

Ezra & Nehemiah  
Lesson #7  
Ezra Comes to Jerusalem

1. There are about 60 years between chapter 6 and chapter 7 in the book of Ezra.
2. Ezra came to Jerusalem during the reign of King Artaxerxes.
3. It took Ezra 4 months to make the journey from Persia to Jerusalem.
4. Ezra stopped near the city of Ahava in Babylon while he assembled Levites to go with him to the temple in Jerusalem.
5. Ezra had good reason to be concerned about the safety of the people on the journey to Jerusalem because he was carrying a fortune in silver and gold.
6. Ezra and the priests offered burnt offerings to the Lord and even offered 12 male goats 1 for each tribe of Israel.
7. Ezra tore his clothes and pulled out his hair when he learned that some of the exiles had married foreign wives.
8. Why was Ezra concerned about the conduct of the people?

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9. Ezra sat in grief over the sin of the people until the evening sacrifice at which time he began to weep and pray.
10. As Ezra wept a large group of people gathered around him and wept bitterly.
11. They encouraged Ezra to be courageous and they would stand with him in this matter.
12. Ezra called for all of the men to assemble in Jerusalem in 3 days or else forfeit their possessions and be excluded from the assembly of exiles.
13. All of the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled in Jerusalem on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the 9<sup>th</sup> month. As they sat in the city square they trembled because of the matter and the heavy rain.
14. Ezra confronted them with their sin of disobeying the law by taking foreign wives.
15. The men asked Ezra to handle the matter by assembling the leaders of each community and having those who had married foreign wives to come at appointed times before the council and allow them to decide what should be done on an individual basis so that God's anger would be turned away from them.
16. There were 113 who are listed as having taken foreign wives
17. These men agreed to put away their wives and children.
18. The New Testament gives the following instructions on marriage to unbelievers:

Matthew 19:5

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

1 Corinthians 7:10-16

1 Peter 3:1-2