support the work?
- 3) What was the governor's response?
- 4) Did the Jews withhold information from the governor?
- 5) "But the eye of their God was on the elders of the Jews." Isn't that a cool phrase?
- 6) How were the stones described that were being used to build the temple?
- 7) According to verse 12, what did the Jewish leaders say had caused their captivity in Babylon?
- 8) What explanation did the Jewish leaders to King Darius as to why they felt they could rebuild the temple? (see verse 13-15)
- 9) What did they advise the king to do to prove their claims?

Chapter 6

- 1) Did Darius find the decree of Cyrus? _____ Where was it found?
- 2) Read verses 3-5. Did the king find the claims of the Jews to be true?
- 3) When Darius wrote Tattenai the governor back, he told him to: "...keep _____ from there. _____ this work on the house of God _____; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its site."
- 4) What did he tell him to do FOR the leaders of Israel? a) Pay the cost out of taxes b) Provide whatever is needed for the offerings (sacrifices) c) Both 1 & 2
- 5) Why did Darius say he wanted the sacrifices restored?
- 6) What did Darius say would happen to anyone who violated his order?
- 7) Would it be a good idea to disobey the king on this?
- 8) Does it sound like Tattenai's plan had backfired on him?
- 9) "I, Darius, have issued this decree, let it be carried out with all _____!"
- 10) Did Tattenai drag his feet on this?
- 11) When did they get it done?
- 12) Why did they immediately offer 12 goats as a sin offering?
- 13) What was the first big celebration the Jews had when they opened the temple?

Ezra #3

Chapter 7

- 1) What person was Ezra descended from which makes him a priest? (see Exodus 28:41)
- 2) Where did Ezra come to Israel from?
- 3) What was his profession?
- 4) Why did the king grant Ezra the things he had requested from him?
- 5) Look at verse 9. How long did it take Ezra to travel from Babylon to Jerusalem?
- 6) This is how all of us should conduct our ministry for the Lord: “For Ezra had set his heart to _____ the law of the LORD, and to _____, and to _____ His statutes and ordinances in Israel.
- 7) What is the proper progression in this verse?
- 8) What old saying perhaps comes from this verse? (choose one)
 - 1) Look before you leap
 - 2) Practice what you preach
 - 3) Think before you act
- 9) What title did Artaxerxes use to describe himself that really belongs to Jesus?
- 10) Besides being a scribe, Ezra was also a _____.
- 11) Artaxerxes was advised by seven _____.
- 12) What did he send with Ezra besides his good wishes?
- 13) Some of the money was given to buy sacrifices. How were they to spend the rest of the money?
- 14) “And the rest of the _____ for the house of your God, for which you may have occasion to provide, provide for it from the _____ treasury.”
- 15) What did he require the royal treasures to do in verses 21-22?
- 16) Isn't that amazing?
- 17) Why did the king do this according to verse 23?
- 18) How much tax were these rulers allowed to charge the temple workers of Israel?
- 19) Who was asked to appoint judges?
- 20) Who did Artaxerxes tell Ezra to teach?
- 21) This is Ezra's prayer in response to Artaxerxes command: “Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has _____ such a thing as this in the king's _____, to adorn the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, and has extended lovingkindness to me _____ the king and his counselors and before all the king's mighty princes.”
- 22) Who does Ezra credit with strengthening him? a) Artaxerxes b) The Lord c) The princes
- 23) Read Proverbs 21:1. Who do you think caused the king to respond this way to Ezra?

Chapter 8

- 1) Did Ezra keep track of who went with him from Babylon to Jerusalem?
- 2) Where did they camp for 3 days before proceeding?
- 3) How many Levites were with them?
- 4) Who did he send leading men and teachers to to encourage some Levites to come?
- 5) Who responded to the call? (verse 18)
- 6) How many temple servants responded?
- 7) What did Ezra do before starting towards Israel?
- 8) What reason did Ezra give for proclaiming a fast?
- 9) After what you read previously about Artaxerxes, would he have given troops to Ezra if he had requested them?
- 10) Do we need to always be concerned about our testimony and how our requests reflect on our God?
- 11) Who did Ezra ask for protection?
- 12) What was His response to the request?
- 13) Who did Ezra put in charge of the valuables?
- 14) A talent weighed about as much as a person could carry (3000 shekels). How many talents of silver were there? _____ How many talents of gold?
- 15) How long was he putting them in charge of these treasures?
- 16) What kinds of things did these people face on their journey?
- 17) To what does Ezra attribute their success?
- 18) Did the men who had been given the treasures take some for themselves?
- 19) What sacrifices did they offer when they arrived? “...12 _____ for all Israel, 96 _____, 77 _____, 12 _____ for a sin offering,”

Ezra #4

Chapter 9

- 1) According to the princes in Israel, what was the problem with the priests and the Levites?
- 2) What were the Israelites supposed to do with these evil groups? (see Deuteronomy 20:17)
- 3) Who normally has the biggest influence on a married person?
- 4) Read II Corinthians 6:14-17. Is the lack of separation still something God wants us to care about today?
- 5) "The _____ race has _____ with the peoples of the lands."
- 6) Who had been foremost in this unfaithfulness?
- 7) How did Ezra react when he heard about this?
- 8) What group of people responded to Ezra's actions according to verse 4?
- 9) What position of humbleness did Ezra take when he prayed about this sin?
- 10) "...O my God, I am _____ and embarrassed to lift up my face to Thee, my God, for our iniquities have risen above our heads, and our guilt has grown even to the _____."
- 11) Does it sound like Ezra was very serious?
- 12) What reason did Ezra give for the captivity and the destruction that Israel had experienced for the last 70 years?
- 13) This is one of the coolest verses ever: "But now for a _____ grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a _____ in His _____, that our God may _____ our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage."
- 14) Isn't that a powerful verse? Who is our "peg in His Holy Place"?
- 15) When they were slaves in a foreign country, had God forsaken them?
- 16) What commandments had they forsaken in verses 11 & 12?
- 17) Were the Israelites repeating their history?
- 18) What was he afraid God would do this time? (verse 14)
- 19) What did Ezra call the Jews who had returned to Israel? (choose one)
 - a) The "chosen people"
 - b) The "escaped remnant"
 - c) The "rebellious returnees"
- 20) What phrase in verse 15 reminds you of Romans 3:23?

Chapter 10

- 1) What 4 things was Ezra doing?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
- 2) What did the great multitude of people that had gathered do in response?
- 3) What did they decide to do with the foreign wives they had married?
- 4) Read I Corinthians 7:12-16. Are Christians instructed to put away (divorce) an unbelieving husband or wife today?
- 5) What reason does Paul give to say that it might be important to stay in a marriage with an unbeliever?
- 6) God was trying to keep the family and nation of Israel pure. Why did God not want them to intermarry with the nations around them according to Deuteronomy 7:1-4?
- 7) Ezra proclaimed an assembly for the whole nation. What two things did he declare would happen to anyone who didn't come to the national assembly?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
- 8) How much time did they have before they had to assemble?
- 9) What kind of weather did they have for their open air meeting?
- 10) What did Ezra tell the people to do?
- 11) Were most of them in agreement?
- 12) Who opposed the idea?
- 13) Does verse 16 make it sound like this whole separation was done haphazardly or very carefully?
- 14) What important work had Jeshua the son of Jozadak done according to Ezra 3:2?
- 15) Were any of his relatives involved in these marriages to foreign women?
- 16) What 3 other groups of people were involved according to verses 23 & 24?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
- 17) Is God serious about wanting us to live a separated life?