

The Book of Ezra

A study using 18 questions per chapter
The purpose of this study is to find out
What the Bible says.



THE WORD FOR THE WORLD
STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
by
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Bill desires that this study be made available to everyone to be used for their further understanding of What The Bible Says. This study may be photo copied for single church use and/or translated into any language where it can be used with permission from the author.

INSTRUCTIONS

or suggestions as to how to conduct this study.

I can only suggest how this study was originally conducted and it was very successful. First of all, we tried to arrange a very informal atmosphere with the folks sitting in a loose circle. We would begin the session by having tea, or cokes and an informal time of fellowship. Then we would have a prayer time with everyone suggesting names of those for whom we should pray. It was also mentioned each session that we expected that each individual have at least one person for whom they would agree to pray for in regards to that person's salvation.

To actually begin the study the entire chapter would be read aloud with each one willing to read, taking the number of verses and dividing it by the number of people present and each one reading a portion.

Then the first one on the left (a habit of mine) would begin by reading the first question and giving their answer. The verse where their answer was found must also be given. Then the leader asks if everybody agrees. Let discussion carry on as necessary but not too long. Then go to the next question and the next person until all of the fifteen questions are answered.

For the discussion questions (numbers 16-17-18) each person present should give their answer once again going from the first one on the left and so on. Answer one question at a time, with each person present giving their reasons for their answer to each question. Discussion can be long or short depending on how the group feels. Do not carry the class session on too long.

Encourage each one to prepare his answers BEFORE the session begins if at all possible only because they will get more out of the discussion if they have thought about it.

INTRODUCTION

This book tells about the return of the people of Israel from Babylonia after 70 years of captivity. King Cyrus allowed them to return under the leadership of Zerubbabel in order to rebuild the temple. They began with enthusiasm but were delayed for 18 years by their enemies to the north. King Darius of Persia sent a decree that let them finish their work. Ezra returned in 458 B.C. to teach the people the Law and to reform their religious life. Ezra wrote both this book and the book of Nehemiah.

THE BOOK OF EZRA - Chapter 1
SHORT ANSWERS

1. Who allowed the people of Jerusalem and Judah to return to Jerusalem? _____
_____. Verse _____
2. How was the building of the temple to be financed? _____
_____. Verse _____
3. To whom was given the articles from the temple in Jerusalem? _____ . Verse _____
4. How many articles were there in all? _____ . Verse _____
5. When had they been brought from Jerusalem? _____ . Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ God spoke through Jeremiah but also moved the heart of King Cyrus
7. _____ King Cyrus said it was his job to rebuild the temple.
8. _____ The people from Jerusalem, Judah and the Kingdom of Israel were all
allowed to return to Jerusalem.
9. _____ The priests and the Levites were allowed to return also.
10. _____ Sheshbazzar was a prince of Judah.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was it important that the decree be in writing? (See Esther 1:19)
12. _____ Did King Cyrus think that the Jew's God lived only in Jerusalem?
13. _____ Is the tribe of Benjamin the only tribe listed as being able to return?
14. _____ Did ALL the people return to Jerusalem?
15. _____ Were freewill offerings also given to help rebuild the temple?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY: (The following questions could be used in place of or in addition to the ones in the lessons for those who are more advanced in Bible knowledge.)

1. What does this chapter teach about Jesus?
2. What does this chapter teach about God?
3. What does this chapter teach about the Holy Spirit?
4. Does this chapter contain promises to be received, commands to be obeyed or warnings to be heeded?

THE BOOK OF EZRA - Chapter 2
SHORT ANSWERS

1. Where did each person returning from captivity settle? _____. Verse _____
2. Name the leaders who led the return to Jerusalem. _____. Verse _____
3. How many returned who were descendants of Bigvai? _____. Verse _____
4. How many priests returned? _____. Verse _____
5. How many total returned including menservants and maidservants? _____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ Nehemiah went back with the first group.
7. _____ The descendants of the servants of Solomon were allowed to return.
8. _____ There were more than 92,000 who returned to Jerusalem.
9. _____ When some of the priests could not find their family records they were not allowed to go back.
10. _____ Upon arriving in Jerusalem each person gave an offering according to his ability.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Were only those from Jerusalem allowed to return?
12. _____ Were there only a few Levites who returned?
13. _____ Were servants also allowed to return?
14. _____ Did camels and donkeys go with them back to Jerusalem?
15. _____ Did the priests have priestly garments to wear?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

