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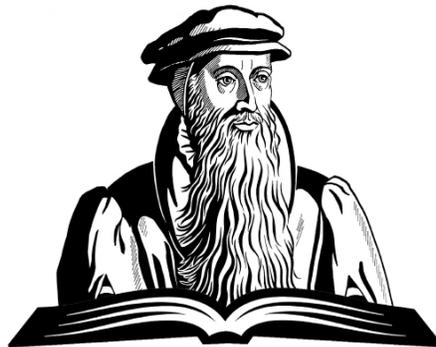
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 94

Ezra - The Scribe

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
- 94. Ezra—The Scribe**
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 94

Ezra - The Scribe

The Book of Ezra, chapters 7 through 10

Memory Verse

*“O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God:
for our iniquities are increased over our head,
and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.”*

- Ezra 9:6

Introduction

After had tempted Adam and Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and they fell in sin, the Lord told the devil that the seed of the woman would bruise his head (Genesis 3:15). For the next four thousand years, the devil did all he could to prevent the Savior from being born. Often he incited hatred and persecution. More often though, Satan used subtle methods. Many times he tempted the Israelites to commit terrible sins to provoke the Lord to punish them. In Ezra chapters 7 through 10, we read of another subtle attempt by Satan to prevent the coming of the promised Messiah.

Backsliding

There were fifty years between the end of Ezra chapter 6, when the temple was rebuilt, and the beginning of chapter 7, when Ezra arrived. During that fifty years, much had happened. The Jews had lost much of their zeal. There was backsliding and indifference. And worse yet, there was intermarriage with the Gentiles. In fact, the priests and Levites, the princes and rulers were the first ones to marry heathen girls. The devil had successfully used this tactic to mingle the family of Seth and the family of Cain before the flood. Using this same tactic, the devil was able to bring down the strongest man, Samson, and the wisest man, Solomon. Now he would try to corrupt the nation from which Christ must be born.

Ezra the Scribe

Just at this time, back in Babylon, the Lord stirred up the heart of a captive Jewish scribe named Ezra. The Lord inspired him to travel to Jerusalem to inquire how his brethren were doing, and “to teach in Israel statutes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10). Studying and compiling the Old Testament Bible books must have filled Ezra’s heart with love for God’s people. He longed to see the house of God, and to guide the Jews in the truths of God’s Word. Ezra went to King Artaxerxes with a bold request to travel there. Not only did the king give him permission, but he also gave Ezra treasures of silver and gold. He allowed Ezra to gather together a large group of Jews to accompany him, and gave him authority to appoint judges in the land of Israel. All this made Ezra cry out: “Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers which had put such a thing as this in the king’s heart” (Ezra 7:27).

One thing Ezra did not ask for was a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect them along the way. He was ashamed to do so, because he had told the king that “the hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him” (Ezra 8:22). Instead, Ezra and the thousands of Jews who joined him, fasted and prayed to God, “to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance” (Ezra 8:21).

Shocked at Sin

The Lord protected them on the long journey, and they safely arrived in Jerusalem! But then Ezra learned the sad news of the inter-marrying that was taking place between the Jews and the heathen Samaritans. Realizing the seriousness of this sin, Ezra hurried to the temple, where he tore his garments, pulled hair from his head and beard, and sat down in shock to mourn for an entire day. Then, at the time of the evening sacrifice, he fell on his knees and prayed: “O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face unto thee, my God, for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespasses grown up unto the heavens” (Ezra 9:6). In the rest of chapter 9, we read of how Ezra poured out his heart before the Lord, confessing their sins. Four years later, the temple was completed. How the Jews must have rejoiced! “The children of Israel... kept the dedication of this house of God with joy” (Ezra 6:16). Indeed, “the Lord had made them joyful” (Ezra 6:22). If you have ever experienced the joy of undeserved salvation, or even the joy of feeling that the Lord takes notice of you, you know how this joy thrills you, and deeply humbles you at the same time. This joy runs deeper than any other possible joy on earth.

In chapters 9 and 10, we see examples of true repentance. True repentance is caused by a new love to God being awakened by the Holy Spirit in the heart. With this new love comes a new hate against all that grieves and opposes God. The painful discovery of our sinful nature makes the sacrifice of Christ so precious. This was true in the Old Testament, and it is still true today in every heart touched by the grace of God in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Review Questions

Ezra chapter 7

1. King Artaxerxes made a decree. (*Write TRUE or FALSE after each statement*).

- Any priest or Levite could go along with Ezra (verse 13). _____
- Ezra went to Jerusalem to see if the Jews kept the law of the king (verse 14). _____
- The king freely gave him silver and gold for the house of God (verses 15, 16). _____
- Any extra costs could be charged to the king’s treasure house (verse 20). _____
- Ezra could charge up to a hundred measures of salt (verse 22). _____
- People who worked in the temple did not have to pay taxes (verse 24). _____
- Ezra could appoint magistrates and judges in the land beyond the river (verse 25). _____
- Whoever did not follow this decree would be stoned (verse 26). _____

Ezra chapters 8 and 9

2. Ezra did not want to ask the king for a guard because

- a. Ezra had told the king about the Lord
- b. The king might doubt Ezra's faith
- c. The king might doubt God's power
- d. All of the above

3. Fill in the verse numbers from chapter 9 where we read these petitions.

- _____ *"O my God, I am ashamed and blush..."*
- _____ *"for our iniquities have we... been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands."*
- _____ *"Grace hath been showed from the LORD our God."*
- _____ *"God... hath extended mercy unto us... to set up the house of our God."*
- _____ *"we have forsaken thy commandments."*
- _____ *"Thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve."*
- _____ *"should we again break thy commandments and join in affinity with the people of these abominations?"*
- _____ *"O LORD God of Israel, thou art righteous."*

Discussion Questions

4. In Ezra chapters 9 and 10, we see examples of true repentance because of love for God. Name some other people in the Bible who showed true repentance? _____

5. Name some people in the Bible who showed some repentance, but were not motivated by love to God? What was it that motivated their repentance? _____

6. Do you think Ezra was right to require the men to divorce their heathen wives?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:12–13. Explain how this is different today. _____
