

# A Matter of the Heart

Living in Community (Ezra-Nehemiah) Series - Ezra 7:1-28

April 10, 2016, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

Difficulties comparing Hebrew text with Persian history

- Hebrew translations of Persian names / Persian kings with multiple names
  - Hebrew Artaxerxes (Ezra 4) = Cambyses
  - Hebrew Ahasuerus (Esther) = Xerxes?

Asking the right questions

- What message does the Holy Spirit intend to convey by presenting the information in this way?
  - God *still* **directs** the hearts of kings as the rivers of water.

Understanding who Ezra is.

Learning from Ezra (7:10)

- 1) Starts with the **heart**
- 2) Which leads to a desire to **learn** (study)
- 3) Which results in application of those principles and **living** them out
- 4) Which prompts to **tell others** what we have found (to save them troubles)

God's activity

- 1) Artaxerxes endorsed Ezra's trip (7:11-20)

- 2) God provided financially in unexpected/ unplanned ways.
- 3) Artaxerxes enforced national support (7:21-24)
- 4) Artaxerxes gave Ezra authority (7:25-26)

## Ezra's response

## Lessons

- 1) "The liberality of heathen kings to support the worship of God, reproached the conduct of many kings of Judah, and will rise up in judgment against the covetousness of professed Christians, who will not [**contribute** to] the cause of God."<sup>1</sup>
- 2) Have **YOU** "set [your] heart to"
  - 1) study God's word[learn],
  - 2) and to do it [live]
  - 3) "and to teach His statutes and rules [teach others]"?  
(Ezra 7:10, ESV)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-concise/ezra/7.html>, accessed 4/5/16.

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- What message does the Holy Spirit intend to convey by presenting the information in this way?
  - God *still* \_\_\_\_\_ the hearts of kings as the rivers of water.

Understanding who Ezra is.

Learning from Ezra (7:10)

- 5) Starts with the \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Which leads to a desire to \_\_\_\_\_ (study)
- 7) Which results in application of those principles and \_\_\_\_\_ them out
- 8) Which prompts to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ what we have found (to save them troubles)

God's activity

- 5) Artaxerxes endorsed Ezra's trip (7:11-20)

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## Ezra's response

## Lessons

- 3) "The liberality of heathen kings to support the worship of God, reproached the conduct of many kings of Judah, and will rise up in judgment against the covetousness of professed Christians, who will not [\_\_\_\_\_ to] the cause of God."<sup>2</sup>
- 4) Have **YOU** "set [your] heart to"
  - 4) study God's word[learn],
  - 5) and to do it [live]
  - 6) "and to teach His statutes and rules [teach others]"?  
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