



Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, September 27, 2026

Ezra 7 & 8 – Ezra Arrives in Jerusalem

Ezra traveled to Jerusalem with all that King Artaxerxes granted him. Most importantly, he relied on the Lord's provision and presence to bring him safely to Jerusalem.

Obedying God to journey to Jerusalem requires:

- The gracious hand of the Lord to be on us
- Fasting & prayer
- Careful accounting of every resource

We respond and apply the Word of God we have heard by administering justice and facilitating worship.

May you not boast about your wisdom, strength, or riches. May you boast about this: that you have the understanding to know God who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these He delights. May you do good, be rich in good deeds, and be generous and willing to share. In this way you will lay up treasure for yourselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that you may take hold of the life that is truly life. (Jeremiah 9:23-24, 1 Timothy 6:18-19)

Discussion Questions:

- What do the genealogies in chapters 2, 7, and 8 teach us?
- How is Ezra identified in chapter 7?
- Why does Ezra emphasize the gracious hand of the Lord being on him? What does it mean for the Lord's hand to be on us?
- Why should we fast and pray? What happens when we do?
- What resources does the Lord provide? How can we carefully account for all the resources the Lord has provided?
- How can we administer justice and facilitate the worship of the Lord?