



GOD
MOVES
HEARTS
FROM DEVOTION TO LEADERSHIP
EZRA 7

A photograph of a stone wall with crenellations, likely a castle or fortress, under a clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with a large pile of grey, angular rocks. The word "PRAYER" is overlaid in white, serif capital letters across the center of the image.

PRAYER



Observations from Ezra 7

What is happening in these verses?

Verses 1-5: About Ezra (Lineage)

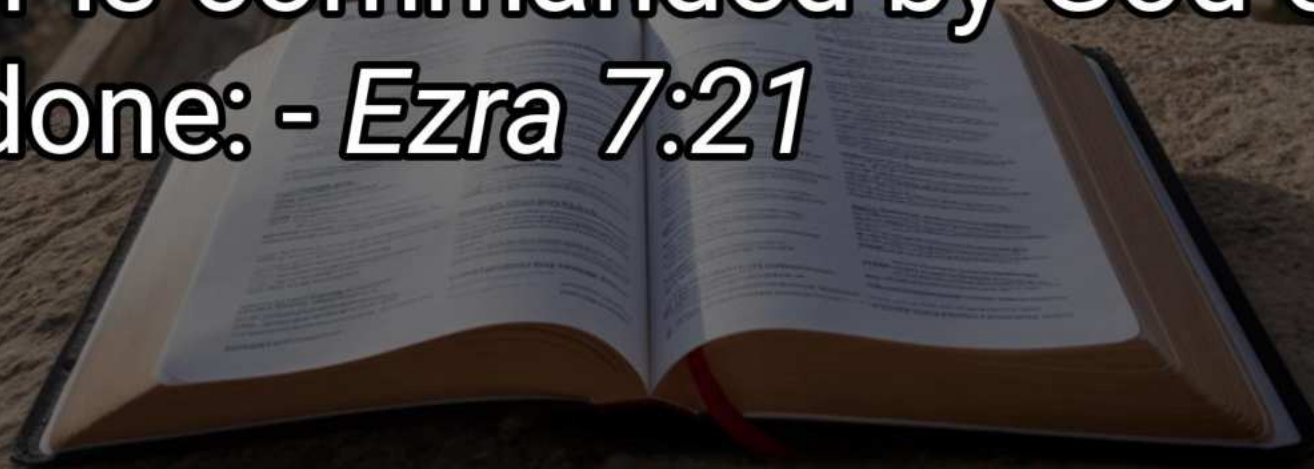


Verses 6-10: The Blessing and Dedication of Ezra



Verses 11-26: King Artaxerxes' Decree

- Use the money according to God's will: - *Ezra 7:17*
- Whatever is commanded by God or Ezra, let it be done: - *Ezra 7:21*



An open Bible with a red cover lies on a rough stone surface. The background shows a coastal city with buildings and a large body of water under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, bold font with a black outline.

- **Verses 27-28: The King's Blessing and Conversion**

- Consider the three kings:
 - Cyrus, Darius, Artaxerxes — pagan kings whose hearts were changed by God.

Lessons from Ezra 7

What can we learn (interpret) from these verses?

Lessons / Interpretations from Ezra 7

1. Ezra's heart and devotion were to God and the Word.

2. Like Cyrus and Darius, the heart of Artaxerxes was changed by the Holy Spirit; divine intervention.

Lessons / Interpretations from Ezra 7

3. Ezra provides a framework of faithfulness to God:

- The heart to study the word.
- The devotion to do what the word says.
- Teach others what you have learned.

The background is a close-up photograph of a stone wall. The stones are light-colored, possibly limestone or sandstone, and are arranged in a regular pattern. There are some darker, shadowed areas between the stones, particularly in the center and towards the right. The overall lighting is somewhat dim, giving it a textured and aged appearance.

