

The power and effectiveness of a prepared heart

Ezra 7:1-10

Our text begins with the words, “*now after these things.*” With these words we have jumped ahead 56 years from the end of chapter 6, and the completion of the temple in 516bc. Temple worship has now been going on for many years and Zerubbabel, Joshua, Haggai and Zechariah are likely already dead. The results of the revival are being experienced. But things still need to be set in order, so God sends another of His servants – Ezra - to revive His people to rebuild them by the Word of God. God is kind - keeps sending help to His people, but in the midst of this theme of rebuilding, the Lord reveals to us the secrets of rebuilders.

Timeline:        536, The captives return with Zerubbabel: Altar built and Temple foundation laid.  
                      536, Opposition: the temple work stopped for 16 years  
                      520, Temple work resumed  
                      516, Temple finished after 4 years  
                      460, Ezra returns to Jerusalem from Babylon

If you are going to be a rebuilt builder, you must have the following

- I. You must know who you are - Ezra was a priest and understood his function, v1-5
  
- II. You must be skillful - Ezra was skilled in the law of Moses, v6a
  
- III. You must take action - Ezra took bold action, v6b-9
  
- IV. You must have the right anointing - Ezra had God’s good hand upon him, v6c
  
- V. You must prepare your heart for the right things - Ezra prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, v10-11
  1. He had a heart to seek it the law of the Lord
  
  2. He had a heart to obey it
  
  3. He had a heart to teach it

Applications: