

"Ezra: The Man With the Right Heart"

The Book of Ezra, part of the Hebrew Bible and Old Testament, follows the books of Kings and Chronicles. It details the restoration of the Jewish community in Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile. The book is divided into two main parts: Ezra 1-6, focusing on the return of exiles and the Temple's rebuilding, and Ezra 7-10, dealing with reforms to restore obedience to God's laws.

Ezra, a prominent figure, is introduced in Chapter 7. He is a respected priest and teacher, descended from Aaron, skilled in the law of Moses. His call is marked by divine favour, evident in the support he receives from King Artaxerxes. The king grants him extensive powers, including resources, authority, and tax exemption, emphasizing God's hand in Ezra's mission.

Ezra's preparation is a crucial aspect of his character. He dedicates himself to the Word of God, committing to studying and applying the law, which contributes to his success and effectiveness. His wholehearted commitment and obedience set him apart.

The manner in which Ezra carries out his mission is noteworthy. Recognizing the importance of knowledge and obedience, he seeks to re-establish proper worship in Jerusalem by aligning the people's lifestyle with God's law. His gratitude and acknowledgment of God's role in his achievements underscore his humility.

The narrative draws parallels to modern believers, emphasizing the significance of spiritual preparation, reliance on God's favour, and the practical application of God's Word in daily life.

We can draw parallels between Ezra's call and the believer's call to service. Believers are encouraged to recognize their unique calling, seek divine empowerment, and maintain obedience to God's law. He has prepared a specific role for you to play. We need to understand the role of spiritual preparation for effective service & encourage a reliance on God's favour and empowerment in our service.

In conclusion, Ezra emerges as a giant of a man due to his right heart, shaped by a commitment to knowing, living, and teaching God's law. The passage looks at themes such as divine calling, God's favour, and the importance of studying and applying God's Word, providing practical insights for believers.