



# DIGGING DEEPER

Ezra 7-8 – Reform

**PLEASE READ** – Ezra 7-8

## **SUMMARY...**

Nearly 60 years after the completion of the temple – Ezra arrives in Jerusalem leading the second wave of returnees from Babylon. He finds God’s people in a state of spiritual decline and in need of reform. Ezra is God’s man on the ground – his mission is to teach God’s law and enquire of the people.

## **GETTING STARTED**

When does this action take place? (See v1) What big things have happened biblically since the end of chapter 6?

What does the arrival of Ezra tell us about the state of the nation?

### **1) THE HAND OF GOD WAS ON HIM (7v1-10)**

What’s the point of the genealogy in 7v1-5?

The passage however doesn’t focus on Ezra’s priestly function – what does it focus on? (v6 and 10)

Why was the gracious hand of God on Ezra? (v6 / v9)

## **2) THE WORD OF GOD WAS IN HIM (7v1-10)**

Check out v10 and talk about Ezra's relationship with the word of God. Focus in on the 4 verbs that are used in that verse...

Who does Ezra's ministry point us forward to? See also Mt 7v24-27 and talk about how it fits with Ezra chapter 7...

What are some of the potential consequences of studying and teaching God's word but failing to observe what it says?

## **3) THE MISSION OF GOD WAS BEFORE HIM (7v11-28)**

As you read through the letter that Artaxerxes wrote for Ezra, what seems to be the main reason behind Ezra's return?

What does healthy enquiry look like? See also Ephesians 4v11-16

What questions do you need to be asked that will help to bring about lasting change and reform in your own hearts?

Why doesn't Ezra act alone and what can we learn from the fact that he gathers people around him?

**Meditate on the words of Paul below...**

**Ephesians 4v15:** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.