

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Ezra 7

Living by His Word

Getting Started

What is the longest trip you've ever made?

Digging In

1. **Background.** Read **Ezra 6:13-15**. Whom did God use to motivate the Jews to complete the rebuilding of the temple?

Note: the rebuilding of the temple was completed in 516 BC. The events of ch. 7 begin in 458 BC.

2. **Read Ezra 7:1-10.** What is significant about Ezra's ancestry?
3. How long did it take for Ezra to travel from Babylon to Jerusalem? (vss. 8-9)
4. In what ways is God's sovereign grace toward Ezra seen in this passage?
5. What can we learn about Ezra's character?
6. **Read vss. 11-26.** Summarize the instructions that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra. (vss. 11-20 and 25-26)
7. What instructions did the king give to the treasurers of Trans-Euphrates? (vss. 21-24)
8. Do you think the king was just being generous? Why or why not?
9. **Read vss. 27-28.** What further evidence do we see of God's sovereign grace in Ezra's words of praise? (cf. also vss. 6 and 9)



Getting Personal

- Write a paraphrase of v. 10.
- To what had Ezra devoted himself? (Look closely.)
- What would that kind of commitment look like for us today?
- What is your plan for feeding regularly on God's word, and putting what you learn into practice?
- What role does God's word play in helping us become transformed as individuals and as a community of Christ-followers?