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THE BOOK OF EZRA - Chapter 3
SHORT ANSWERS

1. When did the priests begin to sacrifice burnt offerings? _____. Verse _____
2. What was brought from Lebanon for building the temple? _____. Verse _____
3. When did the actual work begin on the temple? _____. Verse _____
4. What did the older ones who had actually seen the former temple do when the foundations were laid? _____. Verse _____
5. What did those who were younger do when the foundation was laid? _____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ Moses is called the man of God in this chapter.
7. _____ Sacrifices were offered every day in the morning at noon and in the evening.
8. _____ The feast of Tabernacles was celebrated BEFORE the foundation was laid.
9. _____ The priests used trumpets and cymbals for the celebration.
10. _____ The celebration was a noisy affair.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Were ALL of the feasts days observed as they built?
12. _____ Did the people of Tyre and Sidon receive pay for what they supplied?
13. _____ Were all of the Levites 30 years and older put into service?
14. _____ Did they follow the directions for praise left by David the King?
15. _____ Is shouting a form of praise?

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16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

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THE BOOK OF EZRA - Chapter 4
SHORT ANSWERS

1. Where were the men from who objected to the rebuilding of Jerusalem? _____
_____. Verse _____
2. When those who offered to help were turned down what did they do? _____
_____. Verse _____
3. What did they call the area where Jerusalem was? _____ . Verse _____
4. What was their argument about rebuilding the city and temple? _____
_____. Verse _____
5. What was the result of the letter from King Artaxerxes? _____
_____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ Those who were enemies were deceitful in offering to help build the temple.
7. _____ The letter written to King Artaxerxes had to be translated to be read by him.
8. _____ King Artaxerxes was told that no more tribute would be paid when the walls were built.
9. _____ Those opposing the building were from Bethlehem.
10. _____ The work on the temple was stopped by force.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was it King Cyrus who sent people to live in Samaria?
12. _____ Did the Samaritans send reports to Xerxes and Artaxerxes?
13. _____ Did the records that were searched show Jerusalem as rebellious?
14. _____ Did King Artaxerxes order the work to stop?
15. _____ Was work on the temple stopped for a while?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

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THE BOOK OF EZRA - Chapter 5
SHORT ANSWERS

1. Who were the prophets at this time in Judah and Jerusalem? _____
_____. Verse _____
2. Even though the people were ordered to stop, why did the work continue on for a while? _____
_____. Verse _____
3. Who governed the people in Jerusalem? _____.. Verse _____
4. What did the elders say caused Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Jerusalem? _____
_____. Verse _____
5. What was the main request in the letter sent to King Darius? _____
_____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ Even the prophets were helping to rebuild the temple.
7. _____ A new governor of Trans-Euphrates sent a letter to Darius King of Persia.
8. _____ The man to whom the temple items were given was appointed governor of Judea.
9. _____ Even though the temple rebuilding was started it was not finished yet.
10. _____ No mention was made about rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Did the governor ask for specific name of the builders?
12. _____ Did the elders of Israel trust in their own wisdom in these matters?
13. _____ Was the work on the temple going very slowly?
14. _____ Was the new temple being rebuilt on the site of the old one?
15. _____ Were they waiting for a decision from King Darius?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

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THE BOOK OF EZRA - Chapter 6
SHORT ANSWERS

1. Where was the scroll written by Cyrus found? _____ . Verse _____
2. What orders did King Darius give to Tattenai? _____
_____. Verse _____
3. What was to happen to anyone who defied these orders? _____
_____. Verse _____
4. What sacrifice was offered for each of the tribes of Israel? _____ . Verse _____
5. Who slaughtered the Passover lambs for all of Israel? _____ . Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ The former King Cyrus even gave the dimensions for the temple to be rebuilt.
7. _____ Even if another king were to defy this order they were to be punished.
8. _____ The prophets preached to the people.
9. _____ The temple was rebuilt according to the command of God and the kings of Persia.
10. _____ At the completion of the building some of the priests were still not purified.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was the cost of the temple to be the responsibility of the Jews?
12. _____ Was the governor of Trans-Euphrates told to help with the rebuilding?
13. _____ Were the Jews told to pray for their enemies?
14. _____ Were 600 male lambs sacrificed for a sin offering for all of Israel?
15. _____ Did the Jews separate themselves completely from their gentile neighbors?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

