

Haggai, Ezra and Nehemiah

Gail Arterburn –2021

Monday, 9:30 – 11:00 am

To be discussed –02/01/21

Lesson 5

Ezra 7:1-28

1. Read Ezra 7:1-7. What do we know about Ezra from his genealogy (vv. 1-5)? What other necessary qualification did he have to lead the exiles back to God (v. 6)?
2. Why did the king grant him everything he asked for? (v. 6) What does that say about the way Ezra had lived his life in captivity? Why was *the gracious hand of his God on him* according to vv. 9-10? Is that convicting or encouraging to you personally?
3. How long did it take Ezra and his fellow travelers to travel from Babylon to Jerusalem?
4. Read Ezra 7:11-26. As you read this letter, note the different ways Artaxerxes refers to God. How do you think he viewed Ezra's God? What impact do you think that had on his generous support of Ezra?
5. Describe the wide range of authority and support given to Ezra by Artaxerxes in the following verses. Notice what he took with him on the journey and the powers he had and did not have after he arrived in Jerusalem.
 - vv. 13-14

 - vv. 15-20

 - vv. 21-23

 - vv. 25-26
6. Read Ezra 7:27-28. What was Ezra's response to all of this? What does that reveal about his character?