Application from Ezra 7

**How can I apply / live out
these verses?**

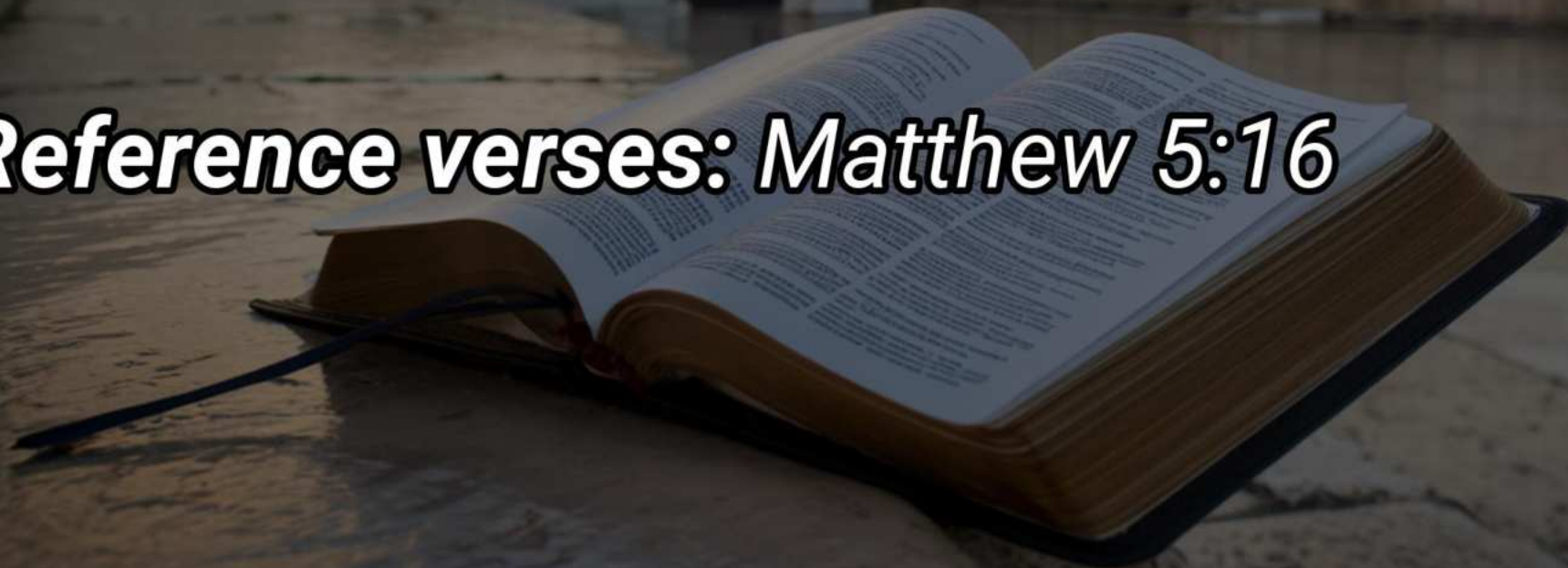
1. Pray for the heart of those in authority.

Reference verses: 1 Timothy 2:1-2

An open Bible with a blue cover and ribbon, resting on a stone surface in front of a stone wall. The Bible is open to two pages of text, and the ribbon is visible on the left side. The background is a blurred stone wall.

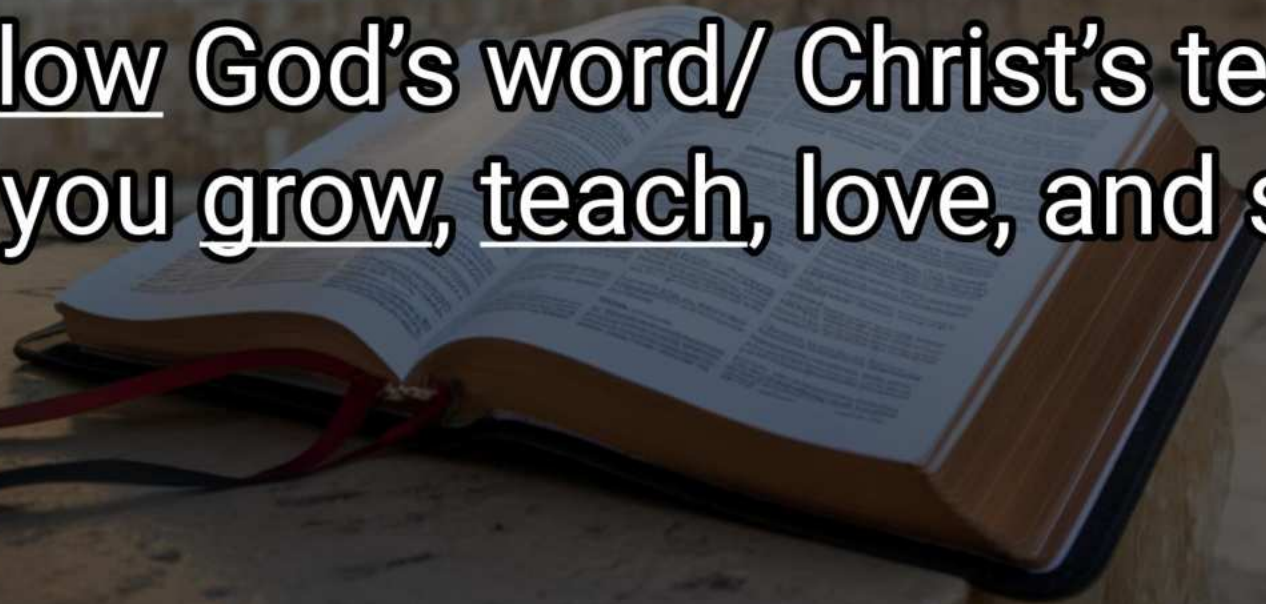
**2. Use your power/influence for the
Glory of God.**

Reference verses: Matthew 5:16



3. Consider Ezra's framework:

- 1. Have a heart to seek God and His word.**
- 2. Follow God's word/ Christ's teachings.**
- 3. As you grow, teach, love, and serve others.**





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A photograph of a stone wall with crenellations, likely a castle or fortress, under a clear blue sky. The foreground is a gravel path. The word "PRAYER" is overlaid in white, serif, all-caps font in the center of the image.

PRAYER

A photograph of a stone wall with crenellations, likely a castle or fortress, under a blue sky with light clouds. The foreground is a cobblestone path. The word "BENEDICTION" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

BENEDICTION