

EZRA

Covenant Renewal

Becoming the Leader God is Pleased to Use

INTRO: *Sixty (60) years have passed since the events of chapter 6. As we start chapter 7, readers **finally** get introduced to the man whose name is attached to this book. But who is Ezra and why is God pleased to use him in leadership? Would God be pleased to use us?*

I. God uses spiritual _____ to guide His people on their _____. *Capable leadership led the returning exiles to rebuild the Temple. But...*

II. New _____ are needed *time and again* to keep the _____ on track. *History shows that w/o strong leaders to refocus and encourage people, missions can flounder.*

III. Become the _____ God is pleased to use to reform the _____ (7:1-28). *A repeated phrase in this chapter emphasizes God's pleasure in action; "God's good hand". Three things describe Ezra's spiritual qualities to be God's leader.*

A. Commit to _____, _____, and _____ God's Word (7:1-10). *Does **this** define your spiritual life?*

B. Prove _____ before all (7:11-26). *Have **integrity** define you before Believers and unbelievers alike.*

C. Be _____ to and _____ for God's guidance (7:27-28). *God is always at work and all glory goes to Him.*