

# The Kî to God's Blessing

Ezra 7

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## Ezra 7:1-6a

<sup>1</sup>After these things, during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, <sup>2</sup>the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, <sup>3</sup>the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, <sup>4</sup>the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, <sup>5</sup>the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest— <sup>6</sup>this Ezra came up from Babylon.

**Principle: God can use all of us, no matter our past**

## Ezra 7:6-10

<sup>6</sup>this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him. <sup>7</sup>Some of the Israelites, including priests, Levites, musicians, gatekeepers and temple servants, also came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. <sup>8</sup>Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. <sup>9</sup>He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. <sup>10</sup>For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

# The Kî to God's Blessing

Ezra **DEVOTED** himself to....

1. **STUDY** the Bible.
2. **DO** the Bible
3. **TEACH** the Bible

## **Ezra 7:11-13, 27-28**

<sup>11</sup>This is a copy of the letter King Artaxerxes had given to Ezra the priest, a teacher of the Law, a man learned in matters concerning the commands and decrees of the Lord for Israel:

<sup>12</sup>Artaxerxes, king of kings,

To Ezra the priest, teacher of the Law of the God of heaven: Greetings.

<sup>13</sup>Now I decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including priests and Levites, who volunteer to go to Jerusalem with you, may go.

<sup>27</sup>Praise be to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, who has put it into the king's heart to bring honor to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem in this way <sup>28</sup>and who has extended his good favor to me before the king and his advisers and all the king's powerful officials. Because the hand of the Lord my God was on me, I took courage and gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.

## **What about you?**

- **Have you *devoted* yourself to God's Word?**
- **Have you committed yourself to *study* God's Word?**
- **Have you committed yourself to *do* God's Word?**
- **Have you committed yourself to *teach* God's Word?**

## **Take Home: Meditate on these Passages**

### **Psalm 119:10**

"I have sought You with all my heart; don't let me wander from Your commands."

### **Psalm 119:135**

"Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes"

### **Psalm 119:64**

"Lord, the earth is filled with Your faithful love; teach me Your statutes."

### **Psalm 119:72:**

"Instruction from Your lips is better for me than thousands of gold and silver pieces."

### **Ps 119: 103**

"How sweet Your word is to my taste— sweeter than honey in my mouth."

### **Psalm 119:162:**

"I rejoice over Your promise like one who finds vast treasure."