

Character Study: Ezra
Part 3 – Ezra Teaches God’s Word
Nehemiah 8:1-12

What’s happening?

- The people worked hard to complete the restoration of the Temple and even rebuilt the city wall of Jerusalem. When the work was finished, the people desired to have Ezra read God’s Word in the city square. (8:1-2)
- Ezra stood on a platform where all the people could see him. As Ezra opened the Book of the Law, all the people stood out of reverence. Ezra read the Scriptures from morning until midday, while all the people listened attentively. (8:3-5)
- While listening to the reading of the Law, the people shouted “Amen” and raising their hands. They also bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord. Ezra made sure the people understood what was being said in the Law. (8:6-8)
- The people began to get emotional and cried because of what was read. But Ezra, along with Nehemiah and the Levites, ensured the people that it was a good day in which they should celebrate. After the reading was completed, the people went their way, rejoicing in what they had heard. (8:9-12)

What’s God doing?

> God had established His people back in Jerusalem. In doing so, He made sure His Word had a key place in the lives of His people. God had used His Word to convict the people of their sin, and now He used it to teach the people of His goodness and instruct them in what He desired them to do. In the life of His people, God wanted His Word to be central.

What’s to learn?

→ Apart from God’s Word, we cannot know what God desires to tell us. Even the Israelites, who had a rich history of God working in their midst, did not truly grasp what God wanted them to know until they opened His Word and allowed Him to speak to them through it. If we want to hear from God, we need to get into His Word and listen.

→ God’s Word brings about several results. At times it convicts of sin and at times it brings great comfort and peace. As we grow in our knowledge of God, He will use the truth of His Word to fulfill His purpose in our lives, whatever that may be.