

LESSON 34 *Ezra*

01

OBSERVATIONS

1. Where did Cyrus get the idea to restore the temple in Jerusalem? Whose prophecy did this fulfill? (Chapter 1)
2. When the people assembled in Jerusalem to begin the rebuilding, what was the condition and outlook of the group? (Chapter 3)
3. How did Israel's enemies put a stop to the rebuilding? (Chapter 4)
4. Who encouraged the people to start rebuilding again? (Chapters 5 & 6)
5. When governor Tattenai wanted to hinder the work again, how did God use Darius to keep the work going? (Chapters 5 & 6)
6. What did the people see as the reason for being able to finish the temple? How did they react when it was finished? (Chapters 5 & 6)
7. Why did Artaxerxes want to be sure that whatever was prescribed by God would be done with diligence? (Chapter 7)
8. What was Artaxerxes' opinion of Ezra? How did Artaxerxes recommend that Ezra obtain governors and judges for the area? (Chapter 7)
9. Why did Ezra proclaim a fast as they camped at the Ahava Canal? (Chapter 8)
10. What was Ezra's initial reaction to the news that the Israelites had intermarried again with heathens? (Chapter 9)
11. How did the people respond to Ezra's leadership in regard to their sin of intermarriage? (Chapter 10)

02 DEEPER THOUGHT »

02

DEEPER THOUGHT

1. What prompted the hearts of those people who returned to help rebuild? (Chapter 1)
2. Cyrus restored to Israel the things Nebuchadnezzar took. What do they represent? (Chapter 1)
3. What was the first thing to be restored? What does this tell us? (Chapter 3)
4. Naturally, the foundation of the temple had to be laid first. Were the people somewhat bored with this unseen part of the building? Why? (Chapter 3)
5. Why do you think the Israelites didn't want outsiders working in the temple? (Chapter 4)
6. Why did Ezra have a successful ministry among the returning exiles and why did he find favor with Artaxerxes? (Chapter 7)
7. Ezra had plenty of helpers with him as they camped at Ahava, but he would not go on when he discovered there were no Levites with him. Why? (Chapter 8)
8. Why did Ezra entrust the gold and silver into the hands of the consecrated priests rather than the strong warriors, to protect it from robbers? (Chapter 8)
9. Compare the ministries of Jeshua and Zerubbabel with Haggai and Zechariah and with Ezra. (Chapter 8)

03

CONSIDERATION CORNER

Consider this:

Zerubbabel means “born in Babylon” and Jeshua means “God will save”. What a pair to lead Israel in restoration, and what a picture of us. Though we were “born in Babylon”, God has saved us.

ANSWERS TO LESSON 34

OBSERVATIONS

1. The Lord moved Cyrus’ heart and he fulfilled Jeremiah’s prophecy. (1:1-2)
2. They were unified and dedicated. (3:1-7)
3. By stirring up fears in King Artaxerxes that if Jerusalem was rebuilt, there would be revolt. (4:7-24)
4. The prophets of God, Haggai and Zechariah. (5:1)
5. Darius searched the records and found Cyrus’ decree. He supported Cyrus’ decree wholeheartedly. (6:1-12)
6. They thanked God for changing the attitude of the king so that he assisted them in building the temple. They were filled with joy. (6:22)
7. He didn’t want God’s wrath against his realm or against his sons. (7:23)
8. He thought Ezra was wise and learned. He told Ezra to use his wisdom to appoint governors and judges. (7:25)
9. To seek God for safe journey, as testimony to the king. (8:21-23)
10. He was appalled and wondered if God would continue to bless the returning exiles. (9)
11. They all repented when they saw Ezra’s response to the seriousness of their sin. (10:1-4)

QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER THOUGHT

1. God moved on their hearts to go. The ones who stayed helped by providing gold, silver and materials for building. God calls some to do restoration work. Everybody can help by supporting the effort even if they aren’t directly working. (1:5-6)
2. Nebuchadnezzar represents the devourer (devil) and Cyrus represents the Lord. If we repent, the Lord will restore to us what the devil has stolen. (1:7-8)
3. They restored the altar first. Worship of the Lord should be the first priority in our lives and the church. (3:1-6)
4. No, they shouted and praised God because it represented the first step of restoration. (3:10-13)
5. The outsiders wanted a piece of the action without the relationship to God. God had warned the Israelites many times about being yoked with unbelievers. (4:1-5)
6. He devoted himself to the study and observance of the law of the Lord and the hand of the Lord was upon him. (7)
7. He knew the importance of ministering to the Lord first before building. (8:15-32)
8. They were trusting in God for their protection, not their own strength. (8:24-34)
9. Jeshua and Zerubbabel were pioneers in the restoration work. They were in on the foundation work and could be compared to apostles. Haggai and Zechariah were also in on the foundation work, but were used more prophetically in encouraging the people and stirring them up to continue with the work they had started.