

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on **Ezra**

by David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge the student to study to understand Scripture. The material is copyrighted, but each student has permission to print copies of the material for his/her personal or family study. I suggest that each student print a copy of these questions and place them in a notebook. In addition, teachers are permitted to make copies for students they teach in a class or home Bible study setting. See copyright notes at the end of this material for further information.

Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned.

I also **strongly** urge teachers to use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive in-class discussion. Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc. Instead, let the questions be assigned as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly."

I also urge the class to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on. (Note: My abbreviation "**b/c/v**" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

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For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

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Assignments on Ezra 1,2

Please read Ezra 1,2 and answer the following questions. ("Think" questions need not be answered here, but please carefully consider them.)

1. Skim the book of Ezra and summarize its theme.
2. 2 Chronicles 36:11-21 describes the historical background preceding events in Ezra. Read the verses and summarize what happened.
3. What prophets prophesied during the time of the book of Ezra (note Ezra 5:1,2)?
4. When did events in Ezra 1 occur (v1)?
5. What decree did Cyrus make (v2), and what prophecy did this fulfill?
6. What did he permit Jews to do in order to bring about his decree? How did the people respond (vv 3-6)?
7. What had Nebuchadnezzar taken, and what did Cyrus decree about it?
8. Summarize what was to be taken back (vv 8-11).
9. Skim chap. 2 and summarize what it describes. These people came with whom (2:2)?
10. What problem did some priests have (vv 61-63)? What was done about them? (Think: Why would this be a problem?)
11. How many people returned (vv 64,65)?
12. What did the people do to help the work (vv 68,69)?

Assignments on Ezra 3

Please read Ezra 3 and answer the following questions.

1. When did vv 1-6 occur? What special events occurred in that month (see Lev. 23:23-44)?
2. Who took the lead in these events? Where else do we read of them, and what do we know about them?
3. What did they build? For what purpose?
4. What offerings did they begin with (v3)? Give **b/c/v** and describe these offerings.
5. What feast did they keep (v4)? List other **b/c/v** regarding this feast.
6. Describe this feast and explain its purpose.
7. What other service did they offer (vv 5,6)? Give other **passages** regarding the new moons and explain them.

8. Application: What lessons should we learn from the fact these returning exiles began by offering correct worship?

9. How did they obtain logs? Find the places mentioned on a map.
10. Who else had obtained logs similarly, and for what purpose? Give **b/c/v**.
11. When did they begin work on the temple? Who oversaw the work? (Think: Why them?)
12. What did they build first? What did they do when it was complete? (Think: How do we know they used instruments? Are similar statements found regarding New Testament worship?)
13. Describe the different reactions of the people.

14. Application: When we accomplish work for God, how should we react? Who deserves the glory? Why?

Assignments on Ezra 4

Please read Ezra 4 and answer the following questions. (“Think” questions need not be answered here, but please carefully consider them.)

1. Who heard about the work on the temple? What did they offer to do?

2. Read 2 Kings 17:24-41. How had these people come into Samaria? Describe their worship.

3. How did Zerubbabel and Jeshua respond to their request? Explain why they responded this way, based on what we know about these people.

4. **Application:** What lessons should we learn? Today whom should we likewise refuse to allow to become part of God’s work with us? See 2 John 9-11; Gal. 1:6-9; Matt. 15:1-14.

5. How did the people respond to this rejection of their request? How do people today similarly respond, when we teach them their service to God is not acceptable?

6. What did the people do next (vv 6-8)? Who wrote the letter?

7. List some accusations they made against the Jews (vv 11-16). What proof did they offer? (Think: Did their evidence prove their accusations? What evidence was overlooked?)

8. List other Bible examples you can think of in which God’s people were falsely accused or harassed to hinder their work for God.

9. **Application:** List some accusations people sometimes make against God’s people today to discourage and discredit us.

10. What did the king command in response to the letter?

11. How did the Jews’ enemies respond to the letter? What happened as a result?

12. **Application:** Did the Jews do right when they quit? What should they have done? What can we learn?

Assignments on Ezra 5

Please read Ezra 5 and answer the following questions. (“Think” questions need not be answered here, but please carefully consider them.)

1. What prophets spoke to the Jews about their work on the temple? When did this occur (Haggai 1:1)?

2. Read Haggai 1:1-11. According to Haggai, why had the work on the temple stopped? What had people been doing instead?

3. What did Haggai say the people should do? (Think: What does this show regarding the fact the people quit work in chap. 4?)

4. **Application:** What lessons should we learn from the people’s failure to work? How are people today sometimes similarly guilty?

5. Who led the people to get back to work (Ezra 5:2)? What lessons should leaders in the church today learn?

6. Who questioned the Jews about their work? What temporary decision was made (v5)?

7. How did Tattenai summarize the Jews’ work to the king (vv 6-10)?

8. What answer had the Jews given regarding why the temple had been destroyed?

9. What authority did the Jews give for their work?

10. What did Tattenai request of the king?

11. How did the Jews’ response in this case differ from chap. 4, when their enemies then insisted they stop work?

Assignments on Ezra 6

Please read Ezra 6 and answer the following questions. (“Think” questions need not be answered here, but please carefully consider them.)

