

BACK TO REALITY

“Faithful to Fulfill: A Study of God as Revealed in Post-Exilic Scripture”

Ezra 7:1-28 / Part 18 / Pastor Matthew Jones

www.delreychurch.com

Preliminaries (Ezra 1-7)

Pedigree (Ezra 7:1–6a)

Preparations (Ezra 7:6b–7)

Passage (Ezra 7:8–10)

Proclamation (Ezra 7:11–26)

Praise (Ezra 7:27–28)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. In our study of Ezra, we saw a genealogy in the text (7:1-6). That said, what is the big deal about genealogies in the Bible and how do they tie into the gospel and the work of Jesus? Discuss (for help see <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-genealogies.html>).
2. Read Ezra 7:10 together. How have you done this in your own life? Sometimes we get into good grooves or habits with this and sometimes we fall out of it. That said, how are you doing with it? What sorts of things do you do to better cultivate this heart and study described in Ezra 7:10. Discuss. Share about your ups and downs in this area of faith/life.
3. In our recent studies in Ezra we have seen how God uses secular government and pagan political powers to do His work (see Ezra 7:27). Can you think of ways God is doing this today to extend His common grace in our culture? Share.
4. Let's build on the last question. So, as God was using pagan powers in Ezra to do His will the biblical narrative often juxtaposes this with God's own people not doing His will. In this case, while Israel was letting the Temple sit unfinished and seemingly doing little-to-nothing about it, these pagan powers were financing and empowering the Temple's rebuild. With this in mind, can you think of ways that our world is outliving us as believers in terms of good works that we should be doing? Discuss (and of course keep in mind the one thing that we do that the world cannot do, that is, gospel witness and worship of the triune God).
5. What were/are your take-aways from the sermon concerning how we view God and what He is doing in the world? How did the sermon both inform you and call you to action? How can you personally apply the Scripture we studied to your life? How can others be praying for you as you apply the word of God to your life and seek the Spirit to empower you in your witness of Christ and joy in the Lord?