SERIES: Ezra-Nehemiah

**A Kingdom of Priests**

Ezra 7

**A New Focus in the Story**

* Ezra 1-6 focused on **restored** worship.
  + The focus centered on the **temple**.
* Ezra 7-10 focuses on **reformed** life.
  + The focus centers on the **Torah**.

**God Sends a Helper**

* Ezra’s identity…
  + He was a **priest**.
  + He was an **exile**.
* Ezra’s mission:
  + He set his heart to **study** the word.
  + He set his heart to **do** the word.
  + He set his heart to **teach** the word.

**God Has Sent Us**

* Our identity…
  + We are a **kingdom** of priests. (1 Peter 2:9-10)
  + We are a community of exiles. (1 Peter 2:11)
    - Ezra was away from his **physical** home.
    - We are away from our **spiritual** home.
* Our mission…
  + Study the Word: Seek to have your mind **instructed** by God’s word.
  + Obey the Word: Seek to have your heart **submissive** to God’s word.
  + Teach the Word: Seek to have your mouth **filled** with God’s word.

**God is With Us**

* **Praise** the Lord for his unending love.
  + “*Blessed be the Lord… who extended to me his steadfast love…”* (v. 27-28)
* **Trust** the Lord for his unfailing provision.
  + *“Whatever is required… you may provide it out of the king’s treasury.”* (v. 20)
* **Serve** the Lord because of his ongoing presence.
  + *“I took courage, for the hand of the Lord my God was on me…”* (v. 28)

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  + The focus centered on the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
* Ezra 7-10 focuses on **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** life.
  + The focus centers on the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

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  + He was a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
  + He was an **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
* Ezra’s mission:
  + He set his heart to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** the word.
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* Our identity…
  + We are a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of priests. (1 Peter 2:9-10)
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    - Ezra was away from his **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** home.
    - We are away from our **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** home.
* Our mission…
  + Study the Word: Seek to have your mind **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** by God’s word.
  + Obey the Word: Seek to have your heart **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to God’s word.
  + Teach the Word: Seek to have your mouth **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** with God’s word.

**God is With Us**

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** the Lord for his unending love.
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  + *“Whatever is required… you may provide it out of the king’s treasury.”* (v. 20)
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** the Lord because of his ongoing presence.
  + *“I took courage, for the hand of the Lord my God was on me…”* (v. 28)