

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

EZRA 1

Ezra 1

Ezra one introduces us to one of the most influential characters in all of the Bible. Ezra was a Scribe (*Hebrew, Sofer*).

Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him. Some of the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. And Ezra came to Jerusalem... On the first day of the first month, he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek[a] the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. (Ezra 7:6-10)

Ezra wrote down accurately an account of the events as recorded in Ezra and Nehemiah, which are considered one book in the Hebrew divisions of the TaNaK, the Old Testament. Obviously, Ezra had sources that he used and

quoted them accurately. Most of the "Official Royal Correspondence" is written in Aramaic, the official international language of the Babylonian and Persian Empire. The Persians spoke their kingdom language of Farsi, but the international trade language was Aramaic. This is also what the people of Israel spoke in their homes and everyday exchanges; Hebrew was spoken in the Temple, Synagogues and in all religious ceremonies. This was true even in the days of the Lord Jesus and the Apostles. Many times, in the New Testament Aramaic terms are used instead of Hebrew or Greek, because they are direct quotes. This can be observed in Matthew 16:17, when Jesus said, "Simon Bar Jonah" Simon Son of John. John is the Greek name for the Hebrew name Jonah. "Bar" is the Aramaic word of "son" and Jesus was speaking Aramaic, his usual language. This is a direct quote; hence, the Aramaic "Bar" is used instead of the Hebrew word for son, "Ben".

Prayer and Action Steps

Dear God, please help me to be a person like Ezra! One who prepares "his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach..." it to others!

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____