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THE BOOK OF EZRA - Chapter 7
SHORT ANSWERS

1. Ezra's line was traced back to what man? _____. Verse _____
2. Ezra was a student and teacher of what law? _____. Verse _____
3. Who sent Ezra to Jerusalem? _____. Verse _____
4. What names are given to God in this chapter? _____. Verse _____
5. What was to happen to anyone who did not obey the Law of God that Ezra taught? _____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ King Artaxerxes gave Ezra everything he wanted because God was with him.
7. _____ Any gold or silver left over from building the temple belonged to Ezra.
8. _____ Anyone who wanted to return to Jerusalem could go with Ezra.
9. _____ Even the foreign people were commanded to give things to Israel.
10. _____ Ezra was given orders to appoint magistrates and judges.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was Ezra held in high esteem by King Artaxerxes?
12. _____ Did it take Ezra 4 months travel to get to Jerusalem?
13. _____ Did Artaxerxes call the Lord "The God of Heaven?"
14. _____ Were the priests to be exempt from paying taxes.
15. _____ Did Ezra know that God was with him?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
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THE BOOK OF EZRA - Chapter 8
SHORT ANSWERS

1. When all those going to Jerusalem gathered at the canal, who was missing? _____
_____. Verse _____
2. Why did Ezra refuse to ask for an armed guard for the journey? _____
_____. Verse _____
3. What requirement was mentioned in order to go with Ezra to Jerusalem? _____
_____. Verse _____
4. Who carried the silver and gold to Jerusalem? _____ . Verse _____
5. What was to be done with the silver and gold once they got to Jerusalem? _____
_____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ To go with Ezra a family record had to be given.
7. _____ Ezra sent men to Iddo to secure priests to go with him to Jerusalem.
8. _____ God protected them on their journey.
9. _____ Upon arriving in Jerusalem they set about working right away.
10. _____ Everything was accounted for by number and weight.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Were temple servants also registered by name?
12. _____ Was fasting and prayer a part of the preparation for the journey?
13. _____ Was Ezra too proud to ask for soldiers to go with him?
14. _____ Were the Levites the only ones responsible for getting the silver and gold to Jerusalem?
15. _____ Did Ezra carry orders from the king for those in the country?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
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THE BOOK OF EZRA - Chapter 9
SHORT ANSWERS

1. What had the priests and the Levites done that displeased God? _____
_____. Verse _____
2. How did Ezra react to this unfaithfulness? _____
_____. Verse _____
3. What had God given to the exiles? _____
_____. Verse _____
4. Who were the people that Israel was allowed to make a treaty with? _____ . Verse _____
5. How many of the Israelites were guilty before God? _____ . Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ Tearing his tunic and cloak, Ezra showed his despair at what was happening.
7. _____ It was the leaders and officials who led the way into this new sin.
8. _____ Because of the sins of their nation only a remnant remained of the people.
9. _____ It was the priests who warned the people about forbidden marriages.
10. _____ Ezra was afraid that God would destroy this remnant for this sin.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Were the Israelites called the holy race in this chapter?
12. _____ Did Ezra lift up his face toward God when he prayed?
13. _____ Were the Israelites still slaves to Babylon?
14. _____ Did Ezra think that God's punishment of the nation was unfair?
15. _____ Were even those of the remnant guilty of sin?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
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THE BOOK OF EZRA - Chapter 10
SHORT ANSWERS

1. What did Shecaniah suggest to Ezra? _____ . Verse _____
2. What would happen to anyone who failed to assemble in Jerusalem within 3 days? _____ . Verse _____
3. Why was there a slight change in plans in getting rid of the foreign wives? _____ . Verse _____
4. How many opposed the change? _____ . Verse _____
5. Who did Ezra appoint to investigate each case? _____ . Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ In spite of their sin Ezra thought there was still hope for Israel.
7. _____ The leading priests and Levites all took an oath to make things right.
8. _____ The elders were also involved in the decision making process.
9. _____ Each guilty man presented a ram as a guilt offering.
10. _____ These men sent away their foreign wives but kept their children by them

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was Ezra so distressed that he threw himself down before the house of God?
12. _____ Did Shecaniah give good advice to Ezra?
13. _____ Were they to do things according to the Law?
14. _____ If anyone failed to appear within 3 days, could they stay but lose their property?
15. _____ Was each man named who had a foreign wife?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

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