

A Prepared Heart

(Ezra 7:10)

- Introduction:
1. Of the billions of people who have walked the face of this earth, God has chosen to write about a handful of men and women.
 2. Some of these were recorded for the ages to remember due to their wickedness, while others are recorded as examples and encouragement to those who want to live righteously.
 3. Ezra, the scribe, falls into this latter category.
 4. Let's see what lessons we can learn and apply from what the Bible says about Ezra.

I. God's Hand Was Upon Ezra

- A. This speaks of God's providential care and blessings.
- B. Three times this truth is stated.
 1. (Ezra 7:6) Given permission because of the hand of the God.
 2. (Ezra 7:9) Journey began because of the good hand of God.
 3. (Ezra 8:18) Wise counsel was given by the good hand of God.
- C. Why would God's providence be active in his life?
 1. He prepared his heart (Ezra 7:10).
 2. (Romans 8:28).

II. He Prepared His Heart to Seek the Law of the Lord

- A. (Ezra 7:10).
- B. (2 Timothy 2:15).
- C. (Hebrews 11:6).
- D. Are you seeking knowledge or are you content?

III. He Prepared His Heart to Do the Law of the Lord

- A. (Ezra 7:10).
- B. (James 1:22; 4:17).
- C. Knowing is not equal to doing.

IV. He Prepared His Heart to Teach the Law of the Lord

- A. (Ezra 7:10).
- B. (2 Corinthians 4:13).
- C. (Matthew 7:12).

- Conclusion:
1. If we want the hand of the Lord blessing our lives, we need to have a prepared heart like Ezra.
 2. Let's stop coasting and work until the Lord calls us to rest.