

November 14, 2021
Ezra 7:1-10
“Read, Heed, Succeede”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

There will be much emphasis on the character of Ezra in these chapters. In **chapters 9-10** sin will be uncovered in the postexilic community! Ezra is presented as a man strongly motivated by the Law of God. Even in the face of much adversity he stands firm in his faith and places his trust in the Lord.

The good hand of the Lord was upon Ezra because:
He devoted himself to the study of the Word.
He observed the Law of the Lord. (He kept it)
He taught the Law to others.

A good recipe for a spiritually significant life for every believer:
Devote yourself to studying the Word.
Apply what you learn from God’s Word to “your” life.
Read, hear, heed.
Take what you have gleaned and share it with others.

Ezra was a “teacher” well versed in the Law. This means skillful. Ezra experienced the favor of God and of king Artaxerxes. God had moved in the king’s heart so that His servant would find favor with the king. If God is for us, who is against us? (**Romans 8: 31b**).

APPLICATION:

Ezra was legal to be a priest in his day because of his genealogy. He was qualified to lead because his heart was right with God. The Scriptures inform us that because of Ezra’s good heart toward the Lord, that the Lord’s good hand was upon Ezra. God knows our every thought and intention, see **Psalm 139:1-2; Acts 15:8; Hebrews 4:12**. Ezra was a man whom God could use, he was legal and qualified for the job at hand. The Scriptures speak of many spiritual leaders who may have had the pedigree but they were not qualified to lead because of personal sin. A good place to see this in the Bible, both the good and the bad, is in the book of **II Chronicles**.

Today, true believers in Jesus Christ are legal, so to speak. Those believers who’s hearts are right with God are qualified to do what ever the Lord has for them. You may recall the AWANA theme verse **II Timothy 2:15**, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” (NASB)

Once a person is truly born again as Jesus spoke of in **John 3**, they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption, see **Ephesians 1:13; 4:30**.

However, to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be in a right standing with God. Some verses that speak to this truth are, **Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9, 52**.

If you find that you are spiritually dry, that discouragement is pressing in on you, or that you are just plain disillusioned, turn to God. Follow the prescribed recipe above to “your” life. Pray earnestly for God to fill you with His Holy Spirit and watch your walk and worship go from weak and disillusioned to a life with more spiritual fruit, to a life filled with the Holy Spirit’s empowerment instead of one filled with fear, doubt, and unbelief. Meditate on the believer’s victory in Christ through the these verses in **Romans 8:26-38**.