

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

July 17, 2022
Ezra 7:1-10 – A Heart Set on Three Things!

After these things, during the reign of Artaxerxes... (Ezra 7:1)

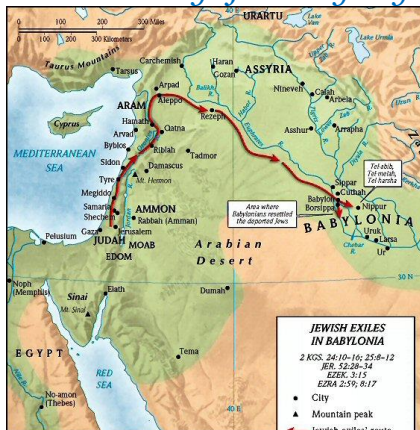
- Ezra 6: Completion of the temple. 515 B.C. (during reign of Darius I).
- Then came Xerxes (Ahasuerus – Book of Esther) (485-465 B.C.)
- Then Artaxerxes 7th Year: 458 B.C.

So between end of Ezra 6 and Ezra 7 is about 57 years (and all the events of the book of Esther).

What does Ezra’s lineage tell us about Ezra?

What did Ezra ask from the king who told him he could have whatever he wanted?

*...Ezra used the king’s favor to advance the cause of God and the cause of God’s people.
 He used His blessings for the glory of God.*



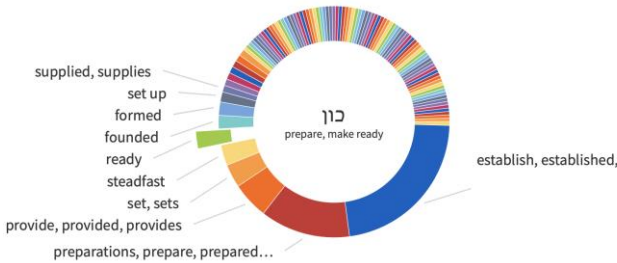
How long did it take Ezra and crew to get from Babylon to Jerusalem?

*...for the gracious hand of his God was on him. For Ezra had devoted himself (set his heart) to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.
(Ezra 7:9-10)*

Devoted himself = SET HIS HEART (Hebrew)

TRANSLATION NIV

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Ezra set his heart to...

- 1) To understand God's Word
- 2) To do God's Word
- 3) To teach others

1) What does it mean to have your heart set on KNOWING GOD'S WORD?

*1 Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers. (Psalm 1)*

2) What does it look like to set your heart to obedience?

“Jesus said: ‘If you love Me, keep My commandments.’ So I’m searching the Bible to see if there are any I’m not keeping.” (CT Studd)

3) What would it look like for you to set your heart to teaching others?

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. (James 3:1)

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. (2 Timothy 4:3)

Even though there are Biblical warnings, all of us are called to share what we know.

He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” (John 9:25)