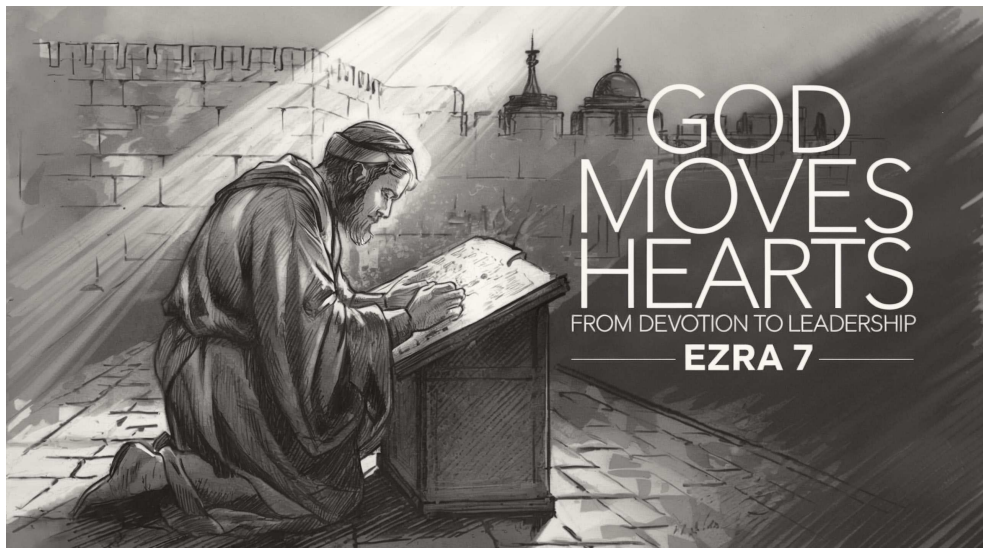


God Moves Hearts: From Devotion to Leadership

October 13, 2024 | *Ezra 7*



Observations from Ezra 7:

What is happening in these verses?

Verses 1-5: About Ezra (Lineage)

- Ezra's lineage traced back to Aaron, the chief priest. This was to show:
 - God's faithfulness to his people
 - Ezra's credibility

Verses 6-10: The Blessing and Dedication of Ezra

- The hand of God was upon Ezra: *Ezra 7:6 and Ezra 7:9*

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*

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

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

Ontario Community Church: **Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.**

John 6:47 (ESV) "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** has eternal life"

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Lessons from Ezra 7

What can we learn (interpret) from these verses?

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

Reference Verse: Ezra 7:10

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

Reference Verse: Proverbs 21:1

3. Ezra provides a framework of faithfulness to God:

- The heart to study the word. - *Ref: Psalm 119:10:*
- The devotion to do what the word says. - *Ref: James 1:22:*
- Teach others what you have learned. - *Ref: Matthew 28:19-20:*

Application from Ezra 7

How can I apply / live out these verses?

1. Pray for the heart of those in authority.

Reference Verse: 1 Timothy 2:1-2

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

Reference Verse: Matthew 5:16

3. Consider Ezra's framework:

- Have a heart to seek God and His word. - *Ref: Psalm 119:10*
- Follow God's word/ Christ's teachings. - *Ref: James 1:22*
- As you grow, teach, love, and serve others. - *Ref: Matthew 28:19-20*

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