



EZRA

Study Guide by Pastor Keith Hamblen



2010

Calvary Bible Church
3180 West Elm Street
Lima, Ohio 45805

“out of,” “unto” (3:12)!

Ezra 1-3

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor.3:18).

Remember to pray for illumination (to be taught of God’s Spirit— Jn.6:45)!

The (preliminary) message of Ezra is to reestablish the worship of God daily, seeking an ever-closer walk with Him.

“Ezra was a priest, a scribe, and a great leader. His name means ‘help,’ and his whole life was dedicated to serving God and God’s people. Tradition says Ezra wrote most of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Psalm 119, and that he led the council of 120 men who formed the OT canon.” “Read Ezra, the book, and remember Ezra, the man—a humble, obedient helper. Commit yourself to serving God as he did, with your whole life.” “Ezra, a man of God and a true hero, was a model for Israel, and he is a fitting model for us.” LAB

Monday—enjoy reading Ezra 1-3, skimming chapter 2 (reading prayerfully, asking for enlightenment)!

1-5. Did you? _____ What is the plot line of this part of the story?! (The book of Ezra has been called an “historical narrative.”) _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (1:1 or a Proverb?), and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Ezra 1:1-5, and answer the following.

1. Name the ruler whose spirit was stirred by the LORD, and give the reason “posted” that the LORD did this (1:1). _____

2. Whom did Cyrus credit for giving him all the kingdoms of the earth (1:2)? _____
3. What two different things did Cyrus charge “you of all His people” to do (1:3-4)? _____

4. What did God do for the ones listed in 1:5 who were to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem?

5. What does this section tell us about God? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (2:4 or 7 or a Proverb?), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Ezra 1:6-11.

1. What encouraged those preparing to return to Jerusalem (to rebuild) (16)? _____

2. Who had taken the precious vessels out of the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, and who now returned them (1:7)?

3. Who was Cyrus' treasurer, and who was the leader of Judah (1:8)? _____
4. How many knives were returned to the Israelites (1:9)? _____
5. What can you apply to yourself in this section? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (1:6 or a Proverb), and take it with you for the day!

Thursday—prayerfully read Ezra 2; it would be good to read this out loud.

- 1-5. Extra credit! List the categories of listings in this chapter (with or without help from a study Bible or something).

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (2:69 or a Proverb), and take it with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully read Ezra 3:1-7.

1. What did the people have in 3:1? _____
2. What two men rose up to lead in the building of the altar of God (3:2)? _____
3. What reason was given for them to “set the altar upon his bases” (3:3)? _____

4. What guided them in how they operated (3:4, 2)? _____

5. What did the people do before the foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid (3:6, 3-6)? _____

6. Memorize (at least a portion) and meditate on 2:4 (or another verse), and take “it” with you for the day!

Saturday—prayerfully read Ezra 3:8-13.

1. The altar was set up and the sacrifices resumed on the first day of the seventh month (3:6); how many months was it before the rebuilding of the temple began (3:8)? _____
2. How old were the Levites who were appointed to build the house of the LORD (3:8)? _____
3. What happened when the builders had finished laying the foundation of the temple (3:10-11)? _____

4. What two principles for the musicians are given in 3:10-11?

5. What two things were heard “afar off” (3:12-13)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (3:11 or another verse), and take “it” with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Ezra 1-3.

Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!

“we ourselves together will build” (4:3)!

Ezra 4-6

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

Remember to pray for illumination (to be taught of God’s Spirit—
Jn.6:45)!

The (preliminary) message of Ezra is to reestablish the worship of God daily, seeking an ever-closer walk with Him.

Monday—enjoy reading Ezra 4-6, at least thoughtfully and prayerfully skimming it for understanding!

1-5. Did you? ____ What is the plot line of this part of the story?! (The book of Ezra has been called an “historical narrative.”) _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (parts of 4:1-3 or a Proverb?), and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Ezra 4:1-12, and answer the following.

1. Who opposed the rebuilding of the temple, and what was their first ploy to interfere with that rebuilding (4:1-2)? _____

2. Who was the king of Persia when the rebuilding started (1:1-2), and who was the king to whom the first letter was written (4:6), and who was the king to whom the next (apparently) two letters were written (4:7-8)? _____

To avoid confusion, see Ezra 4:6-23 as a parenthetical section giving us a “foretaste of history to reveal the full seriousness of the opposition [to help us] properly appreciate the achievements recorded in the next two chapters (5 and 6).” These verses move us ahead approximately fifty years to the reign of Ahasuerus (4:6) and Artaxerxes (4:7). Verses 6, 7, and 8 “tell us of ... three separate complaints, the last of which succeeded” (DK).

