

Ezra

According to the record in Ezra chapter seven, Ezra was sent to Jerusalem by Artaxerxes in 458BC with the task to enforce the uniform observance of the Jewish law as given by God through Moses, to this end he had authority to make appointments within the Jewish state.

It is probable that Ezra held a position in Persia comparable to Secretary of State for Jewish Affairs.

Long before this mission given by Artaxerxes, Ezra had been shaped by God in three important ways so he would use this authority well.

Ezra 7:10 [New King James] *“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.”*

First – Ezra as a scribe had dedicated himself to a careful study of God’s Word.

Second – Ezra intended to apply and obey personally the commands he discovered in God’s Word.

Third – Ezra was committed to teaching others God’s Word and its application to day-to-day life.

What is important in God’s eyes is **not** our personal achievements, but our personal commitment to live for the Creator God, [**Romans 1:1-2**].

Achievements are simply examples of what the Creator God can do through a life that is dedicated to serving Him and other human beings.

The most effective leaders spoken of in God’s Word, the Christian Bible, had little awareness of the impact that their lives had on other people.

They were too busy of obeying God to keep track of their successes.

Ezra fits this description.

Knowing Ezra’s priorities, it is not surprising to note his actions when he arrived in Jerusalem, [**Ezra 9:1-15**].

This initial effort on Ezra’s part set the stage for what Nehemiah would accomplish, bringing the people back into obedience to the laws that God had given them through Moses, [**Ezra 10:1-17**].

Ezra continued his ministry under Nehemiah, and the two were used by God to start a spiritual movement that swept the nation of Judah following the rebuilding of Jerusalem.

Ezra achieved great things and made a significant impact because he had the right starting point for his actions and his life, God’s Word, the Christian Bible. Ezra studied it seriously and applied it fully in his own life as he taught others what he had learned.

Ezra is a great role model for anyone who wants to live their life serving the Creator God.

A person’s willingness to know and practice God’s Word, the Christian Bible, will have a direct effect on how the Creator God uses their life now as well as in the future.

Revelation 20:11-12 [New King James] *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was*

opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

The future job of all true Christians in each generation will be to teach those resurrected from the dead using God’s Word, the Christian Bible, as the only textbook.

If we follow Ezra’s example we will be there with him to teach those who are resurrected from our generation.

This should be a powerful incentive in our lives to study and to meditate on God’s Word, the Christian Bible, today and for the rest of our present physical life.