

Wesley Wright

Lighthouse Bible Church

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Title: Ye are holy unto the Lord

Ezra 8:1-36

Remember from last week:

- **Artaxerxes gave full support to the work**
- **Ezra is coming to Babylon to set things in order**
- **Ezra is part of a second group leaving Babylon for Jerusalem**

Ezra 8:1-13 lists the families that went up with Ezra in the second wave to Jerusalem.

No Levites in the group (Ezra 8:15) is a big deal. Ezra, as a reminder, was a part of the Levitical priesthood.

Nehemiah 12:1-7

Levites alone had the responsibility of maintaining temple operations. All priests were Levites, but not all Levites were priests.

Numbers 1:47-54

Deuteronomy 18:1-7

God referred in another OT book to this covenant with Levi and how it applies to priests.

Malachi 2:1-9

**Remember that Ezra was intimately
familiar with the Law of Moses and
what it required: Ezra 7:10**

**God providence is clear in Ezra 8:15-20.
This is a difficult job and the Lord again
turned people's hearts to do it after
having not volunteered the first time.**

Ezra proclaimed a fast to figure out if what he was doing was right (Ezra 8:21-24) given what he had just said to the king.

Fasting: Nehemiah 1:1-6, Acts 13:1-4

The full weight of what the Israelites moved was around 56,000 pounds, or 28 tons. Quite a bit to move without a security detail of horses and soldiers.

Notice that Ezra uses the phrase the hand of our God (Ezra 8:31) again. They made this trip in four months (Ezra 8:31-34), a trip that spanned around 900 miles.

Ezra 7:9-10

This group made a litany of offerings to their God once they arrived, same as the first group did (Ezra 6:17-18).

Ezra 8:35-36

Ezra took special care to make sure he and the others in the group had safe passage — they sought the Lord about doing so.

**The Lord made sure his people had
Levites to do the tasks he asked of them,
yet another sign of His provision.**

Remember the 58 year gap? Chapter 9 will detail the fate of mixed marriages the Israelites had and how Ezra approached them.