

✠ Unsheathing the SWORD ✠



EZRA

MEMORIZATION – Ezra 9:13 – “What has happened to us is a result of our evil deeds and our great guilt, and yet, our God, You have punished us less than our sins have deserved and have given us a remnant like this.”

Chapter 1

1. a) Who is the king?
b) What is the country?

2. What prophet is mentioned here?

Extra credit: a) Read Jeremiah 29:10-14. About how many hundreds of years had passed from the time of this prophecy to Ezra’s time?

b) Also read Isaiah 44:28-45:13 and think about how the exiles must have felt as Cyrus became their king.

4. Who has given Cyrus all the kingdoms of the earth?

5. According to the proclamation:

- a) what should be built in Jerusalem?
- b) who are released from exile and allowed to go to Jerusalem?
- c) who are to donate to the rebuilding of the temple?

6. Match the kings with their actions in chapters 1-4.

Cyrus	_____	a) issues a stop order on the rebuilding
Xerxes	_____	b) resumes rebuilding
Artaxerxes	_____	c) orders rebuilding of the temple
Darius	_____	d) ignores accusation against the Jews

7. What tribes are mentioned as preparing to go up to Jerusalem?
8. True or false: The gifts and offerings all come from the Hebrews.
9. What valuable items does King Cyrus have returned to Sheshbazzar?
10. Who is Sheshbazzar?

Chapter 2

1. True or false: All of the returning exiles settle in Jerusalem.

Extra credit: Notice the importance of family genealogy. Can you think of any reason for this?

Chapter 3

1. Once the returning exiles get settled in, on the first day of the seventh month, the people assemble in Jerusalem and reinstate what daily observance?
2. From where do the cedar logs for the temple come?
3. What group supervises the building of the temple?
4. At the laying of the temple's foundation the people celebrate with (circle one):

- a) trumpets
- b) cymbals
- c) singing
- d) shouts of praise and joy
- e) tears
- f) all of the above

Chapter 4

1. True or false: Their neighbors encourage and aid the rebuilding of the temple.

Chapter 5

1. A plea is made by the governor of Trans-Euphrates to King Darius to search the royal archives. The governor's goal is to (circle one):
 - a) help with the building of the temple
 - b) block the construction of the temple
 - c) ask for money to help build the city wall
 - d) all of the above

Chapter 6

1. Get it in writing! When the edict is found, King Darius tells the Trans-Euphrates governor and his officials (circle one):
 - a) stay away from the temple
 - b) do not interfere with the temple work
 - c) pay the Jews' expenses from the Trans-Euphrates revenues
 - d) all of the above
2. The king means business! What will happen to anyone who tampers with this edict?
3. What is the reaction of the Trans-Euphrates governor and his officials to King Darius' decree?
4. The Jews prosper under the preaching of what two men?

5. The temple is finished according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of what three kings of Persia?

6. The priests and Levites are installed for the service of God according to what writings?

Chapter 7

1. A new “batch” of Israelites comes up from Babylon. What is the name of the descendant of Aaron and teacher well versed in the Law of Moses?

Extra credit (because it doesn't really matter): How long does Ezra's trip take from Babylon to Jerusalem?

2. True or false: At the time of this King Artaxerxes any of the Israelites in his kingdom are free to return to Jerusalem.

3. To whom do the king and his advisors freely give silver and gold?

Extra credit: Have you noticed that in our readings of the fall and exile of Israel and Judah the term used by various kings of other nations for the Lord of the Israelites is often the same phrase? What is the common name/phrase?

Chapter 8

1. As Ezra and his group prepare for the journey to Jerusalem, does it seem to you that they are faithful followers of the Lord? Why or why not?

2. Why doesn't Ezra want to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect them on the journey?

Chapter 9

1. Some of the people of Israel “have not kept themselves separate from the neighboring peoples _____, like those of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians and Amorites.”

2. According to verse 14 of Ezra’s prayer, what is it about the neighboring peoples that makes intermarriage with them the equivalent of unfaithfulness?

Chapter 10

1. True or false: Each marriage to a foreign woman is dealt with individually.

Extra credit: How many men are on the intermarriage list?

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