

BIB104 OT2 Life & Literature of Israel

Unit 5 Devotional Ezra

Presented by the



LANCASTER BIBLE COLLEGE
CAPITAL SEMINARY & GRADUATE SCHOOL

For Use by the

Blue Letter Bible Institute

[Web: Study.Bible](http://Study.Bible)

A Ministry of the

Blue Letter Bible

[Web: BlueLetterBible.org](http://BlueLetterBible.org)

CREATE A DEVOTIONAL – EZRA

WRITER: Ezra

He is one character who has not received proper recognition. He was a descendant of Hilkiah (Ezra 7:1), the high priest who found a copy of the Law during the reign of Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:14). Ezra, as a priest, was unable to serve during the captivity, but he gave his time to a study of the Word of God — he was “a ready scribe in the law of Moses” (Ezra 7:6). Ezra was a great revivalist and reformer. The revival began with the reading of the Word of God by Ezra (Nehemiah 8). Also, he probably was the writer of 1 and 2 Chronicles and of Psalm 119, which exalts the Word of God. He organized the synagogue, founded the order of scribes, helped settle the canon of Scripture and arranged the Psalms.

Let us pay tribute to Ezra who was the first to begin a revival of Bible study. Is this not God’s program for revival?

THEME: The Word of the Lord. (There are eleven direct references — Ezr 1:1; 3:2; 6:14, 18; 7:6, 10, 14, 26; 9:4; 10:3, 5.)

The place of the Word of God in the total life of His people — religious, social, business, and political.

KEY PHRASE: “Trembled at the words of the God of Israel” (Ezra 9:4; also see Ezr 10:3).

“We already have seen that the Babylonian captivity did not bring the Jews to national repentance, and so lead to national restoration. As the reading of Ezra will disclose, when Cyrus, king of Persia, gave permission to the captives to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple, scarcely 50,000 availed themselves of the privilege, a considerable portion of whom were priests and Levites of the humbler and poorer class.” —Dr. James M. Gray

INSTRUCTIONS:

Use any of the above points to create a devotional based on the book of Ezra. You may use any format, but the following outline is suggested for your use.

1. Devotional Title
2. Key Verse. Chose one or two verses as you focus verse for the devotional
3. Full Reading. Identify a passage or compilation of verses as the foundation for your devotional. For best results the choose between 6 and 18 contiguous verses. Or, choose a compilation of related verses, again totaling between 6 and 18 total verses.
4. Scripture Insight. In 3 to 6 sentences give the setting or contextual analysis of these Scriptures.
5. Add an Illustration. Create an illustration to explain or illumination the Scriptures you have chosen. Typically, this is a story or experience that clarifies or expounds on the verses. Your illustration should lead to an understating of the verses in today’s culture and provide an application of the verse in our lives today, while at the same time remaining true to the meaning and context of the Scripture.
6. To end the devotional, write a short prayer for both understanding and application from the passage.