

**August 22, 2021 Ezra Chapter Two**  
**Sit Quietly Before God, Search Your Heart**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

Those God sent: Families, Villages of people, Priests, Levites and temple servants such as: singers, gatekeepers (**Psalm 84:10**), temple servants-who's work was considered to be menial work yet done with true devotion to God and was important to God. There are many walks of life, all of God's people and their service to Him are valuable to Him.

It was God's plan to carry His people off into exile until the trials of the Exile purified and strengthened their faith and cured them of idolatry. God chastises those He loves when they sin.

Equally so, after the designated time along with the **acknowledgement** and **repentance** of their sin, it was God's plan to **restore** them to their homeland. To repent is to make an intentional turn from one's sinful way of life to a life pleasing to Him. **Joel 2:12-13.**

The job of doorkeeper was considered to be a menial job but it's listed among all the rest. Every job is important that is done for the glory of God. What you do for God is important to God and how you do is important as well. **Colossians 3:23-24.**

When they were back in the land, the people gave according to their ability. Give willingly according to your ability.

**Application:**

These names and numbers in our passage today may seem quite laborious for us to read, but think about it, what if your family's name was listed! God is in the details.

These people were chosen by God, He stirred their hearts (see **1:5.**)

Are you willing, prepared, and chosen? If so, is God drawing upon your heart to do something for the kingdom; either great or small? Remember any act of obedience and dedication to God from a pure heart is significant to God.

In our passage today the governor declared that certain fellows should not eat from the most holy things until a priest stood up with Urim and Thummim. This was the prescribed way for men to have God make such decisions for them. Are you currently faced with some decision(s)? Are you actively seeking to know and do the will of God for your life? Make the determination right here, right now, to live a life of obedience to God. Make the Lord the central focus of your everyday decision making processes.

12

Even now—

this is the Lord's declaration—

turn to me with all your heart,

with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

13

Tear your hearts,

not just your clothes,

and return to the Lord your God.

For he is gracious and compassionate,

slow to anger, abounding in faithful love,

and he relents from sending disaster. **Joel 2:12-13 CSB**



