

Ezra 7:1-28 – Ezra Goes to Jerusalem

The first six chapters of Ezra primarily dealt with the first group of exiles who returned to Judah and Jerusalem and who eventually finished rebuilding the temple around 516 or 515 BC. The final four chapters of Ezra deal with the priest Ezra, his journey to Jerusalem and the reforms which he made.

Read Ezra 7:1-10.

Artaxerxes reigned from about 465 BC to 424 BC. His reign didn't start until about 50 years after the temple was completed. Chapter seven starts in the year 458 or 457 BC. What was the significance of Ezra's lineage? (7:1-5)

It appears that Ezra's family, for whatever reason, did not return to Jerusalem with the first wave of exiles. He was still in Babylonia. How was Ezra described in verse 6?

What groups of people also returned to Jerusalem with Ezra? (7:7)

When did Ezra start his journey to Jerusalem? When did he finally arrive in Jerusalem? (7:8-9)

What had Ezra set his heart to do? What is the significance of the order of verse 10?

Read Ezra 7:11-26.

These verses contain the content of a letter which Artaxerxes the king gave to Ezra. How was Ezra described in verses 11 and 12? How was Artaxerxes described?

Who was given permission to go to Jerusalem with Ezra? (7:13)

What was Artaxerxes' first directive to Ezra in verse 14?

What was the second directive given to Ezra? (7:15-18)

What were the next two directives given to Ezra? (7:19-20)

What was Artaxerxes' first decree to the treasurers in the province Beyond the River? What reason was given for this decree? (7:21-23)

What was the final decree given to the treasurers? (7:24)

What instructions did Ezra receive in verse 25?

What authority did Ezra have to deal with people who did not obey the law? (7:26)

Read Ezra 7:27-28.

Notice the change to the first person in verse 27. Why was Ezra thankful? (7:27)

How did Ezra respond to the sovereignty of God? How was God's sovereignty on display in Ezra's life? (7:28)