3. Name the two men who wrote the third letter “against Jerusalem, and in general for whom did they claim to be speaking” (4:8-10)? _____

4. How did “thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time” describe Jerusalem (4:12)? _____

5. What does this section tell us about God? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (4:12 or a Proverb?), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Ezra 4:13-24.

- 1-2. List the three reasons given by Rehum and Shimshai (4:8) to Artaxerxes for him to discontinue the rebuilding (4:13-16)?

3. What good policy did the king demonstrate in 4:21?

4. What did Rehum and friends use to make the work cease (4:23)? _____

“Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.”

George Washington

5. What can you apply to yourself in this section? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (1:6 or a Proverb), and take it with you for the day!

Thursday—prayerfully read Ezra 5.

1. Name the two prophets and the two Jewish leaders, and the two opposing individuals (5:1-3). _____

2. What information did the opposing individuals ask which the Jews apparently did not give them (5:4-5, 9-11)? _____

3. To whom did Rehum and friends write, and what did they forward to him (5:7, 11)? _____

4. What did Rehum and friends request (suggest) to the king of Persia (5:17)? _____

5. What lesson(s) can we get from this chapter of the story which teach us how to interact with our civil government (community) (5:1-17)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (5:11-12 or a Proverb), and take it with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully read Ezra 6:1-12.

1. Where was a scroll found containing the pertinent record (6:1-2)? _____

2. Give the height and breadth of the house Cyrus commanded to be built, and how the expense for the building was to be covered (6:3-4). _____

- 3-5. List the four (or so) major planks of Darius' response to "Rehum and his friends" (6:6-12). _____

6. Memorize (at least a portion) and meditate on 6:7 (or another verse), and take "it" with you for the day!

Saturday—prayerfully read Ezra 6:13-23.

1. Through what did the Jews prosper at this time; and, according to whose commandment did they build and finish the work (6:13)? _____

2. How did the people of Israel keep the dedication of the completed temple, along with setting the priests and Levites in order (v.18) and offering many animals (v.17) (6:16-18; cf. v.22)? _____
3. How are the Israelites "which were come again out of captivity" (6:21) referred to in this section, and how many times were they referred to in this way (in this section) (6:13-22)? _____

4. What was done for the priests and the Levites, to enable them to kill the Passover for all their brethren (6:20)? _____

5. What “new” group apparently joined the returned Israelites to eat together (6:21)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (6:22 or another verse), and take “it” with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Ezra 4-6.

Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!

“Ezra had prepared” (7:10)!

Ezra 7-8

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

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Monday—enjoy reading Ezra 7, thoughtfully and prayerfully reading it for understanding! Skim Ezra 8 to answer the following question.

1-5. Did you? _____ The first ten verses of Ezra 7 seem to be an overview of chapters 7 and 8—why would I say that? (Hint: 7:8 and 8:31) _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (7:10), and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Ezra 7:1-13, and answer the following.

1. Who was the king of Persia at this time (7:1)? _____
Name Ezra's dad, and name Ezra's most famous ancestor (7:1-6). _____
2. What kind of scribe was Ezra, and what did the king of Persia grant him (7:6)? _____
3. How many groups went up with Ezra to Jerusalem, and in what year of Artaxerxes did this group go up to Jerusalem (7:7)?

4. How much time did it take Ezra to make the trip from Babylon to Jerusalem (7:7-9)? _____
5. What does this section tell us about God? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (7:10), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Ezra 7:11-28.

1. Who wrote a letter in this section, and how many verses contain this letter (7:11-28)? _____
2. What title did the king give himself, and what title did he give Ezra in 7:12? _____

3. What direction and guidance did the king give Ezra in the spending of the money (7:17-18)? _____

4. What topic did most of Artaxerxes' letter address, and what two tasks did the king assign Ezra (7:25)? _____

5. What can you apply to yourself in this section? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (7:27), and take it with you for the day!

Thursday—prayerfully read Ezra 8.

- 1-3. What does most of this chapter cover (8:1-30)? _____

- 4-5. What does the remaining section cover (8:31-36)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (part of 8:22), and take it with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully read Ezra 8:1-20.

