

NIV MEMORY VERSE: Ezra 8:22b**BEGINNING AGAIN 24-1**

"The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him."

"REFORMS UNDER EZRA"
Ezra 7:1 – 10:44

1. What was interesting to you from last week's lesson?

DAY 1 – READ Ezra 7:1-10

2. Ezra came from an illustrious family of Levites. How was he described in verse 6?
3. Chronologically a period of approximately 60 years had elapsed between chapters 6 and 7. Who accompanied Ezra on his journey to Jerusalem?
4. a. To what had Ezra devoted himself?
 - b. To achieve goals, we must set goals. What have you set your heart to do? Please share.
 - c. What is our greatest obligation to God according to Matthew 22:37,38?
 - d. What is the promise given in Psalm 37:4?

DAY 2 – READ Ezra 7:11-28

5. In the king's decree, who was allowed to go to Jerusalem?
6. Artaxerxes entrusted Ezra with a great amount of wealth in vs. 15-20.
 - a. List the sources of gold and silver in these verses.
 - b. On what was Ezra to spend it?
 - c. What does this generous treatment by the king imply to you about the character of Ezra?
7. a. The decree included what instruction to the treasurers of the provinces?
 - b. By doing this, what did the king hope to avoid?
 - c. What other limitation was placed on the treasurers?
8. Ezra was given authority to appoint whom?
9. What were the four types of punishment for those who transgressed the law of God or the law of the king?
10. a. Briefly, what was Ezra's praise?
 - b. Ezra felt strengthened by the Lord. He also had a strong ally in the king. How do you think having "someone on your side" increases the feeling of strength? Explain.

DAY 3 – READ Ezra 8:1-36

11. a. Ezra assembled the travelers at the river. What observation did he make in vs. 15?
 - b. What did Ezra do to remedy the situation?
12. a. Why hadn't Ezra asked the king for troop protection?
 - b. In your opinion, how do faith and pride enter into Ezra's statement?
13. a. From verses 24-36, describe Ezra's plan to get the treasure safely to Jerusalem.
 - b. For what trustworthy and faithful task has God selected you?
 - c. What can every faithful Christian hope to hear Jesus say one day? (Matthew 25:21)
14. What did the people do when they arrived and rested in Jerusalem?

DAY 4 – READ Ezra 9:1-10:1

15. a. What was the problem the leaders reported to Ezra?
 - b. According to Deuteronomy 7:3,4 why had God made this prohibition?
 - c. Why should a Christian not contemplate marriage with a non-Christian?
See 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1.
 - d. If both partners are non-Christian at marriage, and one is converted, what should then be done according to 1 Corinthians 7:12-20?
16. What was Ezra's response to the report of intermarriage?
17. In Ezra's prayer of confession, identify a verse or phrase which shows the following:
 - a. Ezra's association with the people's sin
 - b. acknowledgment of past sin
 - c. God's grace
 - d. their present sin
 - e. deserved punishment
 - f. the righteousness of God
18. How did the people react while Ezra prayed?

DAY 5 – READ Ezra 10:2-44

19. What did Shecaniah propose the people do?
20. Who took the oath?
21. When the proclamation was sent, what was the penalty for non-appearance?
22.
 - a. Describe the assembly.
 - b. . . . Ezra's message.
 - c. . . . the people's response.
 - d. . . . how the task was accomplished.
23. What do you think would be some of the difficulties involved with this process?

24.
 - a. Verses 18-43 contain a list of the descendants of priests who had taken foreign wives. Why do you think it was important for them to set an example?
 - b. (IN-DEPTH) Recall another Bible character and share how he/she led by example.
 - c. The world sees you as an "example" Christian. What could they see this week as an example of your commitment to God?

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LECTURE NOTES:

PRAYER REQUESTS: