

Ezra-Nehemiah Part 5

Major Theme

The hand of the LORD is with His people

The Lineage of Ezra 7:1-5

- In Ezra 2:62 those who were unable to prove lineage were denied priesthood.
- “And the LORD said to Aaron, “You shall have no inheritance in their land, neither shall you have any portion among them. I am your portion and your inheritance among the people of Israel.” // Numbers 18:20
 - The Levitical priests served as judges and teachers of God’s law.
 - The Levites who were not priests were given various duties in the caretaking of the tabernacle and its furnishings.
 - During the story of the Golden Calf it is the tribe of Levi that punish the people of Israel for their idolatry.
 - And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” // John 2:16-17
- Ezra’s ancestry does show that God has raised up leaders for His people at this new exodus just as He raised up leaders for His people at the first exodus. // James M. Hamilton “Exalting Jesus in Ezra-Nehemiah”

The Return of Ezra 7:6-9

- Ezra was Skilled/“Mahir” in the Word of God
 - Swift, Quick, Ready
 - “Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.” // Proverbs 22:29
- “For the hand of the LORD his God was on him.” (Ezra 7:6)
 - “Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place.” // Exodus 13:3
 - In many ways Ezra is to be viewed as a new type of Moses leading the people of Israel in a new Exodus.

The Character of Ezra 7:10

- Ezra believes the best way to follow God is to be in God’s Word - to study it, obey it, and teach it.
- Teach what you know about God’s Word to others

Artaxerxes’ Letter 7:11-26

- The first decree (7:13) allows anyone who desires to return to Jerusalem with Ezra.
- The second decree (7:21) commands treasurers to provide Ezra with whatever the people need to worship God.
- How Ezra views the Bible:
 - It is God’s Word (7:14)
 - It is God’s Wisdom (7:25)

- One of the great themes in Ezra is that Jerusalem and the Temple are the dwelling place of God and the house of God.
 - “I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.” // Exodus 29:45-46

The Blessing Of Ezra 7:27-28

- The LORD is source of Ezra's courage to go and obey
- “My God”