

# Ezra – Chapter Eight

## “Depending On God for Everything”

### Timeline

Persian King Artaxerxes I 465-424  
Second Wave Returned in 458 (led by Ezra – chapters 7-10 of Ezra)  
This was 147 years after the Babylonian Captivity began.  
It was 80 years after the first wave of exiles returned.  
It was 58 years after the rebuilding of the Temple was completed.

### Review Chapter 7

- After the rebuilding of the Temple was completed, God’s people once again began to drift spiritually and depart from Him.
  - God raised up Ezra and prepared him to lead a second wave back to Judah and Jerusalem.
  - Ezra was qualified by his lineage to be a High Priest. He was in the line of Aaron (vv. 1-5).
  - He was also a scribe – an expert in God’s Law and He taught it to the people (vv. 10-11).
  - King Artaxerxes was fully on board with Ezra’s planned expedition back to his homeland and he granted Ezra everything he asked for regarding the trip (v. 6, vv. 12-26).
  - Ezra praised the Lord, recognizing the provision was truly from the Lord (vv. 27-28a).
  - He was encouraged as he prepared to begin the journey (v. 28b).
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## We Depend On God –

### For His People Around Us 1-14

- 1-14** 1,496 plus the men named, plus the women and children = 7,000-8,000.  
These were dedicated people – leaving behind a life of ease and comfort in exchange for a life of danger, difficulty, and duty to God.
- 1** “Heads of their fathers houses” – over 100 times in the OT 1:5, 2:68, 3:12, 4:2-3, 8:1, 29.
- 2** “Hattush” – The “lamp of Israel” was still burning (2 Samuel 21:17).
- 3-14** With only a few exceptions, the family names given are also found in the names of the families in chapter 2 who returned in the first wave with Zerubbabel.

### For His Servants to Lead Us 15-20

- 15** Ezra did an inventory by the River Ahava – the gathering place for their departure.
- 16-17** Ezra took the initiative to seek out Levites and Nethinim to join the journey.
- 18-20** The Lord provided 38 Levites and 220 Nethinim (servants to the Levites).

### For His Protection Over Us 21-34

- 21** They fasted and prayed for God’s protection.
- 22** Ezra did not ask for an escort of soldiers because he was more concerned about the Lord’s glory than he was about their safety. (Nehemiah accepted an escort 2:7-9).
- 23** God answered their prayer for safe passage (v.31).
- 24-27** Ezra obeyed God by placing the gifts for the Temple in the hands of the priests and Levites. He was a man of integrity, accountability and responsibility.

- 28-30** He challenged those priests and Levites that they were set apart to God and that they should be men of integrity, accountability and responsibility in carrying out this duty.
- 31-32** The 4 month journey was uneventful: no attacks from enemies or ambush from thieves.
- 33-34** The priest and Levites fulfilled their duty with integrity and accountability.

### **For His Faithfulness To Us 35-36**

- 35** They worshipped God for his faithfulness to bring them back to the land of promise even after generations had gone by and their ancestors had been so unfaithful.
- 36** God was even faithful to give them provision and safety once they arrived in the land. Artaxerxes had called for this in his decree (7:21-24).

## **Doctrinal Conclusions**

### **1. God doesn't promise us it will be easy to obey and serve Him, but He does promise He will be with us (His hand will be upon us).**

**Luke 9:23** Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

**Hebrews 13:5** Let your conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

### **2. Do we trust in the Lord completely and depend on Him for everything?**

**Psalms 118:8-9** *It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man. (9) It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes.*

**2 Samuel 22:4** I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

**Psalms 56:11** In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

### **3. God is working out His plan for our lives even though at times it may not seem like it. Worship in a local church is the time when we gather to remind one another of His great faithfulness!**

**Hebrews 10:23-25** Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. **(24)** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **(25)** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.