

# A RIGHT WAY

## EZRA 8

Text: Ezra 8:21

Ezra 8:21

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

Introduction:

After the completion of the temple Ezra returns to back to Babylon seeking more exiles and leaders for the temple. The king granted Ezra all that he desired and provided him will that was needed for the temple (See Ezra 7:11-28). Just before their journey back to Jerusalem Ezra gathered all the people together at river Ahava and discovered that there wasn't one Levite that volunteered to return back to Jerusalem. After 11 men were sent back to urge the Levites to return with them, over 40 Levites and 220 servants respond and arrive at the camp there at the river.

It's just before Ezra and the people make the 4 month journey back to Jerusalem, with all that the king provided for the Temple worth over several millions of dollars that I draw our attention to.

Notice:

## **1. EZRA'S DESIRE (8:21)**

Ezra 8:21

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

- Ezra had previously testified of God's goodness and power to the king. To request a military escort now would be to deny his words by his actions.
- When you consider the factors involved in this journey back to Jerusalem, you can see what great faith Ezra possessed.
- Several thousand Jews, inexperienced in travel and warfare, carrying a fortune in gold and silver, led by a scholar not a soldier and planning to travel 4 months through dangerous territory that was infested with many enemies and yet their leader didn't want an army to protect them.

Why? Glorify God

Notice what he desired - A right way

1. For the adults leaders
2. For the children
3. For the substance

Notice the order of his desire.

- Leaders and adults should lead the way and be the example for the children.
- Children should however also be taught the thing of God and how to depend on God and that God is the One to seek help from in times of trouble or before setting out on a mission.
- The substance is our last concern. For with out the direction and protection of God all the substance in the world is no good.

We need God's to direct us in the right way in every area of our lives.

- Our Homes
- Our Church
- Our jobs

## 2. THEIR DEPARTURE (8:24-31)

Ezra 8:24-31

Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them, [25] And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Israel there present, had offered: [26] I even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, and of gold an hundred talents; [27] Also twenty basons of gold, of a thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold. [28] And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the Lord God of your fathers. [29] Watch ye, and keep them, until ye weigh them before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and chief of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the Lord. [30] So took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem unto the house of our God.

[31] Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

- After fasting and prayer the journey began.

- Too often we set out to do things before we pray and seek of the Lord the right way.

### **3. THE DELIVERANCE (8:31)**

Ezra 8:31

Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

Ezra never tried to claim credit for the safe journey.

It was God that delivered them.

A. Sacrifice was offered upon their arrival.