

Ezra 7:27-28 – Ezra, Having a Heart for the Word of God, Praises the LORD!

3/2/19 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

STANDING ON THE PROMISES - Russell Carter – Maranatha Singers

1 Standing on the promises of Christ the King, through eternal ages let His praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

*2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, **by the living Word of God I shall prevail**, standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)*

3 Standing on the promises I now can see Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me; Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free, Standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

4 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

Ezra Leads Second Return to Israel from Babylonian Captivity

We come to the second major division in the little Book of Ezra. The first six chapters told us about the return of the Jews from Babylon to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel—about fifty thousand Jews left Babylon at that time. The Jews had gone into the Babylonian captivity because they continually turned to idolatry, and God gave them a gold cure in Babylon. Also the Jews had disobeyed the Mosaic Law in that they had not allowed the land to lie fallow every seventh year. They probably did not think it was too important. They thought they were getting by with breaking that law, but God said, “I’m going to put you out of the land for seventy years so that the land can catch up on the Sabbaths it has missed.” After the land had rested and renewed itself for seventy years, God allowed His people to return. Then there was another wave of revival among the Jews who had been captives and were still living in Babylon. Ezra led a second group back to Jerusalem. Up to this point Ezra, although he is the writer of this book, has not figured in its history at all. In the final four chapters we meet the author. In chapters 7 and 8 we see the return of 3,000-5,000 Jews led by Ezra. In chapters 9 and 10 we see the reformation under Ezra. Revival led to reformation, and that is always the order. We will see that again when we study Nehemiah.

Ezra’s Prayer of Praise - Ezra Sent to Teach the People— Ezra 7:27-28

*Ezra 7:1 Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, **Ezra** the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,*

*Ezra 7:2-5 the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, [3] the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, [4] the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, [5] the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the **son of Aaron** the chief priest—*

*Ezra 7:6 **this Ezra came up from Babylon**; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, **according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.***

Ezra 7:7 Some of the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

Ezra 7:8 And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

*Ezra 7:9 On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, **according to the good hand of his God upon him.***

*Ezra 7:10 For **Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.***

*Ezra 7:11 This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave **Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of His statutes to Israel:***

Ezra 7:12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven: Perfect peace, and so forth.

Ezra 7:13 I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you.

Ezra 7:14 And whereas you are being sent by the king and his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, with regard to the Law of your God which is in your hand;

Ezra 7:15 and whereas you are to carry the silver and gold which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem;

Ezra 7:16 and whereas all the silver and gold that you may find in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offering of the people and the priests, are to be freely offered for the house of their God in Jerusalem—

Ezra 7:17 now therefore, be careful to buy with this money bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them on the altar of the house of your God in Jerusalem.

Ezra 7:18 And whatever seems good to you and your brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do it according to the will of your God.

Ezra 7:19 Also the articles that are given to you for the service of the house of your God, deliver in full before the God of Jerusalem.

Ezra 7:20 And whatever more may be needed for the house of your God, which you may have occasion to provide, pay for it from the king's treasury.

Ezra 7:21 And I, even I, Artaxerxes the king, issue **a decree to all the treasurers** who are in the region beyond the River, that **whatever Ezra** the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, **may require of you, let it be done diligently,**

Ezra 7:22 up to one hundred talents of silver, one hundred kores of wheat, one hundred baths of wine, one hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribed limit.

Ezra 7:23 **Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it diligently be done for the house of the God of heaven.** For why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

Ezra 7:24 Also we inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tax, tribute, or custom on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or servants of this house of God.

Ezra 7:25 And you, Ezra, **according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are in the region beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know them.**

Ezra 7:26 Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment.

Ezra 7:27 Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem,

Ezra 7:28 and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me.

SUMMARY:

- **Vs. 6, 9, 28 - according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him** – 3 times we're told God's hand is on Ezra!
- **Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.**
- **the letter that King Artaxerxes gave Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of His statutes to Israel:**
- **Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are in the region beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know them.**
- **Ezra 7:26 Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment.**
- **Ezra's Response - Praises & Thanks To the LORD! - Ezra 7:27-28 Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, [28] and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me.**
- **To be prepared to serve the LORD well, we need to do as Ezra did: He prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.**

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS! –Thomas Chisholm – William Runyan – sung by Tom Fettke

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Lord, unto me!

Pray for World Leaders, including: Donald Trump – USA; Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel; Angela Merkel – Germany; Theresa May – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea

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