

Building for God

Pembroke Bible Chapel
D Axford – May 10, 2009
Series No. DA-EZRA-05

A Heart for the Lord Ezra 7

PROLOGUE (verse 1)

There is a time interval of 57 years between the completion and dedication of the temple in chapter 6 of Ezra and the events of chapter 7.

I. EZRA'S CREDENTIALS (verses 1-5)

His genealogy is traced back to Aaron the High Priest showing his birth credentials for service.

II. EZRA'S CHARACTER (verses 6-10)

He was a skilled student of the Bible, practiced what it said, and taught others. As a result, the Lord was with him and gave him favor with the King.

III. EZRA'S CHARGE (verses 11-26)

He was charged by the King to go to Jerusalem to build, worship the Lord, do whatever the Lord directed, and to appoint officials to govern the province. This he did.

EPILOGUE (verses 27-28)

King Artaxerxes issued three decrees during his reign concerning the Jews: 1) the charge to go and build (Ez.7:11); 2) the stop work order (Ez.4:21); and, 3) the decree under Nehemiah to restart the work (Neh.2:1; Dan.9:25).

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Application

We learn the following from this chapter in the Old Testament book of Ezra.

1. The Lord was with Ezra – his genealogy is given showing his credentials for service to the Lord. Do you have a birth record recorded in Heaven – your second/new birth?
2. Your character and conduct do not guarantee an easy life for you - just look at the opposition Ezra eventually faced. We need to keep going in the face of opposition no matter what form it may take.
3. The exhortation for us today from Ezra's life story is – study the Bible, shape your life upon it, and share it with others.