1. What is listed in 8:1-14 (8:1)? _____

2. Where did Ezra have the people assemble for three days, and why do you suppose he had them do that (8:15)?

3-5. Who specifically were said to be missing (8:15), and what kind of people was Ezra looking for (8:16, 18), and of what group was it said that “all of them were expressed by name” (8:20)? _____

6. Memorize (at least a portion) and meditate on 8:18a (or another verse), and take “it” with you for the day!

Saturday—prayerfully read Ezra 8:21-36.

1. What three reasons did Ezra give for proclaiming a fast (8:21, 23)? _____

2. Why would Ezra have been ashamed to ask for a protective band of soldiers (8:22)? _____

3. What aspect of good leadership does Ezra demonstrate in 8:24-30? _____

4. How many days did Ezra’s group (apparently) wait upon arriving in Jerusalem before commencing activity (8:32)? _____

5. Give something you can apply to your life from this section.

6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (8:32 or another verse), and take “it” with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Ezra 7-8.

Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!

Ezra 9-10

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps.119:18)!

The (preliminary) message of Ezra is to reestablish the worship of God daily, seeking an ever-closer walk with Him.

“Ezra was a priest, a scribe, and a great leader. His name means ‘help,’ and his whole life was dedicated to serving God and God’s people. Tradition says Ezra wrote most of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Psalm 119, and that he led the council of 120 men who formed the OT canon.” “Read Ezra, the book, and remember Ezra, the man—a humble, obedient helper. Commit yourself to serving God as he did, with your whole life.” “Ezra, a man of God and a true hero, was a model for Israel, and he is a fitting model for us.” LAB

Monday—enjoy reading Ezra 9, thoughtfully and prayerfully reading it for understanding!

1-5. Did you? ____ This chapter consists of Ezra’s being informed of the people’s transgression and his subsequent prayer. What was their transgression? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (9:1), and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Ezra 9:1-5, and answer the following.

1. What was the evidence given in 9:1 that the people of Israel had not separated themselves from the people of the lands?

2. What apparently had led the Israelites to their “doing according to their abominations” (9:2)? _____

3. What three things did Ezra do upon hearing of this thing (9:3)? Give the verb only (of what he did). _____

4. Who were assembled unto Ezra (9:4)? _____

5. What was Ezra’s prayer posture (9:5)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (9:4), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Ezra 9:6-15.

1. What three groups did Ezra say had been delivered into the hands of the king of the lands (9:7)? _____

2. What do you suppose Ezra meant when he thanked (acknowledged God’s grace) in that God “did give us a nail” (9:8)? Also in the same verse (9:8), what did Ezra say God had given them “a little”? _____

3. What mercy had God given them along with mercy in the sight of the kings of Persia, mercy to rebuild and repair the temple, and mercy to “give us a wall” (9:9)? _____

4. What commandments did Ezra say specifically they had broken (9:10-12)? _____

5. What can you apply to yourself in this section? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (9:12), and take it with you for the day! (Remember that I am not asking you to memorize this whole verse (or another), but that I am asking you to keep a concept and some wording of scripture in mind at least as you begin your day, if not reviewing it throughout the day. I have found that I have been reviewing the sermon message for the week throughout the day.)

Thursday—prayerfully read Ezra 10.

1-3. What does the first half of this chapter cover (10:1-17)?

4-5. What does the remaining section cover (10:18-44)?

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (part of 8:22), and take it with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully read Ezra 10:1-8.

1. What do you suppose moved the people to tears in 10:1?

2. What was “mixed in” with Shechaniah’s confession (10:2)?

3. Whose counsel would be followed (beyond Ezra's) (10:3)?

4. What did Shechaniah (again!) give to Ezra (10:4)?

5. What did Ezra call for all the people to do, and what would be the consequence if they refused to cooperate (10:7-8)?

6. Memorize (at least a portion) and meditate on 10:4 (or another verse), and take "it" with you for the day!

Saturday—prayerfully read Ezra 10:9-17.

1. What two things led the people to tremble "in the street of the house of God" (10:9)? _____

2. What three (or four) directions did Ezra give the assembled people (10:11)? _____

3. What aspect of good leadership does Ezra demonstrate in 10:12-17? _____

4. What "counter-proposal" did the people make (10:13-14)?

5. Give something you can apply to your life from this section.

6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (8:32 or another verse), and take “it” with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Ezra 9-10.

Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!