

## Ezra Prepared His Heart Ezra 7:10

### Introduction:

The children of Judah had disobeyed God again. Because of this, God was fed up with them and they were carried away into captivity (**II Chr. 36:15-21**). They were there for a total of 70 years before they were allowed to return to their home.

Some of the captives were allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple in the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia (**1:1-11**). They began to rebuild the temple, but they soon met resistance by outside forces (**4:6-24**). They were allowed to again resume working on the temple (**5:1-6:12**). The temple is completed and dedicated, and the people of Judah celebrate the first Passover after the return of the Babylonian captivity (**6:13-22**).

In Ezra 7, we are introduced to Ezra for the first time. Ezra had a big task ahead of him. He was a scribe that knew the law of Moses and could help the people to follow the law of God. It was a difficult task, but Ezra was able to accept the task and perform it well because he had prepared himself. Notice some of the things that were a part of Ezra's life that led him to being prepared. All of the things that Ezra did go forward and backwards; he had to do them both before and after this verse was written about him. We today need to be prepared, just as Ezra was prepared.

- I. Ezra lived a life that was trustworthy (**7:11-26**).
  - A. The king let Ezra have whatever he wanted to restore proper worship to Judah.
    1. He lived a great moral life, so that others around him could know that there was something different about him.
    2. He did what was right in the sight of men and God.
  - B. We must live a life that is worthy of trust.
    1. We need to do what we say we are going to do.
    2. We need to live good, moral lives before God.
      - a. Rich, young ruler
      - b. **Mk. 10:17-22**
  - C. In order for us to be trusted, we must trust in God.
    1. **I Tim 4:10**
    2. **For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.**
  - D. Ezra prepared himself in that he lived a life that was trustworthy.
- II. Ezra was a man of prayer (**8:21-23; 10:1**).
  - A. We know of at least twice that Ezra prayed.
    1. We can safely know that he was a man of prayer.
    2. He prepared himself by being a man of prayer.
  - B. We have several examples in the New Testament of how we ought to pray.
    1. Paul's example and command teaches us that we should be people of prayer.

- a. **Acts 20:36** - And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.
  - b. Paul prayed for every church and individual that he wrote to.
  - 2. Notice other things that Paul says about prayer.
    - a. **Eph 6:18** - praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--
    - b. **Phil 4:6** - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
    - c. **I Thes 5:17** - pray without ceasing,
    - d. Paul was a man of prayer.
  - 3. Jesus also was a man of prayer.
    - a. **John 17:1-26**
    - b. **Lk. 22:39-46** – The sweat of Jesus became as drops blood as He prayed.
    - c. **Lk. 5:16** - So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.
  - C. If we are going to prepare ourselves for great things, we must be people of prayer.
- III. Ezra was a man of faith (**8:22-23**).
- A. Ezra trusted God to protect him.
    - 1. Ezra and those with him were making the journey from Babylon to Jerusalem.
    - 2. Instead of asking the king to protect them, Ezra asked God to protect them.
    - 3. He put his trust in God rather than men.
  - B. We today put our faith in God to protect us.
    - 1. **Matt 6:13** - And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
    - 2. **II Thes. 3:3** - But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.
  - C. We must have faith in God.
    - 1. Faith is important because without it, we cannot please God.
    - 2. **Heb 11:6** - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Conclusion:

Ezra prepared himself before he was asked to do something great. We must also prepare ourselves if we are going to be pleasing to God. Are you prepared for Him?