Ezra - Commentaries by Norman W. Berry

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, Ezra 7, Verses 11-28, Day 247 -

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V.11-26 The king gave this letter to Ezra when he went from Babylon to Jerusalem. Notice in verse 13, “which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem.” Each person was free to go or stay. To stay probably meant prosperity, to go meant hardship, but was pleasing to the Lord,

V.25 Notice what the king said that Ezra had in his hand.

V.27-28 He took no credit to himself, nor to his influence with the king, but rather thanked and praised the Lord for this wonderful open door.

Notice how many times the Lord’s hand is upon Ezra.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, Ezra 7, Verses 1-10, Day 246 -

About eighty years have gone by between chapters 6 and 7. Here to the end of the book, Ezra appears for the first time and personally tells of leading the second group out of Babylon.

V.1-5 Ezra was a descendant of Aaron, and therefore was a priest by birth.

V.6 Ezra also carefully read the law of Moses. This is the only way he could be of help to others.

V.10 Notice three things in this verse. Good for us too.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, Ezra 2, Verses 58-70, Day 241 -

V.61-63 A sad and important lesson. Some were “put from the priesthood” because they could not prove what family they belonged to. It made no difference while they were in captivity, but now when they have returned to occupy again the place where the Lord had set His name, there was much care as to who should act as a priest and who should not. When it is a question of the worship of God, we see how absolutely necessary it is that it be done according to God’s order and not according to what men think. This is why there are so many denominations today (John 4:23).

V.68 When they came to the house of the Lord which is at Jerusalem they saw that it had been destroyed. They had come there to rebuild it yet they act in wonderful faith, as if the house were truly standing.

V.70 We have read of seven groups. Those who returned were seen as taking the place of the nation of “all Israel,” even though they were less than 50,000 (Read Rom. 11:26).

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, Ezra 2, Verses 1-57, Day 240 -

V.1-2 The actual names of some of those who wanted to go back to God’s center — Jerusalem. Although everything was in ruins there, they still wanted to go. Most had not been there!

V.2 Zerubbabel was the leader. Turn to Matthew 1:1-16 which gives the royal line from Abraham through King David to Christ (Notice v. 12). Does God control things? This very man Zerubbabel is of that royal line actually the King of Israel. Just as Jesus was (Matt. 2:1-2; 27:37).

V.2-58 Although we may find it hard to even pronounce these names, the Lord holds these people so dear to Him that He tells us who they were! Notice that they went by households (take a minute to read Ex. 1:1). How happy we are when our children follow the Lord. We can count on this, when we ourselves follow Him.