

# Old Testament Lessons

## Ezra 7:10

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
  - a. Good to see you all once again.
2. We are going to start a new series of lesson on Sunday evenings.
  - a. We are going to look at Old Testament lessons.
3. For our first lesson we are going to look at **Er 7:10**.
  - a. Some background to this verse.
    - i. In Er 6 the temple had been completed.
      1. **Er 6:15-16**
    - ii. In **Er 6:19ff** we have the Passover celebrated.
      1. "Now after this or now after these things or after this"
      2. It was after the completion of the temple that Ezra is allowed to go to Jerusalem and take a second wave of remnants.
        - a. Once might have been about a year after the completion.  
(<http://tinyurl.com/4cqm4qm>)
  - b. Some background on Ezra.
    - i. Ezra was the son of Seraiah a Levite and descendent of Aaron the High Priest & thus a relative of Moses.
    - ii. Ezra was also a scribe.
      1. This means that he was very versed in the Law of Moses.
      2. These men were given the responsibility to write the Law of Moses for the next generation.
        - a. They spent most of their days in study and writing hence scribe.
      3. Jewish tradition about Ezra.
        - a. "It claims that he established the system of synagogue worship while in Babylon, that he played an important part in the formation of the Old Testament canon, and wrote the books of Chronicles, Nehemiah and Esther. The historicity of these claims is by no means established, but the very fact that they are attributed to Ezra shows us something of the greatness of the man, and why in Jewish tradition he is regarded as a second Moses." (Williams, P. (2006). Opening up Ezra (77). Leominster: Day One Publications.)
  - c. This is the one that God has to help bring the people along to where they need to be.
4. With that in mind let us examine the lessons from **Er 7:10**.
  - a. **Er 7:10** "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel."

## I. Preparing The Heart

- A. Ezra "prepared" or "set" his heart
  - 1. This means that he set his heart/mind to doing something.
    - i. In other words he fixed his sights on a goal.
- B. God has always been a proponent of preparation.
  - 1. He expected it under the Patriarchal Law.
    - i. **Gn 22:3** "So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him."
  - 2. He expected it under the Mosaic Law.
    - i. **II Ch 35:16** " So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the Passover and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, according to the command of King Josiah."
    - ii. **Mt 26:17-19** "Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" 18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples." ' ' " 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover."
  - 3. He expects it under Christ's Law.
    - i. **I Co 11:28** "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."
    - ii. **I Co 16:2** "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."
- C. We too must be ones that prepares our heart for whatever we are doing for God.

[Ezra "prepared/set" his heart to seek the law of the Lord.]

## II. Seeking The Law Of The Lord

- A. You only seek that which you love.
  - 1. You don't seek those things that you are not concerned about.
    - i. Ezra set to seek the law of the Lord.
    - ii. It was a joy and delight to seek God's Word.
  - 2. How often do we get excited about studying God's Word?
    - i. Can this be said of us...
      - a. **Ps 1:2** "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night."
      - b. **Ps 119:47** "And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love."
      - c. **Je 15:16** "Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts."

- B. You only seek that which you are devoted to.
1. If we love studying God's Word and are devoted to it we will...
    - i. Scrutinize the scriptures to be approved by God.
      - a. **II Ti 2:15** "**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God**, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
      - b. **Ac 17:11** "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."
    - ii. Not be ashamed of God's Word.
      - a. **II Ti 2:15** "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, **a worker who does not need to be ashamed**, rightly dividing the word of truth."
      - b. **Ro 1:16** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."
    - iii. Rightly divide the Word of Truth.
      - a. **II Ti 2:15** "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**"
      - b. **II Co 4:2** "But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor **handling the word of God deceitfully**, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."
- C. Do we "seek" the law of the Lord?

[Ezra not only prepared himself to seek the Law of the Lord but he sought to obey it as well.]

### III. Obeying The Law Of The Lord

- A. It's one thing to have the knowledge but another to follow.
1. Many an atheist knows the Bible better than many Christians.
    - i. This does not translate to obeying it however.
  2. We have to have knowledge "seek God's Word"
    - i. **Is 5:13** "Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge; their honored men go hungry, and their multitude is parched with thirst." (ESV)
    - ii. **Ho 4:6** "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."
  3. We are to follow it as well.
    - i. **Mt 7:21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
    - ii. **Jn 14:21** "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

- B. We must be obedient to God's Word.
  - 1. Ezra wanted to obey God's Word as should we.
    - i. **Ps 119:35** "Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it."
    - ii. **Jb 23:12** "I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food."

[Ezra not only sought the Law of the Lord to obey it but he wanted to teach it to the Israelites as well. In **Ne 8:1-8** we see Ezra fulfilling what he set to do.]

#### IV. Teaching The Law Of The Lord

- A. Teaching God's Word to others has always been a child of God's responsibility.
  - 1. **Ps 78:5** "For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children"
  - 2. **Mt 28:19-20** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."
  - 3. **II Ti 2:2** "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."
- B. Like Ezra we need to take our responsibility seriously.
  - 1. We need to let everyone know that Jesus is the Christ.
    - i. **Jn 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
  - 2. We need to let everyone know that He does expect things from us.
    - i. **Mt 7:21; Jn 14:15; II Ti 2:2; 2:15**
  - 3. We need to let everyone know that there is something better awaiting us after this life.
    - i. **Jn 14:2-3** "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."
- C. The world needs to see the light of God.
  - 1. **Mt 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

#### CONCLUSION

- 1. Brothers and sisters we, like Ezra, must set our hearts on the Law of Christ, and obey it. We must take that Law of Christ, as advocates of Christ being His lights, to a lost and dying world.
- 2. Invitation.