

November 21, 2021

Ezra 7:11-28

“Calling”

The **verses 12-26** were written in Aramaic. This letter was written around the same time that Daniel’s 69 weeks began.

The assurance that God had called him and had opened the doors for this undertaking gave Ezra courage and strength to undertake this great task. **Philippians 2:13**, “for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.” What is God calling you to do, and just as important, are you willing to do it?

Ezra’s character comes forth in this pericope. He praised the Lord for what was taking place. Ezra stated clearly that God had given this idea to the king, God had put it in the king’s heart to do this. The purpose of all of this was to bring honor to the house of the Lord. These privileges were granted by Artaxerxes for the glory of God, not Ezra. Be careful regarding your motifs; for the glory of whom do you strive?

King Artaxerxes, being motivated by the God of Israel, instructed those who would soon be heading out to Jerusalem to be diligent to buy the provisions necessary for offerings for the house of God. Believers should be diligent to make provision to worship the Lord. Examples of this today include carving out time within packed schedules to worship God. This is fleshed out in one’s personal devotional study, church attendance, service, giving, praying, and witnessing to the lost. How are you doing in these areas of your life? God does not want our leftovers.

The wisdom that Ezra possessed was God’s wisdom., “There is a way that seems right to a person, but it’s end is the way to death.” **Proverbs 16:25** (CSB) Go with God’s wisdom and not that of man-every time!

In **verse 27**, To bring honor to the house of the Lord is literally to beautify the house of the Lord. Remember that the returning exiles were guilty of living in fine homes while God’s house remained unfinished. The care of God’s house is a reflection of the people’s attitude toward God.

In **verse 28**, Ezra recognizes God’s goodness to him and God’s work on his behalf. Fully convinced that his work was in accordance with God’s promise/will, Ezra chose, gathered around him, leading men who shared the responsibility in God’s work and moved forward with courage and strength. God called, equipped, and supplied.

APPLICATION:

In closing out this section Ezra blesses the Lord. Ezra acknowledges that this abundant grace they are receiving is from the hand of God. The results of God’s favor on Ezra was that he took courage and was strengthened. At this proclamation, Ezra started making preparations to go forward to do the very task God was calling him to do.

It does not have to be some great thing, often some of the greatest men and women of God do the seemingly mundane things. Lots of people are willing to take the “high road”, the “seemingly” low road, not so much. Be faithful in the little things. Determine what is God calling you to do and do it with all of your heart for the glory of God.