

## Introduction

1. After seventy years of Babylonian captivity, the nation of Judah was released to go rebuild the temple of God in Jerusalem ([Ez. 1:1-4](#))
  - a. The people began this great work ([Ez. 1:5-6](#))
  - b. Their enemies frustrated their purpose and the work ceased for a time ([Ez. 4](#))
  - c. God sent two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, to get the people to resume the work ([Ez. 5:1-2](#))
    - i. The fear of the LORD was involved ([Hag. 1:12](#))
  - d. The temple was completed and dedicated ([Ez. 5-6](#))
2. After the Passover was kept, Ezra came to Jerusalem
  - a. He was a priest ([Ez. 7:1-5](#), [11-12](#))
  - b. He was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses ([Ez. 7:6](#))
  - c. He came with a definite purpose ([Ez. 7:10](#))

## I. Seek the Law of the LORD

1. With the temple rebuilt, the temple service needed to be restored
  - a. Ezra was the perfect man for the job because he was expert in the words of the commandments of the LORD ([Ez. 7:11](#))
  - b. He knew exactly what the Law of Moses said for he had written it down as one of the duties of a scribe ([Ps. 119:11](#))
2. Ezra gathered the people he needed to restore the temple service
  - a. He took with him leaders ([Ez. 7:27-28](#))
  - b. When he discovered temple servants were missing, he sent for them ([Ez. 8:15-20](#))
  - c. Ezra proclaimed a fast and prayed to God to seek the right way ([Ez. 8:21-23](#))
3. Ezra made ready the necessary articles and offerings for the temple ([Ez. 8:24-30](#))
  - a. He had the money and articles weighed prior to transporting them ([Ez. 8:25-27](#))

## II. Obey the Law of the LORD

1. Ezra and the people arrived at Jerusalem ([Ez. 8:32](#))

- a. The silver and gold were weighed, and the weight written down ([Ez. 8:33-34](#))
  - b. Burnt offerings were made ([Ez. 8:35](#))
  - c. Additional support was given ([Ez. 8:36](#))
  - d. They were executing on the Law of the LORD
2. A problem of intermarriage was brought to Ezra ([Ez. 9:1-2](#))
    - a. This violated the Law of the LORD and resulted in Ezra mourning ([Ez. 9:3-4](#); cf. [Dt. 7:1-5](#))
    - b. Ezra confessed the transgression in prayer ([Ez. 9:5-15](#))
3. The people made it right by obeying the Law of the LORD ([Ez. 10](#))
    - a. The people could not stay in their unapproved marriages ([Ez. 10:1-4](#))
    - b. The people came out of their unapproved marriages ([Ez. 10:5-44](#))
    - c. Many are in unauthorized marriages today and if they wish to go to heaven, they must come out of them ([Mt. 19:1-12](#))

### III. Teach the Law of the LORD

1. Ezra stood up and taught the Law of the LORD ([Neh. 8:1-12](#))
  - a. Reading was involved ([Neh. 8:2-6](#))
  - b. It was necessary not only to hear, but understand the Law ([Neh. 8:7-8](#))
2. Through the teaching, the people understood the day was holy to the LORD ([Neh. 8:9-12](#))
  - a. We must teach so that the message of God's Word is clearly and unmistakably understood
  - b. Let us be sure we are growing enough to be teachers ourselves ([Heb. 5:12-14](#))

### Conclusion

1. Ezra was a great man of God and a wonderful example of reverence
  - a. He prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD
  - b. He prepared his heart to obey the Law of the LORD
  - c. He prepared his heart to teach the Law of the LORD
2. The world will be a much better place if we follow the great example of Ezra
  - a. So too will the church!