

the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest—
[Vv. 1–5 *The writer included Ezra’s ancestors. How important were Ezra’s ancestors to him?*]

6 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.

[V. 6 *Ezra was a scribe, a man trained to write and teach.*]

7 Some of the Israelites, including priests, Levites, musicians, gatekeepers and temple servants, also came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

[V. 7 *Sometimes God used pagan kings to help His people.*]

8 Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. **9** 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.

10 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.

[Vv. 8–10 *God blessed Ezra because of his heartfelt decision to study, obey, and teach God’s laws.*]

23 Whatever the God of heaven has prescribed, let it be done with diligence for the temple of the God of heaven. Why should his wrath fall on the realm of the king and of his sons? **24** You are also to know that you have no authority to impose taxes, tribute or duty on any of the priests, Levites, musicians, gatekeepers, temple servants or other workers at this house of God. **25** And you, Ezra, in accordance with the wisdom of your God, which you possess, appoint magistrates and judges to administer justice to all the people of Trans-Euphrates—all who know the laws of your God. And you are to teach any who do not know them. **26** Whoever does not obey the law of your God and the law of the king must surely be punished by death, banishment, confiscation of property, or imprisonment.

[Vv. 23–26 *God put it in the king’s mind to favor Ezra and his God.*]

What I Have Learned

Circle the correct answer:

1. Ezra was _____.
the king’s servant a scribe
2. _____ provided the talents to be a scribe.
God Ezra’s practice
3. By the time Ezra and the people returned to Jerusalem, the king was _____.
Nebuchadnezzar Artaxerxes
4. The king commanded his people to give Ezra _____ he requested.
anything nothing
5. Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of _____, do it, and to teach it in Israel.
the LORD the Persians

Keep In Mind

“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”

(Ezra 7:10, NIV).

Choosing What’s Best

In today’s story, Emma wanted to follow her heart. She loved God, but she didn’t want to feel left out. Imagine you are Emma’s friend. Read Jeremiah 29:11–13. Based on these verses, what can you tell your friend about God’s plans?

Doing My Part

Think of someone who teaches you and encourages you to know God’s Word. This week, write that person a letter or create a card to say, “Thank you.” Will you write to a parent, grandparent, teacher, or pastor?