1. What did Darius do when he received Tattenai’s letter (cf. chap. 5)? Where did he find the answer he sought?

2. How was the construction of the temple described?

3. How was the work financed (what did Cyrus send to help)?

4. What did Darius tell Tattenai and his companions to do regarding the work (vv 6,7)?

5. What decree did he issue to help provide for the work (vv 8-10)?

6. What did he hope the people would do in the temple (v10)? What can we learn?

7. What penalty would be incurred by any who opposed the work?

8. How did Tattenai and his companions respond?

9. What did the people do, and what was the result (vv 14,15)? When was the work completed?

10. What did the people do when the temple was complete? How did they do this (vv 16-18)?

11. What was the first feast celebrated at the temple? Describe the feast: What was done, and what was the purpose? Give **b/c/v**.

12. **Application:** How would the Jews know how to arrange the priests and keep the feasts? What lessons can we learn today?

Assignments on Ezra 7

Please read Ezra 7 and answer the following questions. (“Think” questions need not be answered here, but please carefully consider them.)

1. What important character is introduced in v1? When did this occur?

2. What do we learn from his genealogy? What other job did he have (v6)? (Think: Study a dictionary and determine what work scribes did?)

3. **Case Study:** Some people claim the Law of Moses is different from the Law of God, and that the Law of Moses was removed at the cross but the Law of God continues in force. What can we learn about this from vv 5,12?

4. What do vv 7-9 say Ezra and the people did? When did they leave, and when did they arrive? (Think: Who are Nethinim? Cf. 8:20.)

5. From v10 list 4 things Ezra did with the Law. For each one list another *passage* showing why it is important.

6. **Application:** What are some important lessons we can learn regarding Bible study from Ezra’s example?

7. What did the letter of the king authorize Ezra to do in vv 12-19?

8. What else did he promise Ezra in vv 20-23? What reason did he give in v23?

9. What protection was given to religious leaders in v24? What authority was Ezra given in v25?

10. How did Ezra respond to the king’s commands (vv 27,28)?

Assignments on Ezra 8

Please read Ezra 8 and answer the following questions. (“Think” questions need not be answered here, but please carefully consider them.)

1. What is listed in Ezra 8:1-14? How do you know that Ezra was in the group? Note that these numbers total 1354. How does this compare to the size of the first group?

2. Where did they meet before leaving? How long were they there?

3. Who was missing from the group? (Think: Why would this be a problem?)

4. What did Ezra do about this problem, and what was the result?

5. What did Ezra have the people do before leaving (v21)? What does this practice refer to?

6. What was the purpose of this act? Why had they not asked for soldiers to protect them?

7. **Application:** What lessons can we learn from this about our own journeys today?

8. Describe what they took with them (vv 24-30). What does this show about why they were concerned about protection?

9. Who was put in charge of the treasure? Note that they prayed about this, then they put men in charge. What does this teach us about prayer?

10. **Define** stewardship. How did these men illustrate the concept of stewardship?

11. **Application:** What are some things that we today are stewards of? What are some things we can learn about stewardship from this Bible example?

12. When did they depart? What was the result of their journey?

13. Describe some things they did after arriving.

Assignments on Ezra 9

Please read Ezra 9 and answer the following questions. (“Think” questions need not be answered here, but please carefully consider them.)

1. What problem was brought to Ezra in vv 1,2?
2. List other *passages* and explain the Old Testament teaching about this.

3. Application: What problems can occur today when Christians marry people who are not Christians?

4. Who led in this sin (v2)? What can we learn about the importance of example?
5. How did Ezra and others react to this news (vv 3,4)?
6. How bad did Ezra feel (v6)? How did he describe the people’s guilt and the consequences (v7)?
7. What blessing had God given them anyway (vv 8,9)?
8. **Define** “remnant.” What remnant did Ezra refer to here?
9. What command did Ezra say they had broken (vv 9-12)?
10. Why was Ezra especially upset by the sin in this case (vv 13-15)?

Assignments on Ezra 10

Please read Ezra 10 and answer the following questions. (“Think” questions need not be answered here, but please carefully consider them.)

1. What was Ezra doing (v1)? Who joined him?
2. Who confessed Israel’s sin? What did he say they had done?
3. What did he recommend should be done to resolve the problem?
4. **Define** repentance. How does the solution fit the meaning of repenting?

5. **Application:** What does the New Testament teach about people who divorce for a cause besides fornication then remarry? See Matt. 19:9; Rom. 7:2,3; 1 Cor. 7:10,11. How does this situation compare to Ezra 10?

6. What role did Ezra have in this (vv 4-6)? Why would this be hard?

7. **Application:** What lessons can we learn about good leadership from Ezra?

8. What were the people commanded to do in vv 7,8? What was the penalty for refusing?

9. What did Ezra tell them? How did the people respond?

10. Who opposed the solution? What lessons can we learn from this opposition?

11. Who was included among the transgressors (v18)? What lessons does this teach us?

12. What else did the people have to do to make correction (v19)? What else would make the solution hard (v44)?

13. **Case Study:** Suppose someone argues that God would not require people in unscriptural remarriages today to separate, because it would be too hard. How would you respond?

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