

Fall Missions Festival; *Sermon: God's Grand Missional Narrative*;  
*Delivered by: Dr. Daniel Block*, senior pastor; *Date: October 7, 2018*

***Bible text explored: Ezra 7:1-10***

<sup>1</sup>Now after this, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, son of Azariah, son of Hilkiah, <sup>2</sup>son of Shallum, son of Zadok, son of Ahitub, <sup>3</sup>son of Amariah, son of Azariah, son of Meraioth, <sup>4</sup>son of Zerahiah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki, <sup>5</sup>son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the chief priest— <sup>6</sup>this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the LORD, the God of Israel, had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.

<sup>7</sup>And there went up also to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king, some of the people of Israel, and some of the priests and Levites, the singers and gatekeepers, and the temple servants. <sup>8</sup>And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. <sup>9</sup>For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him. <sup>10</sup>For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel. [ESV]

***Review and application:***

1. Ezra is described (in *Ezra 7:11*) as both a priest and a scribe. What priestly pedigree (vv. 1-5) did his ancestry provide?
2. What expertise (v. 6) was the basis for Ezra's status as a scribe? (King Artaxerxes may have used him as a secretary of state for Jewish affairs.)  
Strictly speaking, to what did the "law of Moses" refer?  
But what had this term been broadened to generally include?
3. What, besides skills distinguished Ezra from others? (See also, *Ezra 7:27-28*.)  
How (*Ezra 8:22*) did he understand submission to God's hand positively . . . and negatively?  
What were early tangible outcomes (vv. 7-9) of this divine favor?
4. On what three things (v. 10) had Ezra committed himself to focus?
5. Why is access to the mind and will of God obtained primarily through the Scriptures? (See *2 Tim. 3:16-17*.)  
How had studying the prophetic writings already pointed the exiles to repentance? (See *Dan. 9:1-3, 11, 16*.)
6. Why must study of God's Word be used as a personal resource before it is directed to others? (See *Deut. 17:18-20* and *James 1:22-25*.)  
How does being nourished from God's Word ourselves make the gospel we represent credible? (See *2 Tim. 2:15*.)  
How can we conduct a Word-centered mission to our world? (See *Col. 3:16* and *1 Pet. 2:9*.)