

Lesson 14
The Second Return Commanded and Completed
(Ezra 7-8)

Questions

1. Whose lineage was Ezra a member of and how was this man described (7:1-6, 10-11, 14, 21)?

2. Who returned to Jerusalem with Ezra (7:7-9)?

3. What did Artaxerxes decree concerning the Jews and the house of God and why (7:11-23)?

4. What did Artaxerxes decree concerning the temple servants (7:24), the teaching of the people (7:25), and the enforcement of the law (7:26)?

5. What did the Lord do for the king and for Ezra concerning his return to Jerusalem (7:27-28)?

6. What men are listed in Ezra 8:1-14?

7. Who did Ezra send for to return with him (8:15-20)?

8. What did Ezra and the Jews do before they made their return trip and why (8:21-23)?

9. What did Ezra give to the 12 leaders of the priests and why (8:24-30)?

10. What was done after Ezra and the Jews arrived in Jerusalem (8:31-34)?

11. What did the Jews do when they returned to Jerusalem (8:35-36)?

Digging Deeper

1. What are the approximate dates for the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia and the “seventh year of Artaxerxes” (7:1, 7)?

2. What do we know about some of the people in the lineage of Ezra (7:1-5)?

3. What Persian kings gave the Jews written permission to act besides Artaxerxes (7:11-26)? What permission would Artaxerxes give to Nehemiah (Neh. 2:7-9)?

4. How are the concerns of Darius (Ezra 6:10) and Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:23) similar?

5. Where are the Ahava River and Casiphia located (8:15, 17, 21)?

6. How much was a “talent” and a “daric” (“drachma”) at this time (8:26-27)?

7. How can Eleazar the son of Phinehas be living at this time (8:33)?

Applications for Today

1. Like Ezra, let us be skilled with the words of God and let us set our heart to seek the law of the Lord (learn it), to do it, and to teach it to others (7:6, 10-12, 14, 21, 25-26; 2 Tim. 2:2, 15).

2. The Lord's "good hand" works providentially in our lives to accomplish his will (7:6, 9, 27-28; 8:18, 22, 31; 1 Cor. 4:19).
3. Volunteer freely to do the Lord's work and bring a free-will offering to the Lord (7:13-16; 8:28; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Philemon 14).
4. Do the commands of God to avoid the wrath of God (7:23; Rom. 1:18; 2:5, 8).
5. Law is only as good as the enforcement of it. Therefore, punishment should be executed on anyone who does not do the law (7:26; Rom. 13:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:6; 2 Thess. 1:9; Heb. 10:29; 2 Pet. 2:9; Jude 7).
6. The Lord can influence world leaders to do his will (7:27; Ezra 6:22; Prov. 21:1; 1 Tim. 2:1-2).
7. The Lord will extend lovingkindness and will strengthen us in our daily walk with him (7:28; 2 Tim. 4:17).
8. Be a person of understanding and discretion (8:16, 18; 1 Sam. 25:33; 1 Chron. 22:12; Prov. 19:11).
9. Humbly seek the Lord's help in prayer in your journey of life and he will answer you (8:21-23, 31; 2 Chron. 7:14; 20:3; Dan. 9:3; Jas. 4:10).
10. Honest and trustworthy men are needed in the Lord's work, especially in money matters (8:29; 2 Cor. 8:18-22).
11. Do what you can to help and support your brethren in their life and work for the Lord (8:36; Ac. 18:27; 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:16; 1 Thess. 5:14).